Recently, Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, along with Dr. Blake Killingsworth, vice president for communications, and Luiz de Jesus, international admissions recruitment coordinator, traveled to Brazil in order to build relationships with Baptist organizations in the country.

While in the city of Belo Horizonte, they visited the Sistema Batista Mineiro de Educação (SBME), a Baptist school that was founded in 1918 by the parents of David Maddox, a DBU trustee. Dr. Cook spoke to the students and faculty of the school on the concept of servant leadership, and afterwards, the school presented him with the special David Maddox Award, given in honor of his lifelong service to the cause of Christian education.

Pictured above is Dr. Cook (center), after receiving the Maddox Medal, along with (from left to right) Dr. Killingsworth; Pr. Luiz de Jesus; David Maddox; Prof. Valseni Braga, president of SBME; and Pr. Wandercy da Silva, president of the Baptist Education System of the state of Minas Gerais.

This past spring, 39 individuals from Brazil were enrolled as students at DBU, 28 of whom came to participate in DBU’s Intensive English Program (pictured right). These students represent the beginning of many more Brazilians to come as DBU continues to expand its international program through partnerships with various schools and Baptist organizations.