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DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY REPORT



A Calling to Christian Higher Education

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Since the fall of 1994, Dr. Blake Killingsworth has called the DBU Family his family. A native of Pflugerville, Texas, Blake arrived at DBU as a church music major, joining a DBU ministry group called Glowing Heart. For two and a half years, he traveled to various churches across the state, sharing the Gospel and developing a love for the local church. This knowledge and love continues to shape Blake in his current role at DBU as well as his work with his church, First Baptist Cedar Hill, where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

During his sophomore year of college, Blake also accepted a student worker position after being approached by Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president. For the next few years, Dr. Cook placed Blake in various offices, wherever they needed an extra hand, and by fall of 1997, he started full time in the President's Office as one of Dr. Cook's assistants.

"During my time at DBU, God has given me a love for Christian higher education — and the impactful role it plays in the furtherance of His Kingdom," Blake explains. "And the more I prayed, the more I felt drawn to the field of church history."

After completing his bachelor's degree, Dr. Cook and Dr. Mike Williams, professor of history at DBU, encouraged Blake to pursue graduate work; and later that year, Blake and his wife, Kristin (Ladewig '98), whom he met his freshman year and married in 1997, moved north to Illinois for

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Blake to study church history at Wheaton College Graduate School. Two years later, they returned to Dallas, and Blake resumed his role on campus and began his doctorate in history at TCU.

Over the past 12 years, Blake has served DBU in a variety of ways. He has served as the curator of the Lord Bernard Braine of Wheatley Collection, generously donated by DBU friends Jill and Richard Reeves. He has also served a vital role in public relations and communications for the University over the years, helping with the University's alumni magazine, the *DBU Report*. Over the years, Blake took on a more active role as editor and continues to help publish the magazine today.

He also became more involved with denominational relations, both in Texas and around the world. Over the past 12 years, he has traveled to more than 10 different countries, including China, Indonesia, Korea, Brazil, and Singapore, as an ambassador of DBU and as a member of the Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) of the Baptist World Alliance.

Dr. David Coffey, past president of the Baptist World Alliance, was first introduced to Blake when visiting the DBU campus in 2005. Dr. Coffey was very impressed with Blake and says he "typified the kind of younger leader I wanted to introduce into a network of peer group emerging leaders from all parts of the world."

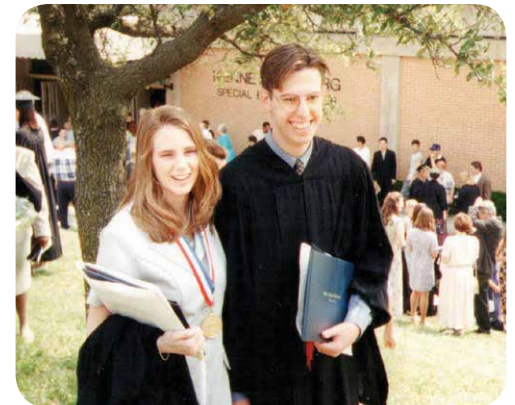
When the ELN launched in Ghana in 2007, Dr. Cook and Dr. Coffey both made sure that Blake could be there. Dr. Coffey says Blake "distinguished himself by his grace, wisdom and pastoral sensitivity to the cultural diversity of the BWA family." Dr. Coffey later invited Blake to be a member of a special BWA delegation to China.

The world Blake discovered abroad soon entered his own home. In the spring of 2009, he and Kristin adopted their daughter Chloe, now four. Although a domestic adoption, Chloe's birth-mother is originally from Honduras, and her birthfather is from Nigeria.

"It is so incredible to think that in our

home, when we pray, we are able to have a small picture of every tribe and nation gather around the throne to worship the one true God," Blake explains. "Chloe is the joy of our lives, and she is a precocious, inquisitive, and very active four year old."

Upon finishing his doctorate in 2011, Dr. Cook invited Blake to assume the role of vice president for communications, where



he continues to assist Dr. Cook as well as help to oversee many of DBU's media and denominational relations.

"Blake loves the Lord and he loves DBU. He is extremely bright, creative, and enthusiastic," explains Dr. Cook. "We are so fortunate to have him as an administrator and professor. It is a joy and a privilege to work with him on a daily basis."

This commitment to DBU overflows from the joy of knowing he is a part of an institution that is influencing young people to love God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind and to serve and glorify Him in this world wherever He calls.

Blake is pictured above with Dr. Gary Cook in 2009 at a special BWA gathering, celebrating 400 years of Baptist life, as well as with his wife, Kristin, on their graduation day from DBU in 1998.