

SPRING 2014

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY REPORT

神は、そのひとり子をお与えに
なつたほどに、世を愛された。
ひとり子を信じる者が一人も滅びないが
永遠の命を得るためである。
ヨハネによる福音書 3:16

For God so loved the world
He gave His one and only
that whoever believes in
not per... ve eter

FOCUSED ON EDUCATION, DRIVEN BY MINISTRY DR. CORY HINES

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT & GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Dr. Cory Hines, along with his wife, Melinda,
and their children, Caleb and Mackenzie



Dr. Cory Hines has never met a stranger. His outgoing and charismatic personality sets everyone at ease, and his genuine care and concern for their well-being reminds people of the call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Often serving as the face of DBU for donors, alumni, denominational partners, and community leaders, Dr. Hines embodies the spirit of DBU.

A native of Gainesville, Cory grew up under the influence of a family and church community full of unconditional love. He accepted Christ at an early age and eventually surrendered to full-time ministry.

Following high school, Cory believed that his ministry lay within the local church. As a student at Howard Payne University, he majored in religious education, planning to serve as a student pastor one day. At the same time, a new passion was born in him for the importance of Christian higher education.

"Being a student at a Christian university really impressed upon me the benefit of discovering God's will for your life in a Christian environment," Cory explains.

After completing his degree, Cory began seminary and started working as the student minister at Ferris Avenue Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas (now called The Avenue Church). That summer he also married his wife, Melinda, whom Cory describes as his "constant supporter and encourager."

Having been together nearly 17 years now, Cory says, "Knowing that Melinda believes in me, trusts me, and is willing to partner with me in life gives me the confidence I need to be the man God wants me to be. I am so blessed she wants to be my partner in life, whether during my season of church ministry at The Avenue or now in my role at DBU."

Cory remained The Avenue Church's student minister for five years, before transitioning into the role of executive pastor, a position he held for eight

years. "My time as a minister in the local church impacted my life in so many ways," recalls Cory. "Day in and day out, I felt it impressed on me the importance of honoring God in all that I do in every facet of life."

His time at the church also instilled in him the value of connecting with individuals from various walks of life, knowing that each encounter was a moment for Cory to demonstrate the love of Christ and share the message of the Gospel.

He also began to understand the value of effective leadership in the church and Christian organizations. In order to better prepare himself and others to lead, Cory entered the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies program at DBU, not knowing at the time that the school would become his new ministry field.

"Knowing that leadership was something I'm passionate about, the program really piqued my interest," Cory states. "My time in ministry had really impacted my own philosophy on leadership. I was able to learn through working with volunteers and staff members the importance of empowering leadership. It really opened my eyes to see how people flourish in an environment where they feel empowered to lead and serve."

As part of the doctoral program, students are required to complete a mentored internship, which Cory was able to accomplish with Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president. Through his coursework and mentorship, Cory began to see firsthand DBU's commitment to Christ-centered education; he also started to feel the Lord impress upon him the desire to join the University full time.

Soon, Dr. Cook asked Cory to come on board at DBU as the director of alumni and community relations, working closely with donors and also graduate

ministry students.

In 2011, he was named a vice president, overseeing denominational relations and external affairs. A year later, he completed his Ph.D. and shortly thereafter was also put in charge of the advancement department. This past fall, Dr. Hines received yet another responsibility as his title changed to vice president for advancement and graduate affairs. In this current role, he continues his work with community, denominational, alumni and donor relations, as well as helping to lead DBU's 24 master's degree programs.



Dr. Cory Hines along with Rev. Bertrain Bailey, DBU alumnus and member of the DBU Board of Trustees

Although Dr. Hines no longer serves full time in the local church, he remains connected to his family of faith. In fact, he and Melinda, along with their two children Mackenzie and Caleb, remain active members of The Avenue Church, serving in various ministries of the church.

"I feel called to Christian higher education because of the way it daily changes students' lives. I am blessed to regularly see this at DBU in so many ways," Cory says. "I want my life to make a difference, to count, to truly matter; and at DBU, I feel that I am able to serve the Lord by working with people who really want this institution to honor the Lord."