

# THE SHEMA

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

**THESE COMMANDMENTS**  
that I give you today are to be  
on your hearts.

**IMPRESS THEM  
ON YOUR CHILDREN.**

Talk about them when you sit at home  
and when you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and  
when you get up. Tie them as symbols  
on your hands and bind  
them on your foreheads.

**WRITE THEM  
ON THE DOORFRAMES  
OF YOUR HOUSES  
AND ON YOUR GATES.”**

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS AT DBU

In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses gathers the people of Israel and shares with them all that the Lord commanded. Among this declaration is what is known as the Shema, a prayer spoken by Jews even to this day. “Hear, O Israel,” the prayer begins, and it continues on to challenge those listening to love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, and strength.

Moses also tells them to stress the commandments to the next generation. They are to speak about the Lord day and night and place His Word on the doorframes and gates of their lives and their houses. In short, they should make their love of the Lord so evident that it could never be hidden.

Since his arrival as president in 1988, Dr. Gary Cook sought to find ways to make this command a reality on the DBU campus. When you walk the campus today, you will see signs and symbols that mark us as a Christ-centered institution, you will see verses on display throughout the buildings, and you will see designated areas for spiritual reflection and prayer.

“I felt very convicted that we needed to purposefully include these symbols and Christian reminders around the campus,” explains Dr. Gary Cook. “I know that the next president and the president after that will continue to keep the school Christian. However, it is very important to the current Board of Trustees, to the current faculty and staff,

and to me that the University be Christ-centered 100 years from now just as it is today. We want our current students to feel the presence of the Lord as they walk around the campus. This is a sacred place, and we are truly standing on holy ground.”

“However, I did think when we were building the campus how important it would be to have all of these symbols here. No one will really be able to take down the statues of Jesus. They are so central. For many generations in the future, the chapel will continue to be the largest building on campus, and it will stand out as being the central part of the campus. Surely students of the future will also know that this is a Christ-centered institution and that there is no reason for them to come here if they are not open to serving the Lord Jesus Christ.”

This special issue of the *DBU Report* is designed to highlight these elements on the DBU campus. In the pages that follow, you will see stained glass windows, prayer gardens, crosses, cornerstones, paintings, plaques, and Scripture references. Each element you see is meant not only to challenge our students to love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength, but also to firmly establish DBU as a Christ-centered university for generations to come. Our hope is that you will enjoy looking through these pages and will be inspired to make the Lord the center of your life. To God be the Glory!



WILL YOU  
FOLLOW ME?