

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE



"THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS,
BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT." MATTHEW 28:19

The *Global* Village

In the spring of 2013, DBU designated a section of the campus as the Global Village. Tying together the new Jeannette and Cletys Sadler Global Missions Center with the existing Sheila Cook Residence Hall and Fred and Mary Lou White Residence Hall apartment buildings, along with the David and In Sun Moon International Center, this new Global Village was designed to both invite the world to DBU and send DBU students around the world, all for the sake of increasing the Kingdom. But how did this new emphasis come to be?

In 2010, Dr. Gary Cook, DBU chancellor, had been spending time praying and asking the Lord to provide direction for the future of the school. As stated in the Vision Statement of DBU, the University family wants DBU to be a “university that is pleasing to God.” Dr. Cook naturally asked the Lord what DBU could do that would be pleasing to Him.

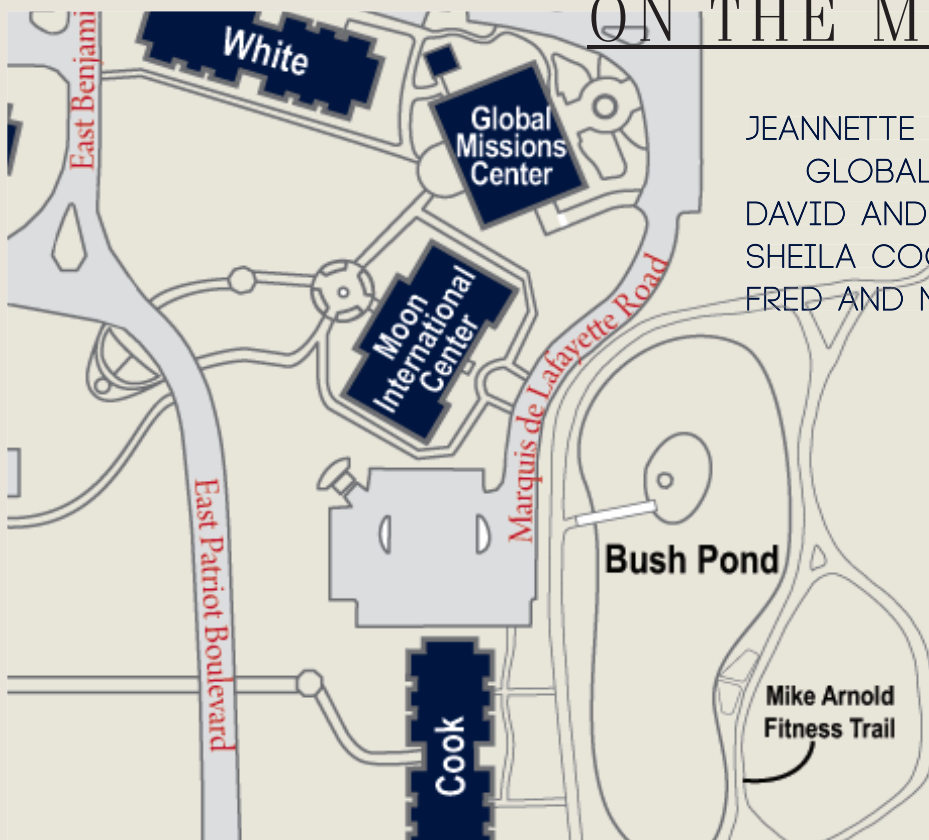
The answer he received surprised him. Early one morning he woke up, strongly sensing the Lord saying to Him that He wanted DBU to create a Global Village on the DBU campus.

“This was not anywhere on my radar at the time,” Dr. Cook recalled. “We tend to work on strategic plans and long-range plans, but you know, the Bible really doesn’t talk about this type of long-range planning. The Lord speaks, and He expects you to do something right then.”

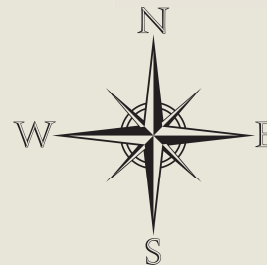
So Dr. Cook tried to listen and hear what the Lord would have DBU do. This new Global Village was to include the existing Moon International Center, the apartment complexes, and a new building, which would be named the Global Missions Center. Inside the apartments, international students and American students would live together side by side, getting to know one another’s culture and allowing for not only a learning experience but also a chance to share the Gospel and disciple one another.



ON THE MAP



JEANNETTE AND CLETYS SADLER
GLOBAL MISSIONS CENTER
DAVID AND IN SUN MOON INTERNATIONAL CENTER
SHEILA COOK RESIDENCE HALL
FRED AND MARY LOU WHITE RESIDENCE HALL



The *Global* Village

The next morning, Dr. Cook called Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, and Dr. Adam Wright, vice president and dean of the Gary Cook School of Leadership, and walked them down to the location where the Lord directed Dr. Cook to build.

As they stood next to the Moon International Center and across from the beautiful Bush Park, Dr. Cook shared with them what he sensed the Lord directing the school to do, and he asked that they pray with him, because although he knew the Lord wanted this Global Village, he did not know from where the money would come.

"It is hard to walk by faith sometimes," explained Dr. Cook, "because at the time we still had not totally paid for Horner Hall, and I hated to move to another building project until the last one was paid off. I thought to myself, 'How can we do this, Lord?' but the answer just seemed to be, 'If the Lord told us, then He would provide.'"

In faith, these three men prayed that the Lord would continue to provide and reveal His plans for this location, and a few days later, he invited all of the vice presidents to pray about it as well, committing that DBU would build this Global Village and believing that the Lord would provide the means.

Some time later, Dr. Adam Wright was visiting with Jeannette Sadler, a wonderful friend of the University who served as a trustee and had provided financial support for scholarships and for the Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel. As she and Dr. Wright visited, Mrs. Sadler told him that she had been wanting to give another gift to DBU.

"She looked at me and said, 'I really would like to do something to help the little children of the world,'" Dr. Wright remembered her saying. "I was shocked because I had just been praying with Dr. Cook about this new Global Village, and I went on to share with her about the need for a new Global Missions Center to serve as the anchor for this area."

A few days later, Dr. Cook and Dr. Wright both visited with Mrs. Sadler, and she told them that she wanted to make a pledge of \$2 million toward the new building. Within such a short period of time, the Lord had provided the lead gift.



With the plans ready to go and Mrs. Sadler's generous pledge in hand, Dr. Cook was able to share the story about the Global Village with the DBU trustees. At the time, Mrs. Sadler was on the board, and Dr. Cook was able to announce her pledge. The trustees approved the motion to proceed ahead with the new Global Village, and within a year, the new Jeannette and Cletys Sadler Global Missions Center opened, and students began to live in the Global Village. Mrs. Sadler, who passed away in April of 2013, had the opportunity to tour the facility a few weeks before it opened.

Today, as you drive down to the southeast side of the campus, you enter the gates of the Global Village and are immediately greeted by the Jeannette and Cletys Sadler Global Missions Center. Inside is housed the International Admissions Department, as well as the Office of Student and Spiritual Life, the Baptist Student Ministry Office, and the offices of the Master of Arts in Global Leadership, a graduate degree that prepares missionaries.

There is also a special conversation room, complete with computer terminals and translation software, that allows DBU students to share their faith with others from around the world. In addition, DBU has provided an International Clothes Closet that allows DBU to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ by providing warm jackets and blankets for international students who may have traveled to North Texas not expecting a cold winter.

On the lower level is Piper Hall, which serves as a gathering place for Baptist Student Ministry functions as well as a variety of other University events. Classroom and one-on-one tutoring space fill out the building.



The *Global* Village

Walking down the road, one will find the David and In Sun Moon International Center. Completed in 2004, it has been a home away from home for international students for years. It serves as classroom space for Intensive English classes, as well as other classes that meet in the building. There is also space for an international conversation lounge, as well as the International Student Services Department, which helps to care for the more than 560 DBU international students.

Across from the Moon International Center is Dorothy Bush Park, complete with a beautiful pond, surrounded by the Mike Arnold Fitness Trail. This oasis on the DBU campus was originally constructed by Dennis Linam, currently DBU director of denominational and governmental relations, when he first came to work for the University in 1988. Along with Dr. Cook, they sought to create a spot where students could walk and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Over the years, the area has grown and literally blossomed, and today is a wonderful place for students to exercise, study, talk, or just bask in the glory of God's handiwork.

On either side of the Global Village stand two apartment complexes known as Sheila Cook Residence Hall and Fred and Mary Lou White Residence Hall. These buildings have been converted into intentional living centers for American and international students.

Throughout the DBU campus, students have the opportunity to choose to live in the dorms, apartment complexes, townhomes, or brownstones, but in these two buildings, a special stipulation is made. Every apartment is required to have a mixture of American and international students. Regardless of the combination, the result is an interactive, daily cultural experience that helps American students understand other cultures and also helps international students understand more about America.

An added benefit to this living arrangement is the opportunity to share the Gospel with international students. Among the

more than 560 international students who arrive on the DBU campus, only about one-third come with a knowledge of Jesus Christ, leaving two-thirds who come and hear the Gospel, many for the first time. And inside this Global Village, the Gospel is shared through daily living, times of shared joy and sorrow, and periods of Biblical study and exploration.

While Dr. Cook is still not sure what the Lord has in store for this new section of the campus, he remains amazed at how faithfully God provided once he and the school stepped out in faith.

"Time and again the Lord continues to prove Himself faithful to DBU," said Dr. Cook. "We do not know what the future holds for this institution or for any of us, but we are not called to know the future. We are called to just be obedient and say yes whenever the Lord calls us to do His work. In the years ahead, it is our prayer that DBU will continue to be a place that seeks God's face and encourages and trains others to do the same."

