The DBU Athletic Department launched the Global Sports Mission Initiative in 2007 to allow DBU student-athletes the opportunity to share the love of Christ in foreign lands through their God-given athletic talents. What began as a single trip for the baseball team with Buckner International to Guatemala has blossomed into an established program of sports missions with eight trips abroad and more than 200 student-athletes participating in global missions work.

NCAA rules prohibit teams from traveling and competing on a foreign tour more than once every four years, which has worked out perfectly for DBU, with the Athletic Department scheduling six trips over four years and then starting the cycle of trips again among the athletic teams. Besides these international mission trips, DBU student-athletes have been involved in many local opportunities to be servant leaders to those around them. Every year during Student Welcome and Transition Week, student-athletes serve with their respective teams at locations including Brother Bill’s Helping Hand, Mission Arlington, and the North Texas Food Bank.

For the past several years, the Patriot Baseball team has volunteered with the Special Olympics of Texas; and for the past nine years, student-athletes and representatives from all of DBU’s sports teams have put together shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, collecting over 500 boxes in the past two years alone.

Since 2009, student-athletes, coaches, and staff from all of DBU’s athletic teams, including club sports, have taken part in the annual H-E-B/Central Market Feast of Sharing, which is held at Fair Park in Dallas prior to Thanksgiving and feeds thousands of people from area shelters and community centers.

(Pictured above) Patriot Baseball players (left to right) Michael Miller, Jordan Staples, and RJ Talamantes during the 2011 Dominican Republic trip. (pictured below) Dr. Cook delivers the opening prayer before the DBU baseball team played the Guatemalan National Team in October 2007.

### DBU Global Sports Missions Initiative Trips

**OCTOBER 2007**
- Patriot Baseball, Cheerleading (with Buckner International), Guatemala

**MARCH 2009**
- Lady Patriot Volleyball and Soccer (with Buckner International), Peru

**OCTOBER 2009**
- Patriot Men’s Basketball and Cheerleading, South Korea

**MAY 2010**
- Patriot Men’s and Women’s Tennis, England

**JULY 2010**
- Patriot Men’s and Women’s Golf, United Kingdom

**MAY 2011**
- Patriot Athletic Department (with Buckner International), Honduras

**MAY 2011**
- Patriot Cross Country/Track, Brazil

**OCTOBER 2011**
- Patriot Baseball, Dominican Republic

**JANUARY 2013**
- Patriotettes, England

**MARCH 2013**
- Lady Patriot Volleyball, China
The DBU Patriot Athletic Department has maintained a standard of excellence in all of its programs as it has continued to expand over the last 25 years. Beginning in 2002, DBU’s Patriot Baseball team became a member of the NCAA Division I, and recently DBU accepted a bid to become a baseball-only member of the Missouri Valley Conference.

Over the past five years, DBU has received three invitations to the NCAA National Baseball Tournament, capturing the Fort Worth Regional in 2011. As always, every year several DBU players are drafted by Major League Baseball teams, and currently, three former DBU players are playing in the majors and 13 in the minors.

DBU has 14 teams competing as members of the Heartland Conference, which is a part of the NCAA Division II. Along with the baseball program, each sport has experienced tremendous success over the past several years, both as teams and as individual players. In addition, every year DBU ranks among the top schools in its conference for overall GPA, with several teams capturing the top spot in their respective sports.

In addition to these teams, DBU has developed five new club sports, allowing for students to engage in a variety of competitions, such as ice hockey, swimming, and bass fishing, as well as cheerleading and drill team.

While success on the field and in the classroom is a vital part of Patriot Athletics, at the heart of every sport is a design to produce men and women who stand as Champions for Christ. Through team Bible studies, discipleship programs, and community service projects, each student is challenged to demonstrate an even greater level of dedication and commitment to Jesus Christ as they do to their sports. They are encouraged to run their races not merely to gain an earthly prize, but to gain a heavenly prize.

Dr. Cook (pictured right) with Baseball Head Coach Dan Heefner, who is beginning his sixth season as head coach.