

Basic English Study Guide

Introduction

God uses us in many ways. He calls us to be the salt and light to a lost world. “*I am Texas Missions*” when I pray for my lost friends. “I am the salt and light” when I help my neighbor. “I am the salt and light” when I tell others about Jesus. “*I am Texas Missions*” when I give so others can hear the Good News.

I am Texas Missions is bigger than me and you. It is all of us. We all are called to tell, go and serve. We do this so that others can know Jesus. We tell our neighbors. We serve others. We help send missionaries. Together, *We are Texas Missions*.

This year, we will learn about three ministries. One of them serves those who are lost. One of them loves the least of these. One of them teaches others about Jesus. Really, they each do all of this. All of them are Texas Missions.

We are Texas Missions when we give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. We are able to do more together. We can change the world together as Jesus’ witnesses. We can be Jesus’ hands and feet. Together we can show the world Jesus’ love. Together, *We are Texas 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 more about:

- Beach Reach
- Project: Start
- [un]Apologetic Conference

Session Preparation

- Have special prayer times for Texas missions. This can be in worship or in Bible Study.
- Use your phone to record a play about missions. Show the video in worship service.

Session Plans

Idea One

Interview: (Pick one of the stories below)

Have one person be a news interviewer. They will interview another person. That person will be a person from one of the stories below:

- A partygoer at Beach Reach. They were given a ride home from a bar. The driver prayed with them. The driver told them about Jesus. They were drawn to Jesus by the love the driver showed them. They accepted Jesus.
- A refugee parent that just moved to the US. Tell about the struggles they have had. Tell about how Pastor Helen helped them. Tell about Pastor Helen showing them Jesus' love.
- A church member. They can't answer their friends' questions about Jesus. They go to an UnApologetic Conference. They learn how to tell people about Jesus. They know more about their faith in God. They can answer their friends' questions about Jesus.

Have the interviewer ask these questions.

- Tell me about Beach Reach? Why did you go to the beach? Where did you meet someone from Beach Reach? What happened next? What did they say to you? How did your life change?
- How did you meet Pastor Helen? Where

is your home country? What are some struggles you have faced? How did Pastor Helen help you? What did Pastor Helen tell you about Jesus?

- Why did you go to the UnApologetic Conference? Were you nervous about going? How did you get there? What was the best thing about the conference? Can you share Jesus with your friends now?

You can record the interview. You can make a video with your phone. Maybe record the interview outside, or in the hallway. Have other people be friends or family in the video. Show the video during the church service. Tell members about the Mary Hill Davis Offering (MHDO). Tell them how MHDO supports the work God is doing in Texas. Tell them how MHDO is being salt and light. Ask them to give to the MHDO.

Prayer Emphasis:

During worship time. Show one of the Mary Hill Davis Offering videos at iamtexasmissions.org/videos. Ask the church to get in groups of 4 or 5. Ask them to pray for those in the video. Ask them to pray for God's work. Ask them to pray for those who don't know Jesus. Ask the Pastor to close in prayer.

The Director of Beach Reach said that their "secret power" is prayer. Prayer changes things. God is powerful. He hears the sincere prayers of His Saints. Pray for the lost during

Bible Study class. Ask everyone to think of a lost person they know. Make a list of those who are lost. List only their first name or initials. Take turns praying for the people on the list. Make a copy of the list or send it to everyone. Ask everyone to pray for those who are lost every day. Pick a time of day. Pray for the lost at that time every day.

Ministry Focus

Beach Reach (Serve Ministries)

Beach Reach is a ministry to college students during “Spring Break.” Spring Break is when college students are out of school for one week. This happens in Springtime. Many students go to Texas beaches during Spring Break. Many of the college students relax, get drunk, and party at the beach. It can be a hard place to do Jesus’ work. The students who work with Beach Reach are the salt and light of Jesus to those who are partying. They give students free rides home from the bars. They pray with them. They feed the students pancakes at night and in the morning. They talk to the students about Jesus’ love for them.

The secret weapon the helpers have at Beach Reach is prayer. While some of them are ministering to students, others are praying. When a Beach Reach helper picks up students from a bar, they text the prayer room. The people in the prayer room see the texts. They pray as the helpers are ministering to the students.

The prayer room is a church sanctuary where many students gather to pray. Island Baptist Church hosts the prayer room. There are Beach Reach students praying for those who are lost from 8:00 pm to 3:00 am each night. They pray for the conversations that are happening. They pray for people to be saved. They pray for the safety of the students and helpers.

Last year, Beach Reach helpers baptized 79 people at the beach. They had over 11,000 gospel conversations. Ninety-four people recommitted their lives to Jesus. Joe Osteen is the Coordinator of Beach Reach and BSM regional director for East Texas. He said “It’s a beautiful picture of God meeting people where they are. God does that by sending His people to go meet them.” Joe said, “We get to (show) our Father’s heart to these people. We get to see people and love them well. We get them home safely. For many it is telling them about a different life. About hope in Jesus.”

Beach Reach is a ministry of Mary Hill Davis Offering. Through Beach Reach, 79 students came to know Jesus. Beach Reach impacts so many lives. The helpers give safe rides home, feed students and pray with them. The whole time they are sharing Jesus with students. Without your gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering, Beach Reach could not have happened. Thank you for your gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering. Thank you for helping 79 students find new life in Jesus. Thank you for helping Beach Reach be salt and light in a dark place.

Project: Start (Love the Least of These Ministries)

Refugees have many struggles when they move from their country. They must learn a new culture. They may have to learn a new language. Lots of things are very different. Many times, refugees move because of war. Many of them have no freedom in their home country. In America, refugees are given ninety days to resettle. Ninety days to find a job. Ninety days to learn a new language and culture. Ninety days to get used to doing everything differently.

Texas Baptists saw how hard this was on refugees. Patty Lane worked at Texas Baptists. She thought refugees needed more help. Patty had a vision for Project: Start. Pastor Helen is the Director of Project: Start. Pastor Helen is from Burma. She knows the difficulties of moving to America. She helps refugees after the government help ends. Pastor Helen helps refugees in many ways.

Pastor Helen met a family who needed help. They live in the Vickery Meadow area of Dallas. Many refugees live in this area. The Ahmed* family comes from Burma. They are from the Rohingya people. Their people are now a “state-less” people group. Their people have no home. The Ahmeds are a Muslim family. They are a family of six; husband, wife and 4 children. Their children are between the ages of 4 weeks old and 9 years old. They need Pastor Helen’s help.

Pastor Helen helps them to apply for Medicaid. Without Medicaid they have no

health care. She also helps them apply for food assistance. She made a call to Texas Health and Human Services for them. She spent over an hour on the phone. She helped the Ahmeds receive Medicaid. She also learned how to register their daughter for kindergarten. Now their daughter is registered for school. Pastor Helen helps the Ahmed family navigate American culture. She helps them when they cannot help themselves. The Ahmeds are happy to know Pastor Helen.

Pastor Helen prays with the family before she leaves their home. She prays for the daughter who will be starting school. She prays for them to receive the medical help they need. Pastor Helen shows the Ahmeds the love of Jesus. Many families Pastor Helen meets are open to her sharing the gospel.

We thank God for Pastor Helen. We thank God for her heart for the lost. We thank God for the Mary Hill Davis Offering. It allows Pastor Helen to meet the needs of the Ahmed family. Pastor Helen helps many refugee families. The Mary Hill Davis Offering gives refugees a chance to thrive in America. Thank you for giving to the Mary Hill Davis Offering. Thank you for helping refugee families to thrive in America. Thank you for helping Pastor Helen to tell them about Jesus. Thank you for being salt and light to refugee families.

** Not the real family name*

[un]Apologetic Conference (Tell Ministries)

Jacob Roel is a student who is Pentecostal. He had questions about his faith. He asked questions at his church. They couldn't give him answers to his questions. He looked on YouTube to find answers. He watched apologists on YouTube. He saw Eric Hernandez on YouTube. Eric is an Apologist. Apologists help people with questions about their faith. Texas Baptists lead Apologetics Conferences. Their conferences are called [un]Apologetic. Jacob learned about an UnApologetic conference on Facebook. The conference was in Corpus Christi. Jacob's pastor wanted to know what Jacob was learning. He took Jacob to the conference. Jacob met Eric Hernandez at the conference.

After the conference Jacob changed. His faith became very strong. Other students saw how Jacob changed. They were excited by Jacob's strong faith. They wanted to go to the UnApologetics conference too. The next conference was in San Marcos.

It is a long way from Corpus Christi. The students began raising money to go to the conference. Jacob told Eric about his youth group. Eric was excited they were coming to San Marcos. He wanted the youth group to come to the conference. The students raised money to come. Not all of them raised enough money. Eric helped the youth group. He paid the money needed so they could all come. All of the youth were able to go to the conference.

Now Jacob is answering God's call to ministry. He is helping to lead and teach other Spanish speaking youth. He has started a Spanish Speaking podcast. His podcast is about proof that God exists. Jacob preached at his church. He was the speaker at a youth event.

Thank you for giving to Mary Hill Davis Offering. God has changed Jacob's life. God has changed his church's life. God is using Jacob to reach young Spanish speakers. Your giving has helped Jacob reach others for Jesus. Your giving helped Jacob to be the salt and light of Jesus.

WRITER

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About Mary Hill Davis



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.