

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS

 I am TEXAS Missions

MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING*

WMU of Texas

PROMOTION AND

MISSION STUDY

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NIV)



SEPTEMBER 13-20, 2020
STATE GOAL: \$3,600,000

iamtexasmissions.org

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS®

THEME: I Am Texas Missions

DATE: September 13-20, 2020

I am Texas Missions Promotion and Mission Study

GOAL: \$3,600,000

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

SUGGESTED MUSIC: Footsteps of Jesus



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS®

WMU of Texas

PROMOTION

Introduction: Introverted? Extroverted? Either way, Christ has commissioned you to GO! What can your GO-ing look like? Each Christ-follower has been given special gifts to facilitate making disciples. Know what yours are, and then get busy fulfilling your commission. The Mission Study for the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions is a great way to gather together for some introspection on your part in this Great Commission. You might even have opportunity to bring someone else closer to Jesus!

Session Goals: The goals are simple: to encourage all believers to take the instructions of Christ in Matthew 28:18-20 personally, by becoming an out-of-the-ordinary disciple maker; to pray for those who lead in ministry around Texas; and to give generously to sustain the disciple-making work which God has planted in our state.

Session Preparation for the Mission Study:

- * Are you in charge of setting a church offering goal for the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions (MHDO)? If not, **find out what your church’s goal is and include that information in all your media: posters, church website, bulletins, and newsletters.**
- * **Provide information to your church media team about meeting date, time, and location.** In the publicity, encourage attendees to bring a Bible. Many churches require weeks of lead time for publicizing church events. Get your Week of Prayer information turned in as soon as possible.
- * Read and **familiarize yourself with the Mission Study content.**
- * **Pray for those who will attend.**
- * **Prepare to share from the Prayer Calendar** in *Missions Mosaic*, the names of missionaries with birthdays on the date of your study/meeting. Plan at what point in your meeting you will share the names. It could be at the very beginning or perhaps after your music worship time. It could be around the tables during the prayer time for the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions needs. You might want to use the Prayer Calendar to conclude your time together. Names could be written on footprints or on the back of a section of map if either of these are part of your over-all decorating scheme.
- * **Locate a US map and print 8.5”x 11”** copies for attendees (see ice-breaker activity). On the Internet you can find a suitable map of the USA. It should be plain, with perhaps only state names labeled (or use the map provided in this lesson).
- * **Copy and print Instructions for Map Activity** for each table (see ice-breaker activity).
- * **Provide pencils or pens** for table activities.
- * From WMU of Texas, **order enough Texas Week of Prayer Guides and MHDO envelopes** for each attendee, plus a sufficient amount to distribute to church membership prior to Sept. 13, 2020, as allowed.
- * If not “Footsteps of Jesus”, **choose a hymn or chorus for use at Mission Study and secure a pianist** ahead of time.

Choose from these table decoration ideas, or create from your own ideas.

- * Locate large, folding road maps of Texas to make a center-piece for each table. These will be cut apart so will not be usable later. One map will be needed for every three or four tables. Visit/call/write your nearest state visitors' bureau to acquire maps or ask those you know for their out-of-date Texas maps. Cut these maps into horizontal strips along fold lines. Tape or staple ends of each strip together with the Texas roadmap to the outside. Place one on each table, letting the accordion effect hold them upright. You might think of a Texas-themed item to place inside that circle, or beside it, such as a boot, or paper cut-outs, or bud vases of blue-bonnets, wild-flowers, etc. You could use a bandana as a base underneath this arrangement.
- * Or use 16" squares cut from folded maps as an overlay on a bandana base and add decorative items as you see fit.
- * A globe would also be suitable on the tables with Texas-themed decorations along side.
- * Footprints (any size) cut from colorful construction paper could be placed on tables with
"Therefore, GO and make disciples of all nations"
MATTHEW 28:19A (NIV),
printed on them.
- * Set a pair of shoes on the base of a 16" square of Texas map. Use a variety of shoes around the room. (Be sure to clean soles of shoes for sanitary reasons.)
- * Using the portion of a Texas map with your city centered, consider making a bookmark for each attendee. Involve those in your church who enjoy paper crafts and ask them to copy that strip of map and embellish it with a colorful cardstock backing, and even perhaps a ribbon. On the back you could print Matt 29:19a (see above). Or you could use Acts 17:26 (ERV), "God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live." Place these completed bookmarks on each table.



Session Plan:



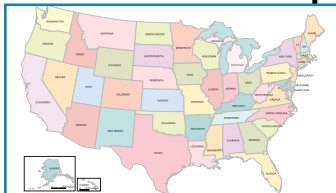
ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY

Before meeting, print out enough US maps for each attendee and gather pencils.

At the meeting, group attendees at tables for five to six persons, with full-page copies of a map and a pencil for each person on the table. Put at least one or two copies of the instruction page on each table. Encourage early arrivers to start on their map, then to help others get started as they arrive. Allow no more than ten minutes of mission study time for this activity.

Instruction page content is below and could be reproduced twice on one page and cut in half.

Instructions for Your Map:



1. Take a map and a pencil. Write your first name in one corner.
2. Begin by making a small star where you were born. General location in the state is okay.
3. Then make a dot on the map at each subsequent location where you have lived for at least a year or more.
4. Connect the dots as you go along through the process.
5. If you have lived in other countries, place a dot to the north, east, south or west of the states and be sure to connect that dot in the correct order with your life of moves.
6. The last dot should be your current residence. Place a circle around that dot.
7. When everyone has finished, share personal maps with those around your table allowing time for everyone to describe and discuss their personal map movement.

8. Keep your map for a later activity.

Music

Choose a mission-themed song such as "Footsteps of Jesus."

Mission Study Discussion

Present the mission study content, perhaps inviting three or four people to share from the four different sections:

1. *Go Make Disciples*
2. *Go to Your Knees*
3. *Go to the Offering Box*
4. *Conclusion*

Short personal testimony on each subject could be included but be mindful of time.

1. *Go Make Disciples*

1. The first section, *Go Make Disciples*, should take no longer than fifteen minutes, including table discussion time. Be sure to include reading of the scriptures, perhaps asking for some attendees to be prepared ahead of time to read for the group. Be intentional to reinforce the idea of making disciples as one is GO-ing.

At the beginning of section one:

- a) Ask attendees to put a cross beside the location on their personal moving map where they became a Christian.

At the end of section one, *Go Make Disciples*:

- a) Urge the group to think about their spiritual gifts (not talents) and how they can be used for God's glory in the church and the community as a disciple maker.
- b) Ask attendees to mark their moving map with a smiley face at each location where someone else invested time and energy in discipling them.
- c) Have attendees place an asterisk at every location where they felt they made a difference in someone else's life by discipling them in the ways of Christ.
- d) If time allows, let table groups share some of their experiences of being disciplined or discipling others. Set a timer! Move on!

2. Go to Your Knees

2. The second section of the mission study presentation, **Go to Your Knees**, should conclude with time for prayer in small groups, using the Week of Prayer Guide. You could ask each table group to focus on a particular day's prayer requests if time is more critical. Encourage attendees to use the prayer guide later at home, praying through each request over the next week(s). Share with the group how much time will be allowed for this activity.

Look over the Allocations of those ministries which will receive funding from the MHDO, provided the offering goal is met. **Is a particular ministry close to your location or close to the hearts of your congregation?** Maybe you could include that ministry in the prayer time at one or all of the tables with a special insert in the prayer guides.

3. Go to the Offering Box

3. The third section of the Mission Study, **Go to the Offering Box**, is a call to give sacrificially to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. This could include collecting an offering at the end. You might advertise ahead of time so attendees are prepared to give.

Place a few paper footprints on the floor to guide people to the offering box. Write "GO" in large letters on each of the footprints. Invite attendees to move at the sound of music to place their completed offering envelopes in the collection box. Ask pianist to play softly during this moment.

If you choose not to provide a time for offering collection, be sure to encourage giving to the MHDO through normal opportunities in your church.

4. Conclusion

4. Before the concluding section, be sure to mention the bookmarks located on the tables. Invite attendees to take one of the bookmarks, keeping it with their Bible or current reading material to remind them that our commission from the Lord is to GO – Go make disciples in this appointed time and place.

Finally, share the **Conclusion** of the Mission Study.





MISSION STUDY

Focus Topic: Making disciples for Christ should be a natural part of your going every day.



1. Go Make Disciples

Christ used His God-given authority to commission his followers to

*"GO out and train everyone you meet,
far and near, in this way of life,
marking them by baptism in the threefold name:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."*
MATTHEW 28:19 (MSG)

What does your GO-ing look like? Is your life already on the road to successful disciple-making? Good job! Or do you need a map? Do you need a tour guide? Let's look at THE consummate map/guide, God's Word, to equip us for making disciples.

First stop on our journey will be our focal passage from Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV).

The promise Christ gave to His followers in verse 20, to be with them always, even to the end of the age, is addressed to those who are committed to this process of making disciples. The Message translation provides ongoing encouragement regarding this promise.

"Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:20 (MSG)

If you, a Child of the King, are wandering and meandering through life, without offering consistent, intentional discipleship instruction, how can Christ bless you with unstoppable, immeasurable help and guidance through His presence? Just remember: He always expects commitment before equipping. Oh, my, how the blessings will flow!

Now going back to verse 19, Christ's admonishment stated His followers were to make disciples of all nations, or ethnicities. Over the last 2,000 years, national boundaries have changed and changed again, but the people groups who live in those areas remain close to the same. Don't get hung up in Geo-political standards when considering this monumental task.

You may be wondering how all ethnicities can be reached and discipled. We cannot each travel the globe and speak to all 5,000 language groups alone. So how did God envision this step in the process?

The absolute perfect plan is for every single disciple of Christ to tell everyone he meets about the Gospel. This would plant the seed of the Gospel in every living heart in a very short span of time. Sadly, this plan has been derailed by our own humanness.

Keep an eye on the Bible as your map. Let us journey over to Acts to see how the eleven apostles, and consequently other followers, tackled the job.

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

ACTS 5:42 (NIV)

They had just come from a scolding and flogging at the hands of the Sanhedrin, where they were told to never speak in the name of Jesus! Yet they were so excited as first-hand witnesses to Jesus’ miracles, His death and resurrection, they could not contain themselves! “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching.” Their GO-ing was drastically out of the ordinary.

Can you do any less? Are you not a first-hand witness of God’s grace and mercy in your own life? Again, what does your GO-ing look like? YOU have been commissioned to bring those close to you closer to Christ. Reaching the world for Christ happens through proximity. There are now residents in Texas representing almost 175 language groups. But the majority speaks English. They are now in YOUR proximity! GO!

We are called to share the saving knowledge of the Gospel. We are also called to disciple the new believers. Is there a volunteer position available in a ministry opportunity in your church where you could serve? GO.

Ask God to show you how your spiritual gifts would fit into serving through your local congregation. We are called to

disciple! So GO, and disciple those who come to the church seeking guidance in their walk with the Lord. Sunday morning Bible study groups of all ages, Mission Friends®, Girls in Action®, Royal Ambassadors®, English-as-a-Second Language groups, men’s mentoring groups, rotating nursery care, mission trips (both near and far) are just a few places you can serve as a leader, a helper, administrative helper, recruiter, or prayer intercessor.

We were not called into God’s Kingdom to warm a pew, but rather to bring praise and honor to Him! Jesus’ last admonition to His followers was to teach others how to live His way of life. Discipling others in this way of life lifts Him up, bringing praise and honor to His name.

When every believer takes seriously the mandate to make disciples, one of the benefits is the elimination of burn-out among volunteers. Imagine the excitement when everyone in the church works together to love God, love people and disciple others to fulfill God’s mandate to be a disciple who makes disciples.


“GO” implies movement. As you GO, think of yourself as a mobile disciple-maker. Examine everything in your daily routine can be a tool for teaching others how to live His way. GO; take a smile to the teacher of your third-grader, or the grocery clerk who just might be at their wit’s end. GO; show a new Christian teenager how to look up scripture in his Bible. Be prepared to give him his own Bible if he does not have one.

Then, think BIGGER! Ask God to show you how to GO to the next level as a disciple-maker.

Make a list of the people whose paths you cross as you go about your weekly routine. Consider how God wants to use you to help them grow closer to Jesus.

As you can see in Acts 8:26-39, Philip was a willing witness, anxious to share the Gospel with everyone he met. An angel of the Lord appeared to him. Can you even imagine? The angel instructed Philip to

YOU have been commissioned to bring those close to you closer to Christ. Reaching the world for Christ happens through proximity. There are now residents in Texas representing almost 175 language groups. They are now in YOUR proximity!





*"GO south to the road – the desert road –
that goes down from Jerusalem."*

ACTS 8: 26 NIV.

He obeyed the instruction and met the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip shared how hundreds of years before, Isaiah was prophesying about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The eunuch began to understand and was baptized! Philip was instrumental in spreading the message of Christ not just to one soul, but throughout the entire homeland of the Ethiopian. What a legacy he left, just because he was willing to GO to the edge of town and walk along the road toward Gaza.

Is there a community ministry in your city? Would your giftedness meet a need there? GO. When you GO, take someone you are discipling with you. Model the joy of sharing Christ's love as you disciple

Pay attention. Is the Lord urging you to step up to a higher level? What if God called you to embrace an opportunity to take steps outside your normal GO-ing. Remember, he equips those who are willing and committed.

There was a young Texas woman named Tiffany* who had a gift of helping young children overcome personal trauma. Seeking a way to use her gifts to the absolute maximum, she felt led to move to Central America. She spent a few years, living in small mountain villages, connecting with schools for special needs children. She poured the love of Christ into children who had been abandoned, abused, and neglected due to their physical and mental conditions. She poured the love of Christ into the parents as well. Her GO-ing was drastically out of the ordinary.

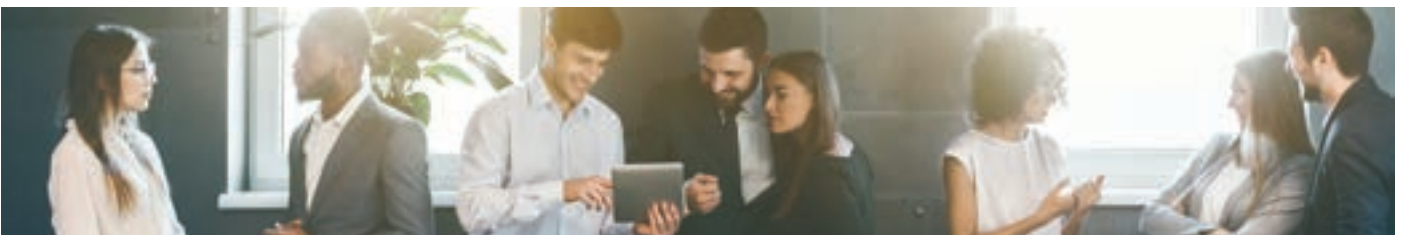
God's calling on your life may not be to disciple those in another country. But He certainly may be asking you to step out of your personal comfort zone, just as he did for Tiffany*. God may be calling you to disciple those who are in your community. Some may have come to Texas from another country. Others may be the elderly gentleman who has lived near you for years. Think of those who God has placed in close proximity to you as an invitation.

So when the Holy Spirit nudges you to go across the street with some cookies and a smile for that new neighbor from the Middle East, or Central America, understand that you might be the first touch, or the fourth touch on that soul in the name of Jesus. Someone like Tiffany* may have already planted a spiritual seed of Christ's love through their own proximity along their journey to Texas and to your neighborhood. **GO. Don't be afraid.**

Why not be afraid? In Acts 17:26, Paul was speaking to the very educated, detail-oriented, and curious Greeks in Athens. He explained that God, the Creator of everything made sure to assign the time and place for each human's existence. You are in Texas, in your city, in your neighborhood, even in your church, for a very specific reason. You are called to God, and teach others to do the same. Your spiritual gifts will be needed where you live to make disciples for Christ. Discipling requires a personal connection. Do not be afraid. Do not hesitate. Christ promised to

*"be with you as you do this, day after day after day,
right up to the end of the age."*

MATTHEW 28:20 (MSG).



Remember, he equips those who are willing and committed.



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*Pray that they will know
God loves them so much
He sent Christ to be the
perfect sacrifice for
their eternal life
bestowing Godly glory
upon them as well.*



2. Go to Your Knees

As you build relationships with others, your prayer list will grow! The Holy Spirit will make you more aware of how to pray for those with whom you interact. GO to your knees in prayer, so that your efforts will produce new disciples, as well as informed, educated, and motivated disciples.

As you read the Prayer Guide for the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions, you will be introduced to others who need your prayers. GO to your knees in prayer. Paul's prayer for the Church at Ephesus, Ephesians 3:14-21, is a reminder to pray for those rooted in the faith, established in love, to have power to grasp the unsurpassable love of Christ and share it with others. Pray for those in Texas ministries mentioned in the prayer guide to be extravagant in sharing the amazing love of Christ as described in these verses.

GO to your knees in prayer.

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you interact!
GO to your knees
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so that your efforts
will produce
new disciples*

Jesus also prayed for all believers in the age to come. In John 17:20-26, He asked that the world might believe that the Father had sent Christ, the Son. He goes on to say,

*"I have given them the glory that you gave me,
that they may be one as we are one:
I am in them and you in me. May they be brought to
complete unity to let the world know that
you sent me and have loved them
even as you have loved me."*

JOHN 17:22-23 (NIV).

Let that sink in for a moment. Jesus Christ himself has given you the same glory God gave to Him. God's glory should not be squandered. Pray in unity with Baptists all around Texas for the lost and seeking residents of our great state. Pray that they will know God loves them so much He sent Christ to be the perfect sacrifice for their eternal life bestowing Godly glory upon them as well.





3. **Go to the Offering Box**

God calls us to GO through service and prayer. He also calls us to give. GO to the offering box with your sacrificial gifts. Specifically, find that Mary Hill Davis offering envelope, fill it as directed by the Holy Spirit, and then GO. Take it to the offering box.

What you give determines which funding requests will be fulfilled. We can do this. One dollar at a time, Texas Baptists can make disciples who know the power of giving.

You will find information about the MHDO and how it benefits ministry efforts across our state by visiting iamtexasmissions.org. As you learn about the ministries, you can know that your participation is helping the lost in Texas. Support recipients of the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions with generosity.

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WMU of Texas

What you give determines which funding requests will be fulfilled. We can do this. One dollar at a time, Texas Baptists can make disciples who know the power of giving.

4. Conclusion

SALT – Yes, we are the salt and light of the earth. Matthew 5:13 contains Jesus’ words to the crowd gathered on the mountain. He told them, that as His followers, they would be like salt, giving flavor and preservation to the souls of the hurting human race. All the ministries funded by the MHDO have been divided into four categories:

Serve Ministries

Advance Missions Leadership

Love the Least of These

Tell Ministries

SALT

(See definitions at the end of this lesson.)

Each time you pick up a salt shaker remember to pray for the ministries funded by the MHDO.

As you engage in ministry, as you GO about your daily life, you are the SALT. God has called you to GO. Be the light and salt in your neighborhood, or across the state, as opportunities arise.

How does your GO-ing line up with the Great Commission given to us by Christ? If your map seems to reflect missed opportunities, remember God’s grace covers that. Lift your head; rejoice in your heart for this day and this place and another opportunity to share Christ’s love with your neighbor. Your map might be altered in the future with more moves. Always be ready!

According to Romans 12:6-8, Christians are given spiritual gifts according to God’s choice. As you GO about your life, seek to serve God according to your gifting. Let God use you to be a disciple who makes disciples as you GO.

S.A.L.T.

SERVE MINISTRIES:

Caring for the whole person is demonstration of the gospel and often opens the door for more effective sharing of the gospel.

ADVANCE MISSIONS LEADERSHIP:

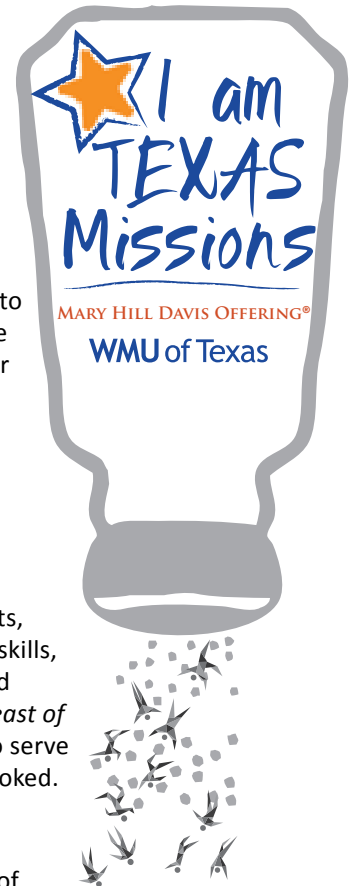
These ministries equip both clergy and laity to have a missional mindset and tools to lead their congregations to be more effective in reaching their communities as they share the gospel and serve others.

LOVE THE LEAST OF THESE:

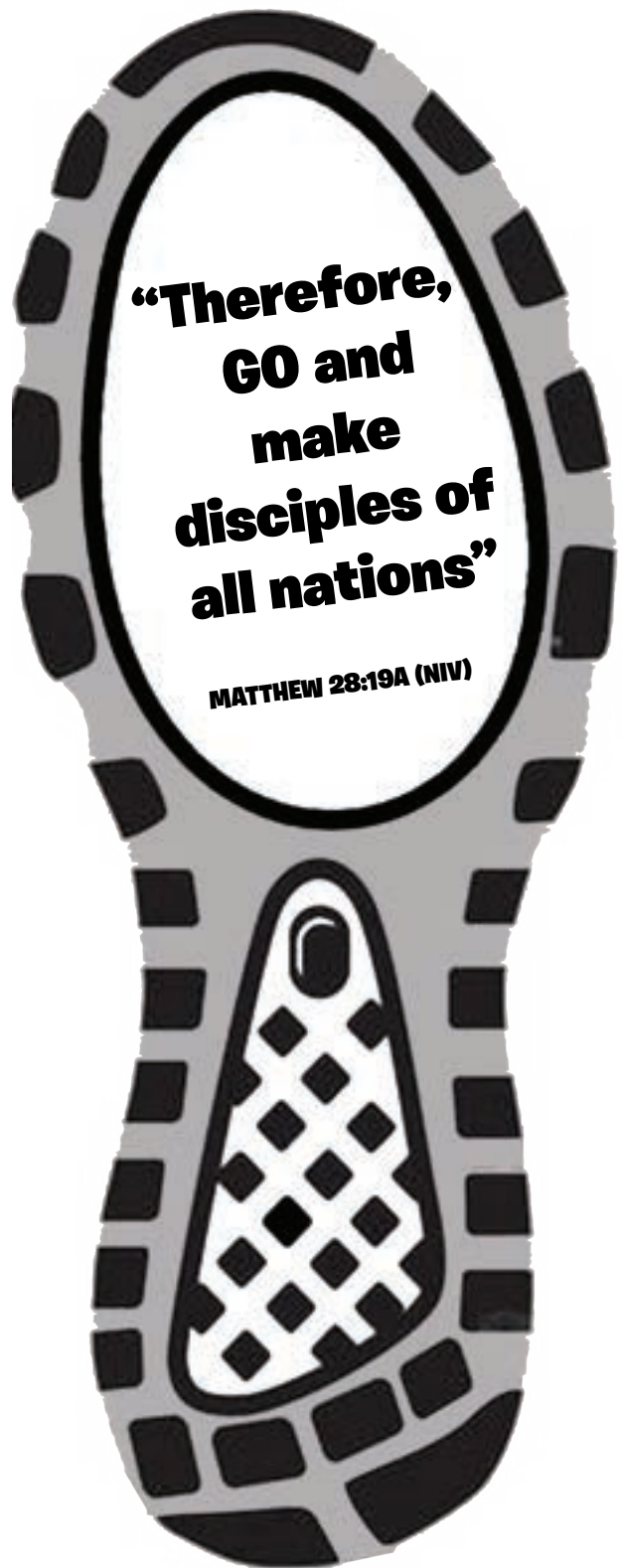
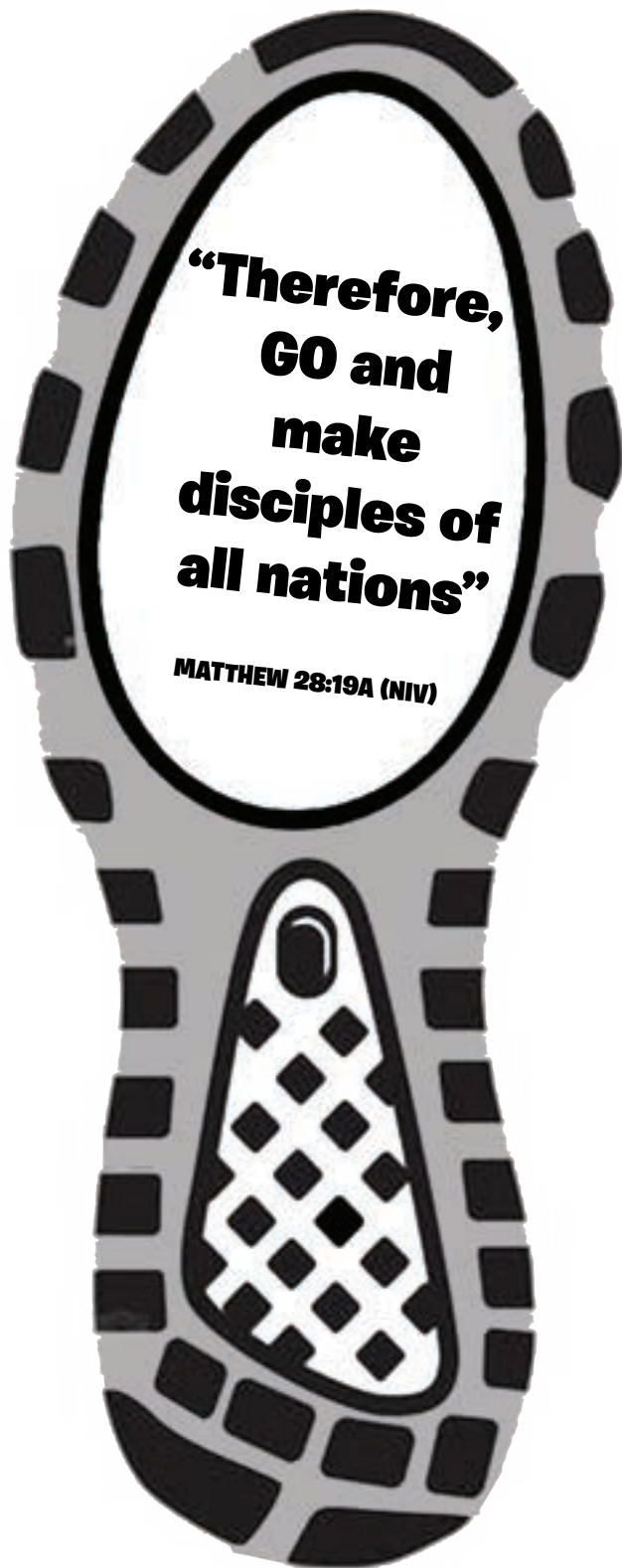
Special needs adults, victims of human trafficking, single parents, men needing employment/life skills, and people living in poverty and needing help are among “the least of these.” These ministries seek to serve those who are too often overlooked.

TELL MINISTRIES:

What sets apart the followers of Jesus? It is the sharing of God’s story to give us new life through His Son as we put our faith in Him and giving people the opportunity to receive Him. These ministries enable Texas Baptists to be a witness.



Note: The *I am Texas Mission Promotion and Mission Study* was written and submitted prior to the Pandemic. You may want to adapt the Mission Study and meet via ZOOM or do the study individually. Share the Mission Study with your church family, WMU group, Sunday School, Life Group, and friends, using the download link.









 I am **TEXAS** Missions

MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING[®]

WMU of Texas



Then Jesus came to them and said,
"All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NIV)



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