

Adult Study Guide

Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions provides funding for 70 ministries across Texas. When you give, you are helping people across the state share the love of Jesus with those who need to know Him as Savior. This lesson will focus on African American Ministries (AAM): Campus Missions.

Bible Verse

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6 (ESV)

Background Information

Carlos Francis, director of African American Ministries of Texas Baptists empowers students on six Historically Black Campus Universities (HBCU) across the state of Texas. By offering scholarships, sponsoring campus worship, events, and building strong connections between churches and campuses, AAM is intentionally engaging students in culturally relevant, Christ-centered ministry.

WMU of Texas and Texas Baptists support these ministries through the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions. Importantly, one hundred percent of the money collected for the offering goes to sending missionaries, supporting missions in Texas, and sustaining WMU of Texas’s ministry efforts.

S.A.L.T. is an acronym used to categorize these ministries: Serve Ministries, Advance Missions Leadership, Love the Least of These, and Tell Ministries. AAM Campus Ministries is an Advance Missions Leadership ministry which equips both clergy and laity as they share the gospel and serve others.

Preparation

Make copies of attached prayer card to distribute.

Mission Study

Teach

Interactive Prompt:

Think about a time you participated in a community event or team activity.

How did working together or sharing in a common experience make you feel?

Now, imagine how much more powerful it is when that unity is rooted in Jesus Christ!

Engagement Exercise

Have you ever been to a sporting event and participated in the “Wave”? *(Pause for responses)*

It starts with just a few people, as they stand, raise their arms, and sit back down, creating a wave that moves through the crowd — uniting everyone in energy and excitement. It’s fun, energetic, and creates a sense of community. *(Invite the class to stand and do a quick, short Wave across the room or simulate it with hands if space is limited.)*

It’s hard to stay in your seat during a Wave, because you want to be a part of the excitement and experience.

Transition

A Wave unites a crowd in a joyful, visible way. WAVE Student Conference aims to create that kind of spiritual unity—people moving together for Christ. Just as a Wave moves

many people into shared action, “Speak Jesus” invites us to move people toward Jesus—sometimes in big events, sometimes with a single word or act of love.

WAVE is more than an event, it’s a movement. It gathers over 300 students from across Texas, ranging from 7th grade through college, mostly from African American churches, for a time of worship, Biblical teaching, and discipleship. It’s a place where students can begin or deepen their relationship with Christ, find community, and grow as leaders. College students are the largest group attending, showing they hunger for spiritual growth and authentic connections. WAVE is especially impactful in developing spiritual depth and leadership, with a strong emphasis on helping students either begin a relationship with Christ, restore their walk with Him, or grow deeper in their faith.

Testimony

“The WAVE 2025 experience became a very imperative tool towards spiritual growth, strategic ministry thinking, and exciting fellowship of our youth, young adults, and adult youth leaders at Morse Street Baptist Church. The WAVE experience became a spiritually cool refreshing pool on a hot summer day with lemonade on the side. God used the WAVE experience to reach, motivate, and encourage not one, not two, but three of our youth to receive God’s wonderful gift of salvation. All three were baptized and now serve as youth leaders in our youth ministry. One of our young adults,

who chose a life containing drugs, gangs, and violence, also gave his life to Christ. He now serves at the church faithfully, attending Bible study regularly, and has a male mentor who meets with him weekly. The WAVE experience also made an impact on our adult youth leaders. Encouraging and challenging them to think outside the box and listen to the needs of today's generation to be able to reach them. From the exciting worship and preaching to the strategic teaching and bonding, the WAVE experience brought us closer as a ministry family and opened lasting doors for kingdom building."

Events like WAVE create moments when students hear the gospel, experience caring community, and learn to "Speak Jesus" in their own lives.

Discussion Prompt

Imagine you are at WAVE or a similar event. What would you want to experience most—music, scripture, prayer, or fellowship? Why?

Share your thoughts with a neighbor.

One of the most popular partnerships for the Campus Ministries is the famous Battle of the Bands at the Cotton Bowl, where HBCU bands from Grambling and Prairie View face off during football season. It is a celebrated tradition of a musical spectacle that draws huge crowds. Fans stay for the fifth quarter showdown of two talented bands. The AAM Campus Ministry partners with Westside Baptist Church in Lewisville to minister to these 700 students from both bands. The volunteers pray over the band members, feed them, encourage them, and then send them home with gifts and something all college students appreciate –

a gift card. Volunteers use this opportunity to "Speak Jesus" through prayer, hospitality and relationship.

Current Impact

Sadly, statistics show about 70% of teens and young adults drift away from church after high school. That's why campus ministries are crucial—they're engaging students on campus where they are, building trust, and offering authentic relationships. AAM meets weekly with college students for meals and devotions, hosts trainings and seminars and equips students to "Speak Jesus" through leadership, evangelism, and mission opportunities like BOUNCE.

BOUNCE is another recipient of the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. It is an opportunity for students to be hands on by helping with disaster recovery, community rehabilitation, and church planting. They are "Speaking Jesus" through action.

Over the years, AAM has awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships to students—yet even more important is the spiritual mentorship and leadership development happening.

Quote for Reflection

"Young adults are stepping into leadership roles within the church—serving as volunteers, mentors, worship leaders, and more. These efforts help prevent young people from disengaging and foster a new generation committed to Christ. This intentional investment is helping to minimize the fall-away of young adults from the church

during critical transition years. By creating authentic spaces for worship, discipleship, leadership development, and honest dialogue, young adults are experiencing the church as welcoming, relevant, and responsive to their spiritual and personal needs.” — Carlos Francis, AAM director

Closing & Call to Action

Your giving through the Mary Hill Davis Offering® helps support these vital ministries. Every dollar helps fund scholarships, leadership development, worship events, and outreach efforts—like the ones you’ve learned about today. Your gifts enable students to hear the gospel and be trained to “Speak Jesus” in their world.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Angie Graves

Angie is the leader of the Arise Women on Mission group, First Baptist Church, Amarillo. She also serves with the Afghanistan Apartment ministry and serves on the WMU of Texas Board of Directors.



Who was Mary Hill Davis?

Mary Hill Davis was born in Greenville, Georgia, and came to Texas as a small child in 1870 when her family moved from Tennessee to Dallas. At age 20, she married F.S. Davis, a physician. They had one son, Raymond, also a physician and surgeon.

Mary was president of WMU from 1906 until 1931. Her heart for missions and people was evident in everything she did. Not only did she stir women to give and pray for missions (giving to the cooperative program rose over 1000% during her tenure as president, but to take care for retired pastors (at that time, pastors did not have retirements savings, and many lived in poverty), taking care of orphans, and also giving money to schools all over Texas, as well as China.

She believed Texas was a vast mission field, and that immigrants needed to know Jesus just as much as citizens. Each year, she spurred women to service, giving and prayer, leading to the establishment of State Missions Week in September, 1910. Remembering her remarkable leadership, in 1935 the offering for state missions was named the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. Almost 100 years later, her example still inspires Texas Baptists to give, to pray, and to go.



Mary Hill Davis Offering — African American Campus Ministries

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A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS & CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Lord Jesus, thank You for students, leaders, and ministries that point others to You. Fill them with courage, wisdom, and love. Help us to speak Your name with gentleness and boldness, to serve with compassion, and to share Your hope in word and deed. Use our prayers, gifts, and actions to draw many to You. In Jesus' name, amen.



Practical Ways to “Speak Jesus”

- Pray for a student or campus each day.
- Offer a listening ear or a simple prayer when someone needs it.
- Invite someone to worship, Bible study, or a caring conversation.



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