



MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING® FOR TEXAS MISSIONS

2023 PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR TEXAS MISSIONS



Mary Hill Davis, president of WMU of Texas from 1906 to 1931, believed Texas was a vast mission field, and that immigrants needed to know Jesus just as much as citizens.

Mary's heart for missions and people was evident in everything she did. Not only did she stir women to give and pray for missions through a week of prayer campaign, but she also encouraged leaders to take care of orphans, schools in Texas, as well as China, and retired pastors living in poverty. During her leadership as president, statewide giving increased by \$1.2 million dollars.

Mary Hill Davis passed away on November 24, 1934, and during a memorial service held at the WMU Convention of Houston in 1935, the State Missions Offering was re-named the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions.

Today, Mary's remarkable leadership continues to inspire Texas Baptists to give, pray and serve. Thank you for supporting Texas Missions.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARY
IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/MARYHILLDAVIS



CHURCH STARTING REPLANTS

In 2012, the East Sherman Baptist Church was in decline. They decided to partner with Texas Baptists to replant their church. A Church Starting Replant is bigger than revitalizing a church – it is the rebirth of a congregation and can involve drastic changes to help the church restart. As a part of the replanting partnership with the church, Texas Baptists also provided training, materials, and some financial support. The church was able to sell their building and buy new property on the west side of Sherman, which provided them with a new mission field. In 2019, East Sherman renamed itself New Heritage Baptist Church and took possession of the new campus. The pastor, Rob Shepherd, said, “Every last inch of ministry has been touched and transformed as a result of the relocation and replant. God has positioned us to impact Sherman for decades to come.”

PRAY

- Pray for the patience and strength of the churches being replanted as it typically means a lot of change.
- Lift up the health of the pastors and families.
- Ask the Lord to help church replants find the right strategies in planning and that the replanted churches “will be joined together in Christ to grow and build itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (*Ephesians 4:16*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$100 provides evangelism materials.
- \$500 will supply local missions items, such as backpacks or school supplies.
- \$2,000 will provide a sound system for a church replant.

For more information, email tom.howe@txb.org.



WOMEN'S BUILD PROJECT

Since 2010, Buckner Children and Family Services and WMU of Texas have partnered together to build a home for a family in Peñitas, Texas. Each year, countless women volunteers have traveled to South Texas to offer hope, build relationships, and share Jesus.

The Zuniga family started going to the Buckner Peñitas Family Hope Center in 2019 and quickly got involved participating in classes, such as Marvelous Mothers, Fatherhood, Faith, and Finance, and Work Life. Their dedication, work ethic, and commitment made them eligible to receive a new three-bedroom home. This is a new start for the Zuniga family, and they are grateful for the support of Buckner Family Hope Center and WMU of Texas Women's Build volunteers for offering them a bright future.

PRAY

- Pray that the family selected to receive the home will see the love of Christ from the volunteers and choose to follow Jesus as their Savior.
- Petition the Lord for the safety and health of the WMU of Texas volunteers during the annual home build.
- Pray that the WMU of Texas volunteers will be a witness to the community and open the door for more effective sharing of the gospel, remembering that "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."
(*Psalms 127:1*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$20 will purchase a 1-pound box of galvanized nails.
- \$23 will provide a bathroom faucet.
- \$40 will purchase a ceiling fan.

For more information, contact jarmstrong@buckner.org.



PAVE FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

PAVE participants are pastors with a need to revitalize their churches. They come from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. Training, resources, certifications, and travel expenses for pastors of ethnic minorities will be provided as PAVE expands to other regions of Texas. This is a new project for the Texas Baptists Church Health Strategy Department. Their desired outcome is that at least 10 pastors will be equipped in revitalization, impacting over 1,000 people.

PRAY

- Ask the Lord to bring healing to congregations who have experienced the pain of a dying church.
- Beseech God to bring unity and protect churches from division in the revitalization process.
- Pray for God to give Texas Baptists and the pastors of the churches impacted by this project “complete knowledge of His will, and spiritual wisdom and understanding, so their lives honor and please the Lord, and produce every kind of good fruit while they grow as they learn to know God better and better.” (*Colossians 1:9-12*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$50 will provide a one-on-one counseling session for a pastor as he begins the PAVE church revitalization process.
- \$150 will provide a church health report to assist the church in the revitalization process.
- \$250 will supply a scholarship for a pastor who can't afford the travel expense to be trained in the PAVE church revitalization process.

For more information, contact jonathan.smith@txb.org.



HOUSE CHURCH MINISTRIES

Both Mary and her daughter, Alexandra, decided to follow Jesus while waiting for their hearings in one of the shelters in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, operated by El Buen Samaritan Home Church. This Laredo, Texas church welcomed them when they were given asylum. Mary constantly volunteers by singing, cleaning, and welcoming new families to the church. Alexandra serves migrant families who are released from Border Patrol in Laredo by contacting their relatives, handing out hygiene kits, and assisting families with other needs. Because of the El Buen Samaritan Home Church, this family now shares God's love with other migrant families through their actions.

PRAY

- Ask God to send more workers who are called to communities across Texas to begin House Churches.
- Petition the Lord to call out young people to pastor these churches.
- Pray that people will open their homes so that the gospel will cover Texas, just as the early church went "day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, always teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah." (*Acts 5:42*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$10 will supply a Bible for a church attender.
- \$35 will provide coffee and refreshments for a Sunday service.
- \$100 will provide travel to a training for a House Church leader.

For more information, contact paul.atkinson@txb.org.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“I think I might be a victim.” These were the softly spoken words from a young lady who picked up a water bottle at an outreach group of the Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking. This coalition labels water bottles with trafficking information in both Spanish and English. Churches, groups, or individuals can become involved and assist in these outreach activities. After this young lady grabbed the water bottle with trafficking information, she came back around and asked if she could speak to someone. She is now in a program and getting the help she needs.

PRAY

- Human Trafficking is highly prevalent in Texas, as Texas ranks second in the nation in human trafficking. Pray for total mind, body, and soul healing for victims of human trafficking.
- Pray for wisdom for ministries who respond to those rescued out of human trafficking.
- “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (*Micah 6:8*) Pray for increased awareness of the signs of human trafficking and ways individuals can actively participate in ending human trafficking.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$15 will provide a resource bag to women identified as high-risk for being trafficked.
- \$25 will provide a Blessing Bag to a victim rescued out of human trafficking.
- \$150 will help a church educate its membership through resources on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking.

For more information, contact katie.fruge@txb.org.



VALLEY BAPTIST MISSIONS EDUCATION CENTER

Valley Baptist Missions Education Center (VBMEC) is committed to educate and train people who have been called into the ministry. In 2021, 95 students graduated and received a certificate in Biblical Studies. VBMEC is grateful that they can mentor and coach local pastors and church leaders. They are also promoting:

- “Calling out the Called” to seek out future leaders of the church.
- “The Helps for Homes” ministry of VBMEC that provided disaster relief for 29 homes and 30 churches in the past year.
- 57 Vacation Bible Schools.

They saw hundreds come to know Christ through these outreaches. Many churches were strengthened and encouraged because of this ministry.

PRAY

- Pray that the love of Christ will shine as mission groups work to repair homes and churches.
- Ask the Lord for kingdom growth as pastors and future church leaders are educated at VBMEC.
- Pray that the ministries of VBMEC will give birth to hope in Christ through these difficult times as “the Lord has anointed them to proclaim good news to the poor and bind up the brokenhearted.” (*Isaiah 61:1*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$15 will provide sewing material for making blankets for those in hospice.
- \$20 will provide a textbook for a student in need of financial support.
- \$25 will supply a meal for a family of five in a colonia.

For more information, contact thevbmec@gmail.com.



MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION MINISTER/WIVES RETREAT

Leo Endel, Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptist Convention (MWBC) executive director, says the Minister/Wives Retreat is the best attended convention event each year. It helps hold their churches and leaders together in a region where distance isolates most of the churches. He expresses overflowing gratitude for the investment Texas Baptists continue to make in pastors and church planters who serve in a very challenging part of the United States. One participant shared, "Most of our churches in the MWBC are very small, so even the larger churches (60+ people) oftentimes are on extremely tight budgets, which makes your generosity even more profound and thus we do praise the Lord for this precious gift of retreat. So many of us have been in the heat of spiritual battle, valley of death (with friends and family), a few on spiritual mountain tops, or all three. This weekend has drawn us closer to God and each other. Thank you."

PRAY

- Pray that pastors and their wives grow in their ability to discover God's rhythm of rest in their busy lives.
- Pray for the couples to learn sustainable habits of spiritual discipline, sabbath rest, and schedule/priority management.
- Pray that these servants of God will not be legalistic about their lives and their failures but find the grace of God that gives freedom and joy. "I (the Lord) will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." (*Jeremiah 31:25*)

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$10 will help fund the speakers and program staff who minister to each couple.
- \$35 will provide an individual with five wonderful meals through which they find fellowship and encouragement.
- \$80 will provide one night's lodging for a couple at the Green Lake Convention Center in Wisconsin.

For more information, contact beth.wmutx@txb.org.



BORDER COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Border Community Outreach (BCO) meets the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs of the people living in the border cities. Texas Baptist River Ministry (TBRM) plans to collaborate with local Baptist churches and local associations in the border cities between Texas and Mexico. TBRM missionary George Solis recently shared:

- A mother and her three children were escaping Honduras where her husband and son had been killed. They were able to send her and her children to a long-term shelter for families.
- A young man from Colombia was separated from his wife upon arrival. BCO helped him find her in Miami. BCO connected him with a spanish-speaking Baptist pastor in the area for assistance.

PRAY

- Pray that BCO will have the needed resources to provide the basic needs of people arriving in the border cities.
- The border faces many spiritual issues. Pray for the missionaries to have the power and wisdom to confront the enemy, especially when they share Jesus and His love.
- “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (*Acts 1:8*) Pray for the missionaries to recognize God’s opportunities to show the love of Christ in these border communities.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

- \$3 will provide a hygiene kit for a person in need
- \$30 will supply a Care Box for a family to receive food, hygiene items, cleaning products, and essential pantry items for a week.
- \$300 will provide a church on the border with a VBS Kit including materials to share the good news of Christ with 75 children in their community.

For more information, contact mario.gonzalez@txb.org.

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYING AND
SUPPORTING TEXAS MISSIONS**

VISIT [IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/PRAY](https://iamtexasmissions.org/pray)

Understanding that missions is what believers do to reach beyond the needs of their congregations to witness and minister for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Comission, WMU of Texas designed the Mary Hill Davis Offering® to advance Texas Baptists missions in leading people to know Christ and developing a missional lifestyle.

GIVE ONLINE

IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/GIVE

GIVE BY MAIL

10325 BROCKWOOD RD.
DALLAS, TEXAS 75238

MEMO: "MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING"



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