



"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Psalm 127:1

DR. GARY COOK

IT BEGAN WITH PRAYER



Quite a lot has changed on the DBU campus since April 6, 1988. On that day, the DBU Board of Trustees voted to select Dr. Gary Cook, then a 37-year-old administrator from Baylor University, to serve as the school's new president.

At the time, the school, which possessed an incredible tradition of faith dating back to 1898, struggled under decaying facilities and perpetual debt. What began as Decatur Baptist College moved to Dallas in 1965, and after the move, financial issues continued to plague the institution. The grand plans that the school's founders had in mind were never realized, and although full of potential, the campus became stagnant, with little evidence of growth or hope for the future.

Upon arriving on campus, Dr. Cook saw a seemingly insurmountable number of issues. For years, people spoke of the inevitable closing of the school, and others just assumed it would be purchased by a larger institution since it could never survive on its own.

August 23, 2015, marked 10,000 days since that spring afternoon. An institution whose future looked bleak is now as bright as any private Christian school in the country. A once desolate campus is a thriving arboretum, teeming with students, events, and activities. How did this change occur?

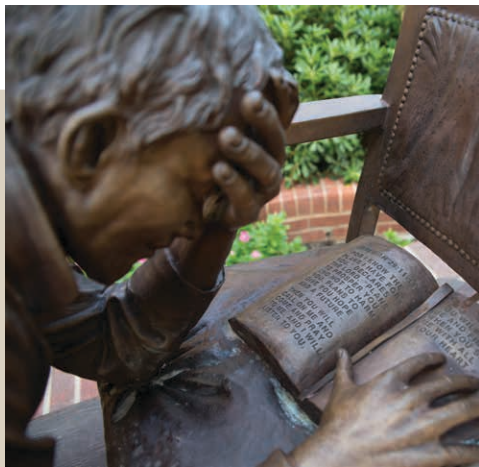
Within the first 20 days of his presidency, Dr. Cook called upon the campus community to seek the Lord through prayer and ask for His help to make DBU all that it could become.

"Beginning the prayer ministry was an honest confession to the Lord that we couldn't survive as an institution apart from the work of God," Dr. Cook later recalled. "We were desperate, and this desperation caused us to call out to God."

What followed was the formation of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, an office that sent out notes to the campus, calling them to pray daily for various University needs. Seven months later, Pam Moore was called as director of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. The Ministry enlisted the support of 1,000 senior adult prayer partners who committed to lift up the school to the Lord.

As the days continued in Dr. Cook's presidency, the prayers were lifted, and soon the student population began to grow, the debt was retired, new programs began, trees were planted, buildings arose, and the campus became a testimony to the miracle of prayer.

The following pages of this special issue of the *DBU Report* are a reflection of the incredible miracle that has taken place these past 10,000 days. It is written in honor of Dr. Gary Cook, who so ably led during that time, calling the University to continually call out to God for direction; but more importantly, it is a testimony to the God who is faithful to listen to His children, hear their cries, and answer their call. To God be the Glory!



**10,000 DAYS OF PRESIDENCY
APRIL 6, 1988-AUGUST 23, 2015**