DBU CELEBRATES DR. AND MRS. GARY COOK

ANNIVERSARY EDITION



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY 7777 WEST KIEST BOULEWARD - DALLAS, TEXAS 75211-9800 - (214) 331-8311

April 7, 1988

Dear Dallas Baptist University Student:

One of the first things which I wish to do on my first day of office as President of Dallas Baptist University is to write you this letter. I look forward to being on campus and getting to meet you personally.

All of us who are on the faculty and administrative staff are here because of you. We are here to teach you, to encourage you along the way, and to challenge you to become all that you can be - all that God intended you to be.

My wife, Sheila, has taught in the public schools for over fifteen years. We have two boys, David Daniel (age 5) and Mark Andrew (age Ly). They will be on campus from time to time and I want you to meet them.

If you are not planning to graduate this May, I hope you are planning to return to Dallas Baptist University for the summer session or the fall semester. We want you to be happy here. We want you to find academic challenge here. We want you to find the spirit of Christ in all that we do.

Please pray for me. I will be praying for you and for the wonderful future of Dallas Baptist University. I am firmly committed to continuing the fine tradition of Christian education for which Dallas Baptist University is known. I believe Dallas Baptist University has great potential to be one of the finest Christian universities in America in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Jun Cook Gary Cook President

LOCATED AT KIEST AND FLORINA OVERLOOKING MOUNTAIN CREEK LAKE



LECE HERRERER HELRERER

TREBRER BERBES

Sometime in the 1930s, two men were hiking in the hills of southwest Dallas when they came to a place overlooking Mountain Creek Lake. As

they stopped to enjoy the view, the men knelt on the spot and prayed the Lord would establish a Christian college on that location. Thirty years later, as the centennial history of DBU, *To God Be the Glory*, explains, one of the men returned to the site, humbled to see the school that was an answer to their prayers. He stopped to share his story with a librarian, and although she never learned his name, the incident in many ways marks the beginning of Dallas Baptist University's commitment to prayer and Christian education on University Hill.

For those who know DBU President Dr. Gary Cook, it is evident that in many ways he is also an answer to these men's prayer. In order to have a committed Christian university, it

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is imperative to have a committed Christian leader who seeks the Lord's guidance and glory above all else.

During the first three weeks of his presidency in 1988, Dr. Cook sent a memo to the faculty and staff urging them to commit the work of the University into the Lord's hands. Citing James 5:16, which states "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective," Dr. Cook invited everyone to participate in the formation of the University's Intercessory Prayer Ministry.

The work that needed to be accomplished to turn DBU around seemed monumental at the time, and as a young, 37-year-old leader, Dr. Cook knew that it could not be done without the Lord. Although the University he inherited was rich with tradition, the finances were struggling, its campus barren, and its survival as an institution in doubt. Many felt that the school might be closing in on its last days, but not Gary Cook. With energy and conviction, he sought God's will for the school.

On Dr. Cook's 15th anniversary as president, Dr. Bill Pinson, Executive Director Emeritus of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is quoted as saying, "Dr. Cook says people's prayer saved the school. Others say it was Dr. Gary Cook. Both answers are undoubtedly right. For Dallas Baptist University, his servant leadership has been an answered prayer."

Dr. Pinson's words still ring true 10 years later on Dr. Cook's 25th anniversary, as the University celebrates a president who believes that everything which has been accomplished at DBU has been through prayer and hard work.

On the coming pages, the story of DBU's growth through Dr. Gary Cook's leadership is demonstrated. Each page highlights a specific section of campus life, whether academics, enrollment, service-learning, fine arts, or athletics, that has seen significant expansion over the past twoand-a-half decades.

Pictured left is the first memo Dr. Cook sent to DBU students as president of the University, along with Dr. Cook and his wife, Sheila, shortly after their arrival at DBU.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11