

DR. GARY COOK

DBU PRESIDENT

25TH

ANNIVERSARY

HONORING DR. GARY COOK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF SERVANT-LEADERS,
GARY AND SHEILA COOK,
FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
APRIL 6, 2013

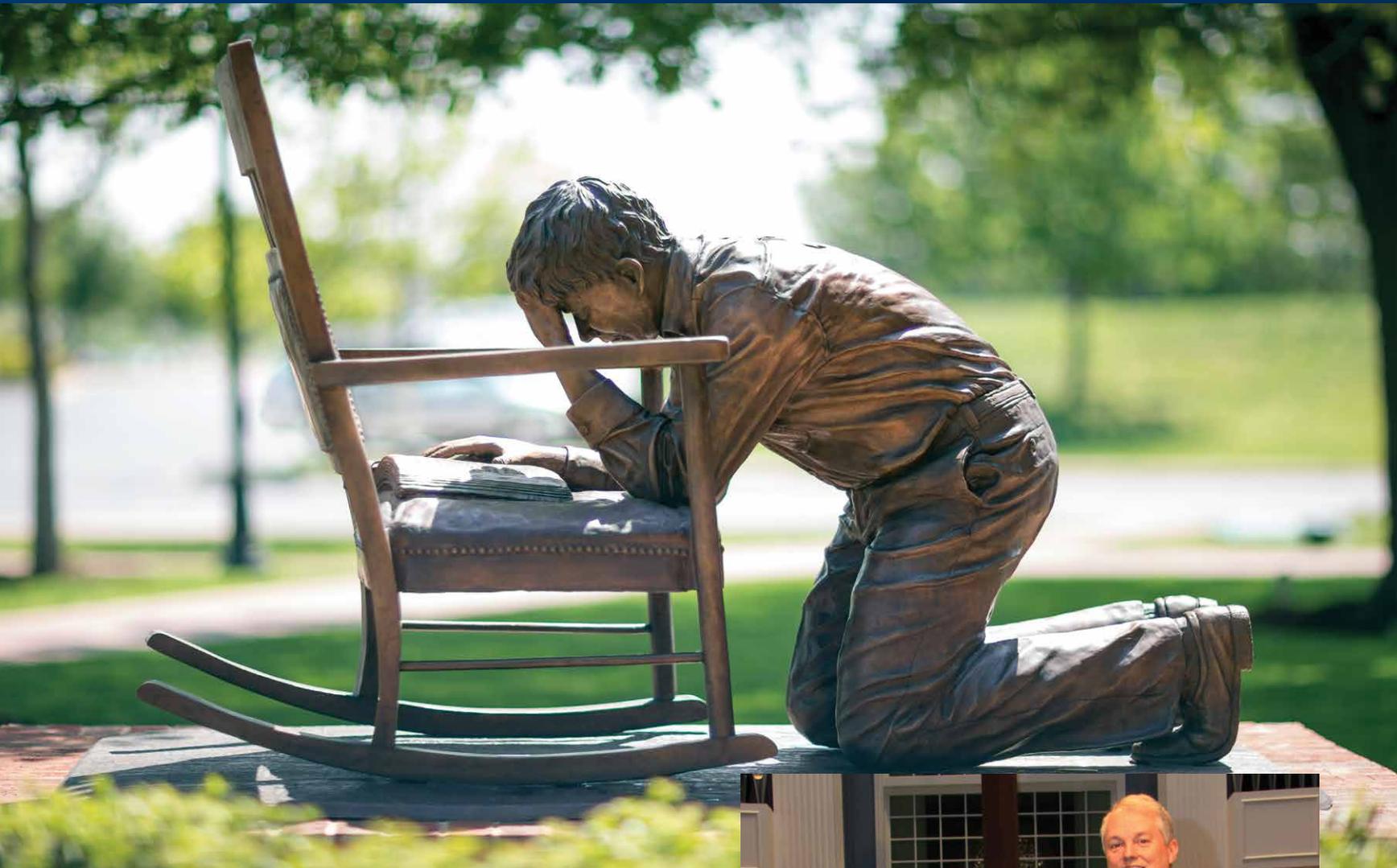


On April 6, 1988, Dr. Gary Cook was called to be the president of Dallas Baptist University. Dr. Cook, his wife, Sheila, and their two sons, David and Mark, moved to Dallas to begin serving at the University. The first three individuals to join the staff were Mitch Bennett, Edith Bond, and Dennis Linam. While the school had a long history of faithful commitment to Christ-centered education, its perpetual debt and financial problems led many to predict that the institution's days were numbered. Dr. Cook refused to believe in these predictions and instead sought guidance from the Lord for the future of the school as he established an Intercessory Prayer Ministry. He called upon the University family as well as a thousand senior adult prayer partners to help him commit the University to the Lord in prayer. Over the next 25 years, through the blessing of the Lord and the leadership of Dr. Cook, the trustees, administration, faculty, and staff, DBU transformed from being financially troubled into a thriving institution. Fall enrollment tripled, the debt was retired, assets grew, over two thousand trees were planted, a colonial-style architecture was established, new buildings were added, and DBU became known as one of the most beautiful campuses in the Southwest. Dr. Cook, along with Harold Norris and Rebecca Brown, established a student ministry to internationals, and the international student population increased from 12 in 1989 to over 500 international students from 53 countries in 2013. In 1993, Dr. Cook led in the development of a new mission statement for DBU, codifying the school's commitment to the integration of faith and learning and an emphasis on the principles of servant leadership. DBU has grown from three master's degree programs in 1988 to twenty-three master's degree programs and two doctoral degree programs in 2013. Today, DBU students can be found throughout the world, striving to serve the world through a variety of vocations, all for the glory of God.

THE DBU FAMILY HONORS DR. AND MRS. GARY COOK FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP
THESE PAST 25 YEARS AND EXPRESSES ENDURING GRATITUDE FOR THEIR
COMMITMENT TO BUILDING DBU INTO A UNIVERSITY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



Called to Pray, which was commissioned by Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, was generously provided by a gift from the Joan T. Trew Family. Mrs. Trew (pictured right along with Dr. Gary Cook and her daughter, Jan Barry), has served as a faithful DBU trustee for many years. The statue, sculpted by Bridgette Mongeon, depicts a young man kneeling in prayer with his Bible open to Jeremiah 29:11-13.

