

Basic English Study Guide

Introduction

I AM Texas Missions. What a great thing to be!

How am I Texas Missions? I am Texas Missions because being a part of missions shaped who I am today. I am Texas Missions because I pray for Texas Missions, and I give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions. During our study we are going to learn the ways we can all be Texas missions.

“I am Texas Missions” is bigger than just me. As sisters and brothers in Christ, we are a family. As Texas Baptists, we are a special family. A family that is committed to God’s mission. Texas Baptists are God’s hands and feet in our world, state, and neighborhood. We are Texas Missions.

This year we will learn about missions where you can be involved, pray, and give. You will see and understand how *you are Texas Missions*.

This year we will learn about two different missions. Both of these are missions that you can pray for and give to. Both are missions where you can be involved. You are Texas Missions when you help these missions.

Session Goals

Learn how God is using the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions 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 life in Christ in big and small ways. Learn specifically about:

- Human Trafficking
- Cowboy Arena/Outreach Events

Preparation

For the Week of Prayer Focus

(PROMOTIONAL IDEAS CAN ALSO BE USED WITH THE BASIC ENGLISH MATERIALS.
DOWNLOAD AT IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/ORDER).

- Download more materials and videos from iamtexasmissions.org.
- 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 for Texas Missions.
- 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 11 and September 18.
- Have special prayer times for Texas missions. This can be in worship or in Bible Study groups.
- Present the information and videos in the worship service.
- Have a computer, video projector, and screen/monitor.
- If you have 45 minutes to one hour for a special class – this can be for the whole church, a women’s group, men’s group, Bible Study group, or youth group.
 - Have butcher paper (large sheets or a roll) and markers.
 - Have a computer and video projector ready.

Session Plans

Here are some ideas about how to share the 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.

The worship time is a great way to let everyone in the church learn about this offering. The whole church can learn together. Set aside five minutes on two September Sunday services. Present one ministry each Sunday.

Idea One

Each week, show a video first.

Videos: iamtexasmissions.org/stories

Have someone prepared in advance to do ONE of the following:

- Act out a short play to go with the video.
- Tell their own story about how Texas Missions touched them.
- Tell more about the ministry video for that week.

End each sharing time by saying *“We all want to support the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions because WE are Texas Missions. This offering helps ministries that share the love of Christ. Our church has set a goal of _____.”* Decide how you want to collect the offering and give those directions. Use Prayer Inserts on September 11 and 18.

Idea Two

Choose a video to show for that week.

Gather in groups of two to five people to pray together for the ministry highlighted in the video. Have the pastor guide the prayer time. Have a few prayer points on a slide to give the groups guidance.

Idea Three

Get your youth and children involved.

Watch a video or read about the highlighted ministries. During a children or youth meeting, have children or youth outline their bodies on butcher paper. To do this, one person will lie down on a piece of butcher paper, and another person uses a crayon or pencil to outline their body. Make sure arms are away from the body when outlining. Cut out the outline. Put the cut-outs on the walls around the church with hands touching. Write about the ministry on each cut-out paper. Write “We are Texas Missions” on each cut-out.

Ministry Focus

Human Trafficking

Rebecca heard a news story about human trafficking. She heard about children and young girls being sold for sex. She thought about her daughters. She could not stop thinking about this awful crime. She decided to fight human trafficking. Rebecca started a ministry called Poiema Foundation. Poiema means “handiwork.” This word comes from Ephesians 2:10. We are God’s handiwork. We are created in Jesus to do good work.

Poiema Foundation helps young women who have been trafficked. It offers them a safe place to stay. The volunteers at Poiema help the young women. They teach them that they are deeply loved by Jesus. The young women also learn work skills. The volunteers help the young women learn life skills. They help them escape a life of slavery.

One of these young women is named Nicole. Nicole’s mom was sick. Nicole moved to Texas to help her mom. Nicole lived with her boyfriend and took care of her mom. Nicole’s mom died. Nicole’s boyfriend abused her. Nicole ran away from her boyfriend. She went to a homeless shelter. Nicole met Rebecca. Nicole told Rebecca about her past. She told Rebecca she was all alone and had been abused. Rebecca was worried that Nicole may become a human trafficking victim. Rebecca invited Nicole to come to Poiema to be safe. Nicole wanted to be safe. Now Nicole is learning about

Jesus’ love. She is learning to take care of herself. She has hope for the future.

The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions gives money to the Poiema Foundation. They help Poiema to help young women. Please pray for the Poiema Foundation. Pray for more young women to be rescued. Pray for the volunteers to show Jesus’ love. Give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. Your gifts help ministries like Poiema. Your prayers and gifts help many people hear about Jesus.

Cowboy Arena/Outreach Events

The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions helps cowboys learn about Jesus. Cowboys often do not feel comfortable at city churches. City churches are a different culture. Sometimes cowboys live far from any city.

There are churches just for cowboys. They meet in the countryside. Churches often hold Arena/Outreach Events to tell cowboys about Jesus. These events are like a rodeo. Rodeos are where cowboys show people their skills. Cowboys ride horses, rope calves, and ride bulls. The cowboys compete at rodeos. At rodeos, the churches tell the cowboys about Jesus and His love.

Bushy Top is a Cowboy Church. The Church held an Arena/Outreach Event. The pastor works as a cowboy. He met Ethan while doing cowboy work. Ethan heard about the Arena/Outreach Event. Ethan entered a team in the rodeo. The preacher told everyone about Jesus at the rodeo. Ethan

heard about Jesus. He became a Christian. Now Ethan comes to Bushy Top Cowboy Church. Ethan says, “The Bible is really real now.” Ethan’s friends and family saw him be baptized. Ethan hopes his friends and family will come to love Jesus too.

The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions helps cowboy churches hold Arena/Outreach Events. Pray that cowboys will learn about Jesus. Pray for the cowboys’ families. Pray for God to use the cowboy

churches. Give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions. Your gifts help cowboys learn about Jesus.

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

About the Writers



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Linda Howell is a member of Murphy Road Baptist Church, Murphy. She works with the Intercultural Churches at the Baptist General Convention of Texas. She enjoys reading, riding her bike, and spending time with her family.



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.