

DESPITE PERSONAL TRAGEDIES, GOD PROVIDED A WAY.

MAXWELL BUSSE

by Aaron Jones

"After graduating with my BBA in May 2015, I will begin my MBA in Finance here at DBU," Max Busse said as excitement became brightly visible in the grin that covered his face. "I feel as though the Lord is calling me to be a Christian leader in the business world."

According to Max, being an ambassador for Christ far predated his calling to the business world. It is a calling that he gained and maintained through sickness, hopelessness, and an undying faith in the goodness of God. "The Lord is still working through my past day after day. Some days are easier than others, but true relief comes when I focus on the Lord."

Growing up in Longview and later Big Sandy, Texas, Max reaped the benefits of a close-knit, Christ-centered family. Raised to follow after God, Max remembers that his parents were kind and compassionate. "My parents were always compassionate, and my best friend also happened to be my older sister," recalled Max affectionately.

From the earliest parts of his life, Max knew to trust in God, even in the direst times. At the age of four, Max was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a cancer of the eye. Upon diagnosis, Max's parents adopted a life verse that still encourages him to this day. "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," said Max, reciting Isaiah 54:10. "Even though my left eye had to be surgically removed, my family never lost faith," he continued.

The family of four never strayed from the church. The Busses attended Fellowship Bible Church in Longview where his father served as a deacon. After overcoming cancer, Max became increasingly interested in the Person of Christ and His love for humanity. At the age of seven, Max told his father that he wanted to devote his life to Christ. Later that day, Max's father led him in prayer to accept Jesus as his Savior. It remains a moment fixed in Max's memory. "My father was a constant living example of a Godly man," Max reminisced.

Max continued to grow in Christ and in personal maturity, developing his relationship with his family and God. His whole world changed, however, in the sudden death of his father. As a ten year old, Max did not understand why his father had been taken away from him and struggled for years to understand God's providence in the situation. "I feel as though it forced me to mature quicker than my peers," described Max. "It taught me to appreciate the things that I do have and made me more thankful for all that the Lord has given me."

His family continued to live in Longview for three more years before moving to Big Sandy where Max began high school. An avid member of FFA and the National Beta Club, Max thrived. As college loomed, Max considered attending state schools. His mother, however, pressured him to consider Dallas Baptist University, a decision that was assured with just one visit to campus. "I was sold after I first

set foot on campus," recalled Max. "I distinctly remember feeling called to be at DBU and made the decision to attend on the drive home from Dallas, much to my mother's excitement."

As a freshman, Max began working on the Grounds Crew before moving to his current job in the Financial Affairs office. "God has always been there for me, and it wasn't until coming to DBU that I fully realized just how incredible that really is."

Max's mother's battle with cancer began in October 2011 during his first semester at DBU. Emotional and financial strain became a constant concern for the Busse family as Max's mother underwent chemotherapy. As treatment continued, her tumor began to shrink, much to the relief of Max. "Growing up, my Mom had always said that the Lord provides," recalled Max.

However, in the spring of 2012, Max's mother was readmitted for a relapse in the cancer. After only two weeks of working on the DBU Grounds Crew during his freshman year, Max moved back to Longview to take care of his ailing mother. Alongside his sister, Max prayed and encouraged her until her passing on July 6, 2012. "I learned one of the most difficult lessons that we as Christians are faced with. I learned that bad things happen to good people but no matter what, God is always looking over us and loves us."

Even in the face of the loss of both of his parents, Max made the decision to come back to DBU in August of 2012 not knowing how he was going to pay for his classes. As he continued to pray about his situation, Max received a call from an office at DBU. After answering the phone, he was surprised to hear Dr. Cook's voice on the other side. "He informed me that he and his staff were praying for me," said Max. "At the end, he let me know that I didn't need to worry about finances and that he would personally make sure that I would have the funds to finish my degree at Dallas Baptist University."

Max came back to DBU and, through the encouragement of Dr. Cook and others, continues to work in the business office and study hard to graduate in 2017 with his MBA. "Being able to come back to DBU, under institutional scholarships, has been one of the single most influential events in my life."

"I believe that God has been healing and growing me spiritually and physically throughout my time at DBU," Max commented. Indeed, Max continues to look towards the future in faith, always trusting in God even in the times of unbearable pain. Through his time at DBU and the aid that he received through scholarships, Max looks forward to the day when he can use his Christian example to spread the Gospel to Corporate America. "Through scholarships, I will be able to carry out my calling as a Christian Leader in the business world. The ability to earn my degree will have an immensely positive impact on the rest of my life."