

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Throughout the course of Christian history, believers have used symbols of the faith not only as personal reminders of their commitment to Christ, but also as a way to share the message of Jesus with others.

Early examples of this can be seen in the development of the *Ichthus*, a fish symbol that stood for the concept of being “fishers of men,” as well as being an acrostic for the Greek spelling of the confession of a believer, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

Perhaps no symbol has come to represent the Christian faith more over the past two centuries than the symbol of the cross. The Gospels each lead up to the crucifixion as a central moment in all of human history, the apostles went forth preaching the message of a Savior who was hung on a cross, died, and rose again, and Christians throughout the years have continued to lift up the message of the Cross.

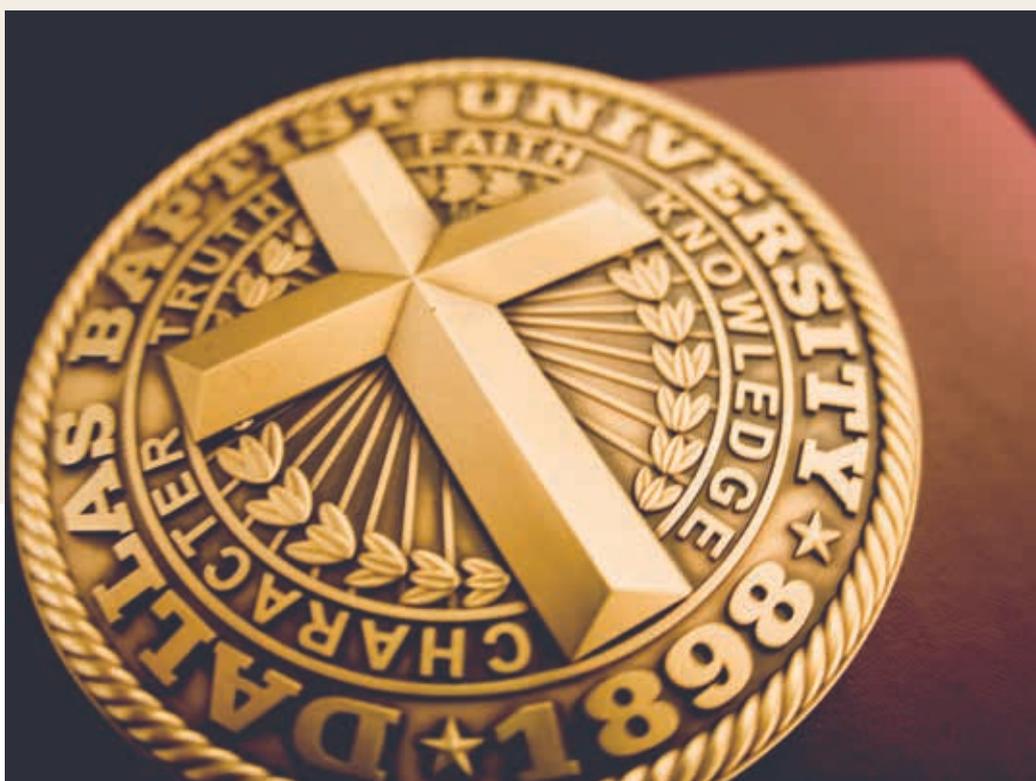
“God proved His love on the Cross,” Billy Graham once stated. “When Christ hung and bled and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’”

This central symbol of the Christian message is seen across University Hill. They are seen as the central point of the University seal, as well as the DBU Cross Ring. You can see it on the street signs that dot the campus. Walkways have been designed on campus to reflect the cross. Golden crosses adorn tops of DBU buildings. And crosses have been placed in prayer gardens, classrooms, fellowship areas, and plaques throughout the campus.

In this section, you will see the various Christian symbols we have placed here at DBU. These reminders do more than just reflect the Gospel story for members of the DBU family and visitors; they connect us back to the larger family of faith, a tradition of believers that stems back to the first disciples who left their nets to learn more about this teacher from Galilee and who eventually took up their own crosses to follow Him to the ends of the earth. As a Christ-centered university, it is our desire that students who leave this campus will do the same.

THE DBU SEAL

Sitting in front of the Pilgrim Chapel on the DBU campus is the DBU seal. Cast in bronze, this image is displayed not only here, but also throughout the campus, on University documents, diplomas, advertisements, and countless other places. The seal contains four words: Character, Truth, Faith, and Knowledge. These traits make up the essential elements of a DBU education, and at the center of it all is the cross of Christ.





“ Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.’ ”

LUKE 9:23-24

“write them on the doorframes of your house”



THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

Twenty years ago, the DBU Class of 1994 donated to the school a large Christian flag to be flown over the school. Unfortunately, there was not a flag pole on University Hill to be able to fly the flag.

Thanks to a generous gift from long-time supporter Ebby Halliday Acers, a flag pole was installed in her honor and in the memory of her late husband, Maurice Acers.

Ebby's grandfather was a Baptist preacher, and she was raised as a Methodist, so in many ways it is fitting that on a Baptist university campus there is a pole dedicated in her honor that flies a flag designed by a Methodist Sunday School superintendent in 1907.

The flag stands as a special sign for the unity of all those who claim Jesus Christ as their King. The white background is symbolic of purity and peace, the blue stands for fidelity, and the red cross reminds us of the Savior's blood that was shed on the cross to free us from our sins and form a lasting family of faith.

CROSSES ON CAMPUS

Throughout the DBU campus, you will find crosses. Inside the Pilgrim Chapel sanctuary hangs a large wooden cross. Above both the Pilgrim Chapel and the Sadler Global Missions Center are golden crosses topping the steeple and cupola. On all of our parking lot signs on campus, there is the DBU seal, with the cross predominantly displayed. Down at the Burg Center, guests to campus for athletic events, special concerts, and commencement ceremonies walk past an old rugged

cross. In the Norris Friendship Room in the Moon International Center, a cross hangs on the wall for students from around the world to see.

These symbols of the Christian faith are more than just decoration. They are reminders of the life and death of Jesus, whose sacrifice set us free from sin; they are tools to use for sharing the Christian faith with others; and they are challenges for students to live their lives worthy of the sacrifice and to daily take up their cross and follow Jesus.



THE CROSS RING

In 2004, DBU began a new tradition with the DBU Cross Ring. Graduating students and alumni wear the ring as a reminder of their time as a student at DBU, as well as a challenge to continue to live a Christ-centered life.

Designed by DBU student leaders and Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, the DBU Cross Ring is full of symbolism. Prominently displayed at the center is the cross, reflecting the University mission of providing Christ-centered education through the integration of Biblical faith and academic learning.

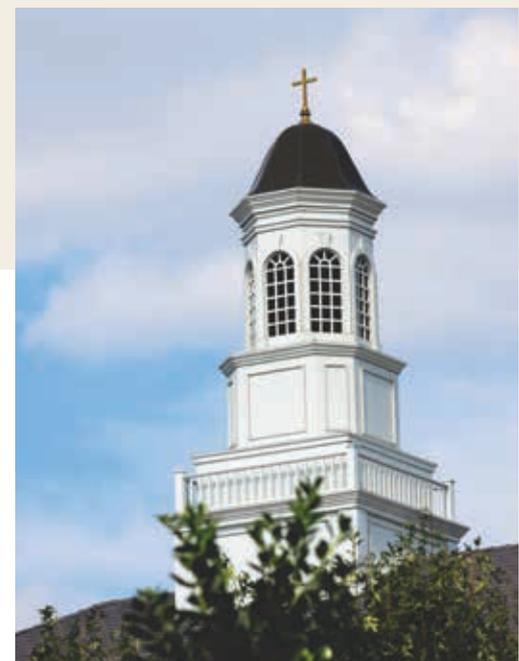
Rays of light shine from the cross, representing the radiance of the Holy Spirit and the abundant life He gives. Emanating from the rays of light are the virtuous hallmarks of a DBU education: Character, Faith, Truth, and Knowledge.

Depicted on one shank of the ring is the *Fishers of Men* Statue, resting above an image of the *Great Commission* sculpture. Not only does the globe focus on Jesus' command to reach the world in His name, it also represents the impact DBU has on the world through the many international students who have come to DBU. The words of the



University hymn, "To God be the Glory," are engraved on the Bible of the Great Commission Globe Sculpture, and DBU's theme verse, Jeremiah 29:11, is

engraved below that. On the opposite side is the image of the Mahler Student Center, with its clock standing still at 10:00 a.m., the chapel hour at DBU.



"write them on the doorframes of your house"

CHRIST IS THE REASON

In 1993, the DBU faculty and Board of Trustees adopted a new mission statement for the school. The statement focused on the development of students known for their servant leadership, integrating Christian faith with learning, regardless of their academic major or vocational calling.

Yet this outcome would be impossible to attain without a key phrase at the beginning of the statement, an acknowledgment that the education that each and every student received must be a “Christ-centered” education. At DBU, the administration, faculty, and staff are all committed to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and it is the belief of the DBU family that this commitment is key to the

development of students and the future of the school.

Several years back, Dr. Cook came across a special statement that perfectly reflects DBU’s commitment to putting Christ at the center of the school. He asked that the staff members have this transformed into bronze plaques. The statement boldly proclaims that “Christ is the reason for this university,” that He stands as a teacher in every classroom and the model for every faculty member and inspiration for every student.

Walking throughout the DBU campus, you will see these plaques in various locations, as you enter classrooms, offices, buildings, lecture halls, and even the Pilgrim Chapel sanctuary.



*Be it known to all who enter here
that* **CHRIST**
is the reason for this university.

*He is the unseen but ever present teacher in
its classes. He is the model for its faculty
and the inspiration of its students.*