



Dr. Cook Miracle Bell DEDICATION

In October of 2007, Dr. Gary Cook visited his doctor for an annual physical. What began as a routine set of tests and procedures soon turned into a fight for his life, as Dr. Cook discovered that he had acute myelogenous leukemia. The doctors immediately admitted him to Baylor Medical Center and for the next month, he underwent chemotherapy and other treatments.

When news broke about the diagnosis, people from around the world began to pray for his healing and recovery. Prayer had always been important in Dr. Cook's life, and now more than ever, he discovered the power of prayer as he and so many others sought the Lord, asking for a miracle.

Six months later in the spring of 2008, Dr. Cook was able to announce his remission.

To mark the five-year anniversary of this journey from diagnosis to healing, Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, and his wife, Michelle, donated to DBU a special bell.

"Near my home in Tyler there was

a special trail named Rose Rudman Trail with a bell along the trail for people to ring in honor of those battling cancer," Dr. Blackburn explained. "Every time my son, Parker, and I would walk on that trail, he would want to stop and ring the bell and say a prayer for Dr. Cook. My wife, Michelle, and I thought that it would be meaningful to have something like this on the DBU campus."

Titled the "Dr. Cook Miracle Bell," this special monument to Dr. Cook's healing hangs in the gazebo located in the middle of Bush Pond. Dr. Blackburn, along with Shannen Smith, who currently serves as DBU director of apartment life, located a company in Switzerland, Eijsbouts, that had cast the bronze 12" bell in 2007, the same year as Dr. Cook's diagnosis. The wording on the outside of the bell reads, "To the Glory of Jesus Christ."

"My prayer is that in the years to come, members of the DBU family will take time to come and visit the bell and ring it in honor or memory



of their loved ones, and use it as a reminder to constantly be in prayer for their healing," Dr. Blackburn stated.

On April 8, students, faculty, and staff gathered around the Miracle Bell for a special dedication service along with Dr. Cook and members of his family.

"Sheila and I are so touched that Blair and Michelle would want to provide this special gift for the DBU campus," stated Dr. Cook. "Prayer is the foundation of the Christian life, and this bell will remind us all that even in the midst of an illness, our Heavenly Father will hear our prayers and be with us through the journey."

Dr. Blackburn and his wife, Michelle, are pictured above.



The dedication plaque for the Dr. Cook Miracle Bell states, "When asking God for a healing miracle, when thanking God for a healing miracle, ring the bell. Pray for healing, pray for restoration, give thanks to the Lord," reminding those who view the bell that all healing comes from God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.