



DBU CELEBRATES DR. AND MRS. GARY COOK



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



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 Dal-

las 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 two-and-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**