

Basic English Study Guide

Introduction

I AM Texas Missions. “*I am Texas Missions*” when I tell my lost friends about Jesus. “*I am Texas Missions*” when I go to share the gospel outside of my neighborhood. “*I am Texas Missions*” when I help send others with the Good News. *We are Texas Missions* when others hear about Jesus through our gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering®.

“*I am Texas Missions*” is bigger than just me. It is all of us telling, going, and sending so others may know Jesus. The only way others can know Jesus is if someone tells them. God has asked us to tell others about Him. *You are Texas Missions* when you help the lost believe in Jesus. God has asked us to send missionaries to tell others about Jesus. *You are Texas Missions* when you help send missionaries to the lost. During our study, we are going to learn ways we can ALL be Texas missions.

This year we will learn about missions that tell, go, and send. You will see and understand how together *We are Texas Missions*.

This year you will learn about 3 different missions. These are missions that you can pray for and give to. These are missions you can be involved in. *You are Texas Missions* when you help these missions.

Session Goals

Learn how God is using the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to make a difference. Understand that “*I am Texas Missions*” is more than a theme. It is a way of life. It means that we are sharing Christ in many ways. Learn specifically about:

- Lubbock Impact
- Special Friends Retreat
- BSM International Student Outreach

Session Preparation

For the Week of Prayer Focus

[The Adult Study Guide can also be used with the Basic English materials.]

- Download more materials from iamtexasmissions.org/downloads and videos from iamtexasmissions.org/videos.
- Plan to tell the church about Texas Missions and the Mary Hill Davis Offering.
- As a church, pray and ask God for a goal for your church to give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering.
- Put up the church poster that is mailed to the church. Write in the goal for your church on the poster.
- Use the prayer inserts for two Sundays - September 8 and September 15.
- Have special prayer times for Texas missions. This can be in worship or in Bible Study or choir groups.
- Collect food for your local Food Bank. Deliver the food, and help hand out food, the last week of the month.

Session Plans

Here are some ideas. Share the Mary Hill Davis Offering emphasis with the whole church. Use one or all the ideas in your church. You may also want to create your own plan just for your congregation.

Idea One

For the month of September collect food or clothing. Contact your local food bank to find out what they need. Collect the food they need.

Have people sign up to help drop off/hand out food at the food bank. Visit feedingtexas.org to find a Food Bank in your area.

Idea Two

Special Time of Prayer: Three ideas you can do

- Show one of the Mary Hill Davis Offering Videos from iamtexasmissions.org/videos. As the Pastor leads, have everyone pray for that ministry. Hand out the Mary Hill Davis Prayer Guide. Ask people to pray every day for the Mary Hill Davis ministries.
- Have everyone trace their footprint. Cut out the footprints. Have them write a prayer for others to know Jesus on their footprints. Tape the footprints on the floor leading into the Sanctuary. Pray as you walk along the footprints.
- The church can go on a prayer walk after worship service. Prayer walk your own neighborhood, or the church's neighborhood. Pray for God's word to spread. Ask for God to open doors to meet your neighbors. Ask for God to show His love to others through you. Ask God to let your church be a light for others to see Jesus.

Ministry Focus

Lubbock Impact

Lubbock Impact is a community outreach center. It is in Lubbock, Texas. Lubbock is in Northwest Texas. Lubbock Impact provides services to the community. There are three parts to the mission of Lubbock Impact. They want to change lives, renew minds, and educate families. To do this they serve a Community Meal. They have a Clothing Closet with free clothes. Lubbock Impact also has Worship Services every week.

Jessica and her two boys go to Lubbock Impact. They eat at the Community Meal. They get clothes from the Clothing Closet. They attend worship services. The boys go to Vacation Bible School in the summer. The whole family goes to the Family Summer Events. Lubbock Impact makes a difference for Jessica and her boys.

Lubbock Impact also helps people learn to serve God. It helps them learn to give back to their community. Jessica and her boys wanted to serve their community. Last summer Jessica and her boys volunteered at Lubbock Impact. They helped at the Clothing Closet. They worked there every Thursday. They sorted and hung clothes. They worked hard. After summer, the boys went back to school. The boys decided they wanted to keep helping. They decided to help on Wednesdays. They walk to Lubbock Impact after school every Wednesday. They help with the Wednesday night program. The youngest son loves helping. He always smiles and is ready to serve others. The love of Jesus shows through him.

Lubbock Impact brings the Good News to Lubbock. Lubbock Impact helps Jessica and her family. Jessica and her family help their community. Through Lubbock Impact Jessica's family has learned the love of Jesus. They have learned to give back to their community. Their service impacts their community. Pray for God to continue His work

through Lubbock Impact. Pray for Lubbock Impact to help change more lives. Pray for Jessica and her boys. Thank you Mary Hill Davis Offering for giving to Lubbock Impact. Your gifts allow the Mary Hill Davis Offering to support Lubbock Impact. Your gifts impact our world for Jesus.

Special Friends Retreat

Every year there is a camp for people with special needs. This camp is called the Special Friends Retreat. People of all ages go to the retreat. They learn about Jesus. They also worship Jesus in their own way. Each year the Retreat has a talent show. The campers sing songs. They put on plays. Sometimes they praise God in sign language. They use their own gifts and talents to worship Jesus.

Nikki Taylor is non-verbal. Nikki doesn't talk. She was a camper at the Special Friends Retreat. She wanted to perform in the talent show. She wanted to sing a song for God. The talent show was almost over. The Retreat Director asked if anyone else wanted to perform. Nikki wanted to perform. She gently pushed her friend. Her friend said Nikki wanted to sing a song. Her friend helped Nikki to walk to the front. Nikki and her friend sang "Sunday Sermons." Nikki's song was so sweet. It made many people cry. They could feel God's love in Nikki's song.

The Special Friends Retreat is the hands and feet of Jesus. The Special Friends Retreat helps meet Nikki's needs. Nikki helped people feel Jesus' love through her song. Nikki met their needs. We thank God for the Special Friends Retreat. We thank God for Nikki Taylor. Pray for those with special needs. Pray that they will know Jesus. Pray they can use their gifts and talents to worship Jesus. Praise God for those with special needs. Praise God that He uses all our gifts. Thank you Mary Hill Davis Offering for giving to the Special Friends Retreat.

Baptist Student Ministry – International Student Ministry

Our Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) are on university campuses. They minister to college students. They provide a place to meet other Christians at college. They also have Bible classes. They have outreach events. They have international student lunches. Sometimes BSM's have an "Adopt a Student" program. Many international students come to university alone. They don't know anyone. They are often lonely. BSM's reach out to all students on campus. BSM's share the love of Jesus with students.

Here is a story from the BSM director at West Texas A&M University. He says, "I met Suna while praying and speaking to students on campus. Suna was wearing a burqa. She was standing by herself. I felt this would be a great chance to talk to her. As we talked, she told me that she was from Bangladesh. Suna is a Muslim woman. Many people who saw her felt scared, or angry. She thanked me for my kindness. We spoke about spiritual beliefs. I asked her about her beliefs. Suna also asked about my beliefs. I shared a little bit. I asked her if she would like to get coffee with me and a friend. I said we could talk more about spiritual things.

We met Suna the next week for coffee. We shared the gospel with her. She knew about Jesus. Suna sees Jesus as a prophet. She does not see Jesus as Messiah or a King. Suna could not understand that Jesus could die in our place. We had a good discussion. We asked her if she would meet us often to talk about our beliefs.

I have seen the importance of serving Suna with acts of kindness. She doesn't have a car. I take her to the grocery store. I take her to eat at an international market. Suna joins us for coat shopping and bowling. Our prayer is that she would hear the gospel many times. We pray Suna sees how knowing Jesus impacts our lives! She is not yet a believer, but she is seeking and asking questions about Jesus."

We thank God for BSM. We thank God for the Mary Hill Davis Offering. The offering helps the BSM International Ministry. Pray for Suna. Pray that God will bring Suna to Him. Pray for the BSM's as they tell international students about Jesus. Thank you for supporting MHD Offering. Your support allows others to hear about Jesus.

For more information about the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions, visit iamtexasmissions.org.

About the Writer

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Mary Hill Davis

Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.