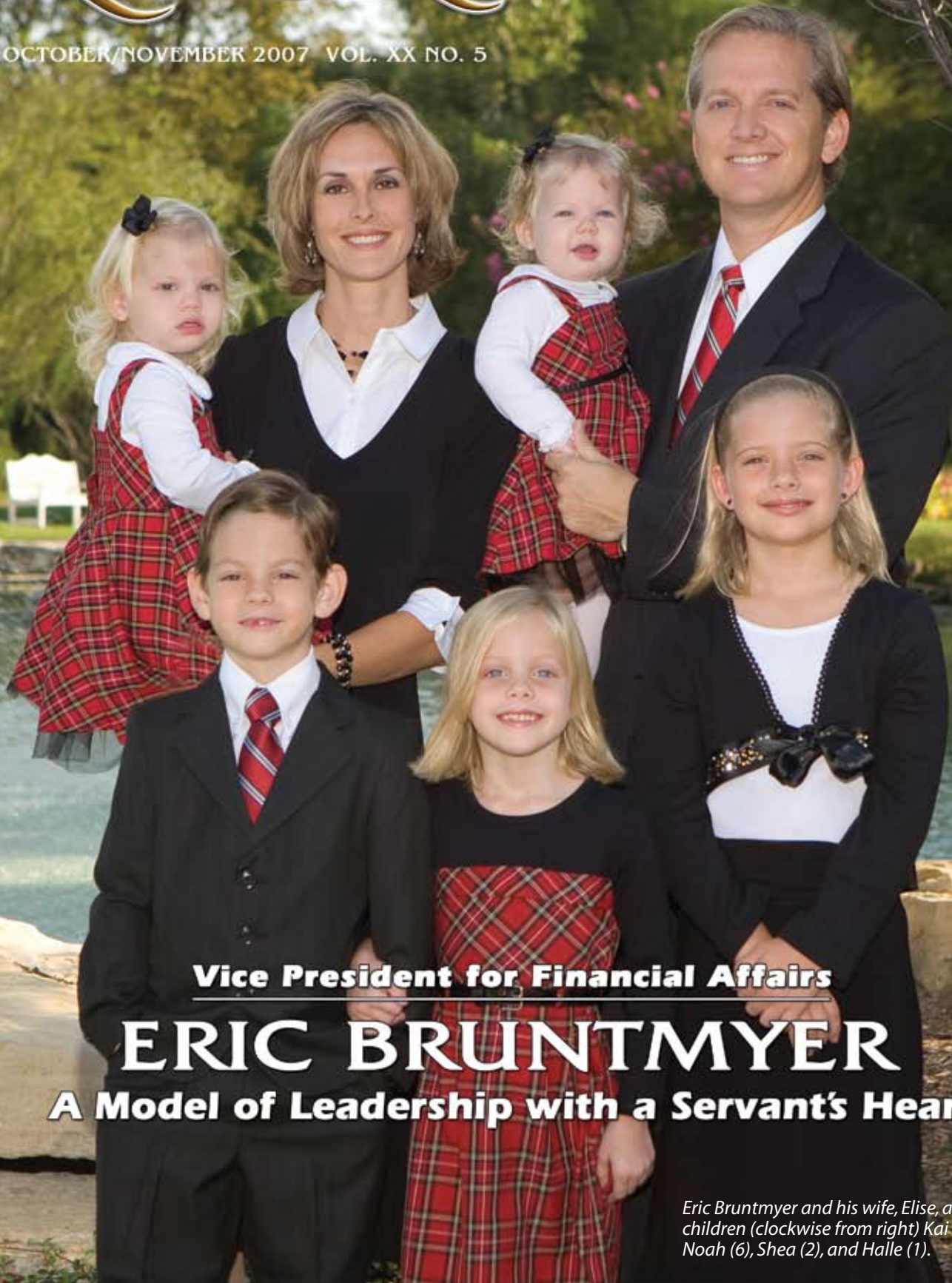


DBU REPORT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007 VOL. XX NO. 5



Vice President for Financial Affairs

ERIC BRUNTMYER

A Model of Leadership with a Servant's Heart

Eric Bruntmyer and his wife, Elise, along with their children (clockwise from right) Kai (9), Avery (4), Noah (6), Shea (2), and Halle (1).



ERIC BRUNTMYER

Leading with a Servant's Heart

In April of 1988, Dr. Gary Cook had just begun his tenure as the new DBU president. His work was cut out for him, taking over an institution with a rich tradition, but also many financial problems.

That same month, a young freshman named Eric Bruntmyer contemplated departing DBU. His mother was attending DBU, and a friend invited him to the campus, and he fell in love with the people. But seeing the many problems the school faced, he believed there was no solution on the horizon and felt the need to leave.

So the young man and the young president met and discussed the future of the school. Being blunt, Eric told Dr. Cook that the school faced many problems, and he did not have the faith that things could get better.

Politely, the young president asked Eric to reconsider, but seeing his mind set on it, he wished him all the best and encouraged him to follow the Lord's call on his life, wherever he went. So Eric left for Lubbock and Texas Tech University and then went on to Baylor Law School to begin a career as a lawyer. Yet he still kept an eye on the struggling school.

After completing his legal studies, Eric moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, now married to Elise and beginning his own practice and family. Near DBU again, he saw first hand how much the Lord had done through that young president over the years. Wanting to be a part of the Christian mission of the school, he applied to become an adjunct professor in the College of Business, and teaching on campus made him fall in love with the people and the mission of the school all over again.

After a single semester, Eric felt that he had found a home, and he and Elise began to pray for God to open the door for him to return to DBU.

That door opened in 2001 when he met once again with Dr. Cook. Both sensing God's leading him back to DBU, Eric was offered a position as an associate general counsel, which he quickly accepted.

Over the next several years, Eric took on a number of various responsibilities on campus, while also growing his family and expanding his education. He completed an MBA at DBU, and he and Elise welcomed into the world three other children, bringing their total to five.

Eventually, Dr. Cook asked Eric to become the vice president for financial affairs at DBU, overseeing the financial health of the school. The young man who at one time left the school because of the many financial problems it faced is now responsible for ensuring that DBU would never face those problems again.

"In those early years," Bruntmyer reflects, "DBU could have died, but people prayed and cared for the school, and it survived. If we remain faithful and humble, there is no limit to the way God will use us to accomplish His will."

Eric draws from many examples of servant leadership. Beyond the Biblical illustrations, some come from his parents and his brother, who is a doctor. He also looks to the example of the young DBU president that led DBU to a place of financial security and academic excellence.

Perhaps his most important model of service comes from his wife, Elise, who is also a member of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board.

"Elise is energetic and has taught me so much about sacrifice and organization," Eric explains. "Children will keep anyone busy, and five provides non-stop activity from dawn till dusk. Yet Elise manages to keep us all going."

An attitude of service shapes Bruntmyer's work as he oversees various departments, including the information and technology department, mail services, and cashier's office. Those who work with him know his heart and sense his commitment to do whatever he can to help them succeed in their job and fulfill their God-given calling.

Eric Bruntmyer is pictured above along with (left) Danny Hassett, assistant vice president for financial affairs, and Doug Williams, associate vice president for information and technology.