



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

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PRESIDENT

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Dear Friend:

This is not the Spring any of us envisioned. As I look out the windows of an empty office on a rainy evening in March, my heart weighs heavily as I know I am only beginning to realize the devastation the COVID-19 situation has created in its wake. My heart is heavy for those suffering through a disease with no cure at the present day. It is also heavy for the families who are struggling to make ends meet, but it is especially heavy this evening for our DBU students.

I need your help. Our students need your help. We also need your prayers. Never in my presidency at DBU have I made such a direct plea. More than 90% of our students receive some type of financial support to attend DBU. While we pride ourselves on the incredible value we provide, maintaining a very competitive tuition rate when compared to all other private colleges and universities, my heart is heavy because the times have made it difficult for our students to pay their tuition bills.

We are doing everything we can to help our students at DBU. We run a very lean operation and finished the last 30 years in the black. We cut costs wherever we can to put the savings right back into the hands of our students. However, all of our Spring fundraising events had to be cancelled, and these events provide scholarship support for our students. We provided scholarships to students this academic year in anticipation of funds raised at these events, and now faculty and staff have begun to voluntarily take reductions in pay to help the University afford this important scholarship support for our students. This appeal is not just a ploy to play on your emotions during this global crisis. I believe that hundreds of colleges and universities will not be able to survive in the wake of this pandemic.

DBU has and always will be God's University. He is at work on our campus, and through the midst of the storm, He has proved faithful. Just as God promised to be with Joshua, the same promises ring true for us—but I am reminded that even though God was faithful, there were still giants in the land to be encountered. DBU will endure, but I am concerned for how our students will weather this storm.

As Oswald Chambers shared in *My Utmost for His Highest* in his March 19 entry, "***Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading.***" Above the door frame in my office is a wooden plaque bearing the words from 2 Corinthians 5:7, "***We walk by faith and not by sight.***" It is a daily reminder to me to rest assured; God is leading. No matter the trial or trouble, He is leading—our job is to follow.

My pride would not initially let me write this letter. I know you receive countless appeals from organizations, and surely more will come in the days ahead. I did not want this to be another letter that was just thrown to the side.

I wanted to figure out a solution to our challenges at DBU without asking you for help, but we cannot do this on our own. The Lord keeps prompting me to share with you exactly what is on my heart and what we need.

The spirit of DBU is found in the people who make up the DBU Family—and that's you. Many of you receiving this letter never even graduated from or took a class at DBU. But in some way, you have been touched by the Lord to adopt DBU and become a part of the DBU Family.

Joshua 1:9 has become a banner verse for us during this crisis. The passage states, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* We do not know where we are headed, but we can rest assured with strength and courage that we are going day by day with Jesus.

I am specifically appealing to you for support for our Christian Leadership Scholarship and Christian Service Scholarship. These are our main scholarship programs at DBU. In fact, a student seeking financial support is not eligible to receive any other form of institutional aid if they do not first qualify for the Christian Service Scholarship. These two scholarships are one way among many we can create such a special culture on campus. Through these scholarships, our students are asked to serve the community. We learned not too long ago, our students logged more than 1 million hours of community service within the past decade!

Our students need our support right now more than ever; however, due to our budget shortfall related to the Christian Leadership Scholarship and Christian Service Scholarship, I need your help to get us through this crisis. Please send your gift by May 15. Spring Commencement would have taken place on May 15 at DBU. With this in mind, we are making May 15 another day to celebrate God's provision through your gifts. I can assure you that **100% of what you give will go completely toward the Christian Leadership Scholarships and Christian Service Scholarships that we have provided to help students this semester.**

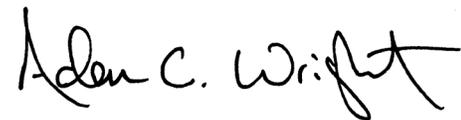
I have provided the giving levels and categories we recognize annually among our donors, but please know that any gift will be incredibly appreciated. We intend to place a plaque in Pilgrim Chapel to list the names of all those who gave at least \$1,000 or more as an enduring testimony of how the Lord provided in the midst of these unprecedented times. You can give through the mail or online at www.dbu.edu/joshua1-9.

While this letter is coming to you with the salutation, "Dear Friend," I want you to know that every person receiving this letter has been prayed over by name. The urgency of the matter would not allow for every letter to be personalized. But you can rest assured, we know who is receiving this letter, and we are grateful for you and praying for you. Our Prayer Ministry at DBU is lifting you up by name as this letter is being mailed. We literally printed the list of every person receiving this letter, and volunteers are praying for you by name.

I am pleading with you to **join us in our Joshua 1:9 Campaign** as we remain strengthened and courageous in the biblical truth that God is with us wherever we go. We covet your prayers and any gift you are able to make as we obediently walk by faith, loving and fully trusting the One who is leading.

To God be the glory!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam C. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adam C. Wright, Ph.D.
President

Enclosure