

DBU REPORT

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A Legacy of Love

Jeannette Sadler's Generosity Sows
Seeds of Love at DBU for Years to Come

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Jeannette and Cletys Sadler Provide Largest Land Donation in DBU's History

Throughout its existence, DBU has been blessed with friends who see God at work on campus and choose to join in that work. One such friend is Jeannette Sadler, a lawyer, business woman, real estate investor, philanthropist, and follower of Jesus.

Granddaughter of Robert F. Rowntree, a famous Texas settler, Jeannette grew up in the Dallas area and graduated valedictorian from her high school and went on to complete with flying colors both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctorate degree from SMU. Afterwards, she began representing Hispanic immigrants in various legal matters, but soon felt that the world of law was not her life's calling.

Instead, she began to buy and sell real estate. Carrying over her heart for others, Jeannette continued to help immigrants in the Dallas area, this time by providing them with affordable housing. For years she continued in this work and helped many families find their footing and, in turn, their success.

An active member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Jeannette is a fixture of love and support in this community of faith. As she has grown up in the church since childhood, she has also helped the church to grow, providing gifts for the church's ministry as well as teaching Sunday School.

In the 1970s, Jeannette met Cletys Sadler, and the two were soon married. A former navy man, Cletys was a rancher, entrepreneur, and real estate investor. He was born in East Texas to a sharecropping family, but over time, and during the Great Depression, the Sadlers were eventually able to own their own land and provide help for those suffering through the economic woes.

Once the war was over, Cletys returned to Texas to complete his education, which he did at East Texas Teachers College and Texas A&M. In addition, he began to purchase various land holdings in Raines and Wood Counties of East Texas, including the very spot of land where he was born. In time, his land grew to over 2,000 acres.

Not content to just buy land, Cletys also made a name for himself as an entrepreneur and a man of vision and capability. He also counted himself doubly blessed for the continuing love and support of so many women who invested themselves in his life. These women included Jeannette; his mother, Ruby Ann Harvey Sadler; his late wife, Marguerite Phillips Sadler; his mothers-in-law, Opal Jones Phillips and Opal Rowntree Winston (Jeannette's mother); his two sisters, Lorene Huddleston and Fay Well Patton; and his daughters-in-law, Jacquelyn Owens and Peggy Sadler; and granddaughters, Olivia Tannebaum and Anna Sadler.

A widower and successful businessman, Cletys came to the office one day when his secretary suggested that he meet one of her good friends, Jeannette. Cletys was intrigued and agreed to have dinner with them. Shortly afterwards, the two married and continued to grow in love for each other and for their community.

They also challenged each other in their walk with God, turning over and over again to the Psalms and the words of God's love and care for His people. Cletys passed away three years ago, but his example continues to inspire Jeannette and so many others. "Cletys loved God and always looked to Him for guidance," she recalled.

Always looking for the best in people, Jeannette and Cletys Sadler encouraged others to discover their gifts and then use

them for the work of God. As Mrs. Sadler said, "Cletys believed that you could do anything that the Lord wanted you to do, and He would give you the skills and the capacities to do it."

Mrs. Sadler continues this encouragement for others. "God has a purpose for everyone of us," she explained, "and the sooner we discover it, the better we are."

Several years back, Mrs. Sadler visited the DBU campus in connection with the DBU-Oak Cliff Good Samaritan Dinner, as her church, Cliff Temple Baptist Church, was honored. A few years later, in connection with her work in the Oak Cliff area, she herself received the Good Samaritan Award. This past year, Mrs.

Sadler, impressed with the work of DBU, gave a gift of \$1 million for the construction of DBU's new Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel.

Continuing in her desire to see God's work expand at Dallas Baptist, Jeannette gave a gift of land to the University—the very land Cletys began to purchase as soon as he left the navy. In total, Mrs. Sadler donated over 800 acres, the largest land donation in the history of the school, and in so doing, has sowed seeds of love that will continue to help DBU for years to come.

"We are so grateful to Mrs. Sadler," said Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president. "This land gift will provide millions of dollars for DBU and help us to continue to become the University that God intends for us to be."

According to Mrs. Sadler, "This gift, in memory of Cletys and those who loved him, represents a lifetime of effort from a good man and a good husband, and I know that he would be pleased to know that it will continue to help the work of DBU."

