

# Adult Study Guide

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## Introduction

The Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions provides funding for over 80 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 study will focus on how we as Texas Baptists are responding to the rapid changes taking place in our state. One of the ways we do this is through starting new churches.

## Bible Verse

Romans 10:14-15 (NLT) “But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’”

## Background Information

One of the most important ministries the Center for Missional Engagement focuses on is Church Starting. Through this ministry, Texas Baptists share God’s Word by planting new churches of all different sizes, ministry styles, and diverse ethnic makeup to help meet the needs of our growing, changing state. Texas Baptists offer resources in funding, training, media, counseling, discipleship curriculum, mentoring, and a variety of other needs new church plants might have.

These new churches are started by local churches who are passionate about ministering to changing communities across Texas. The Texas Baptists Church Starting Team works alongside these new churches and associations to provide resources and encouragement.

“Our population is continuing to grow, and we need more churches for that new population. This is not to replace churches, this is in addition to the churches that we have,” Tom Howe, associate director of Missions, explained. “Our population is also changing. We’re getting more and more diversity from people coming from all over the world. So some of these churches are to meet the needs of people that have come from different parts of the world.”

“Churches start churches and we assist them. Our process is built on church sponsorship and our partnership with associations and churches,” Howe explained.

Six church starting strategists work with new churches as they begin their journey. The job of these strategists is to come alongside people interested in starting a church and support them throughout the process and help connect them with the resources Texas Baptists have to offer.

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## Preparation

- Have a computer, projector, and screen available to show the PowerPoint presentation. If you choose not to use the PowerPoint, you might still find some of the information on its slides useful for this study. The PowerPoint gives demographic information and provides additional details related to the actual church planting process.
- If possible, before this study, obtain demographic information for your community. You can find information on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), or your town may have a website with more accurate information. Is your population growing? How much? Where? What ethnicities? Are there new businesses coming to your town? How will this affect your community? What would need to happen for your church to consider sponsoring a new church plant?
- This study is primarily designed for one person to present using the PowerPoint presentation. You can include more people in the presentation by assigning each of the different churches mentioned as a research project. See the end of this study guide for each church’s contact information. Consider writing letters of encouragement to the pastors of these churches as an activity.
- Pray for the new Church Starts mentioned.
- Pray for Tom Howe and the six Church Starting Strategists (see the PowerPoint presentation

*PowerPoint presentation available under the study guide section at [iamtexasmissions.org/downloads](https://iamtexasmissions.org/downloads)*

for the list of Church Starting Strategists) Write letters of encouragement to them using the information provided on the PowerPoint.

- This study is to help your church better understand the changes taking place in Texas and how we, as Texas Baptist churches, can respond to the challenges. The study will also help your church better understand how to pray for these church starts and perhaps be inspired to start a church in your own community!

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# Teach

## Church Starting

Tony Canady, a financial manager at a car dealership, felt called by God to start Triumphal Christian Fellowship in Waxahachie. Early in the process, he reached out to the Texas Baptists Church Starting team. He already knew of many other churches and ministries associated with Texas Baptists, and he knew that as a Texas Baptist church plant, he would have access to resources and fellowship that might otherwise be difficult for a new church to find.

As a Texas Baptist church start, Tony – Pastor T – entered into a covenant agreement that stipulated giving to the Cooperative Program, having a sponsoring Texas Baptist church, and submitting ongoing accountability reports in exchange for three years of financial support as well as all the many resources Texas Baptists make available. Pastor T said a new church can get as much assistance as they want. One thing Pastor T made clear – “God called me to plant the church, not Texas Baptists.” But he

is incredibly grateful for all the assistance he has received. “For me, it wasn’t even about the financial peace that they were able to give – that was just like the cherry on top of the ice cream sundae – I was just impressed with the connections, with the fellowship, with the [feeling that] it’s not a competition. If one church is doing something amazing, another church is celebrating it. Being in a team environment is what honestly kind of drew me to want to be a part of Texas Baptists.”

Pastor T had an original team of 33 people. They were on the ground in Waxahachie in December 2020, getting to know the community and planning ministries to bless their town. Pastor T said he wanted service “to be our DNA from the beginning.”

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## Church Planting Centers

Cornerstone Church in Nederland began by meeting in the home of Arin and Ryan Thompson, who felt burdened for their friends and neighbors and wanted to

start a church. Their home church, First Baptist, was their sending church. But they received additional help from CPC training in Houston. “The CPC was valuable in many ways including a coach to meet with monthly and discuss challenges and successes of planting a church and provided updates and reports to FBC Nederland on the progress of the church plant.”

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## Texas Baptists Church Starts

Every church start has a unique story. Here are a few churches from across the state that have been helped by Texas Baptists over the past few years. You can find more information about them on their Facebook pages and websites. Several of them also have a presence on Instagram and YouTube.

### Triumphal Christian Fellowship

200 N. Monroe Street  
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Pastor Tony Canady

[facebook.com/tcfwaxahachie](https://facebook.com/tcfwaxahachie)

[triumphalchurch.org](https://triumphalchurch.org)

For more information, scan the QR code or visit [texasbaptists.org/article/a-slice-of-heaven](https://texasbaptists.org/article/a-slice-of-heaven)



### New Day Church

621 Westchester Drive  
Schertz, Texas 78154

Pastor Dustin Wooten

[facebook.com/newday416church](https://facebook.com/newday416church)

[newday415.church](https://newday415.church)

### Encounter City Church

1306 E. Rancier Avenue  
Killeen, Texas 76541

Pastor Louis Crooks

[facebook.com/ecckilleen](https://facebook.com/ecckilleen)

[encountercitychurch.org](https://encountercitychurch.org)

### Lubbock Unified Church

2707 34th Street  
Lubbock, Texas 79410

Pastor Fermin Sifuentes

[facebook.com/LubbockUnified](https://facebook.com/LubbockUnified)

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WRITTEN BY: *Cathy Johnson – Henderson, TX*



## Mary Hill Davis

*The Woman's Missionary Union's principal focus encourages mentoring and discipleship. Mary Hill Davis' life depicts those qualities. During her presidency of WMU of Texas, Mary created and developed organizations to teach women about mission work, which led to the origin of the Royal Ambassadors in 1908 and the Girl's Auxiliary in 1913. These organizations continue to disciple young boys and girls through missions' stories and Bible stories.*

*Mary realized the mission field encompassed many challenges and opportunities. She saw the opportunity to alleviate some of those challenges by encouraging churches to pray and give to mission work. By advocating these needs, Mary provided financial stability for missionaries in the field by supporting the work of missions worldwide.*

*Mary saw the need to promote and support missions internationally and in her own state of Texas. Due to her commitment, the state missions offering became her namesake in 1935. Today, her legacy continues as the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions, which supports approximately 80 programs and ministries across the state.*