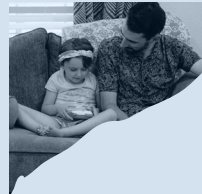


Mary Hill Davis Offering®
for Texas Missions

WMU of Texas



I AM TEXAS MISSIONS

2024 Prayer Guide

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions

PRAY FOR TEXAS

2024 Week of Prayer for Texas Missions: September 8-15, 2024

For more than 100 years, WMU of Texas and the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions have brought believers together to touch countless lives through prayer and generosity.

This week, you will meet eight ministry partners impacted by your prayers and gifts. Each story will share details about their ministry, prayer requests, ways to get involved, and personal testimonies of the power of God in the lives of those touched.

God is moving in new and exciting ways across our state and we are grateful that you have joined us on this journey because *Together, We are Texas Missions.*

Let's Pray Together.



- 1 | Special Friends Retreat**
- 2 | Church Starting**
- 3 | Embrace Mentoring Program**
- 4 | Ethnic Minority Scholarships**
- 5 | Missions Mania Camp**
- 6 | Christian Men's Job Corps**
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PRAY FOR ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES:
IAMTEXASMISSIONS.ORG/PRAY

SPECIAL FRIENDS RETREAT



Special Friends Retreats exist to provide a camp/retreat experience for individuals with disabilities, their caregivers, and their families. This enduring ministry has touched many lives for 37 years, providing a space where campers come together and learn about Jesus in the way they learn best. A host of volunteers across the state support this ministry with their time and love. Campers experience worship, enjoy fellowship with friends, attend Bible study, and participate in the much-anticipated talent show.

My Texas Missions Story

Nikki Taylor is non-verbal. Although she is not able to talk, she wanted to perform in the talent show at the Special Friends Retreat. Nikki wanted to sing. As the talent show was nearing an end, the retreat director asked if anyone else wanted to perform.

Nikki reached out to her friend letting her know that she really wanted to sing. So Nikki's friend helped her to the front and shared the stage so they could sing. Nikki's song and her obvious love for Jesus brought many to tears.

The Special Friends Retreat allows volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Those with special needs as well as their parents and caregivers need our prayers. Pray for strength and courage as they often walk difficult journeys. As they find Jesus, pray that He will use their unique journey to inspire and encourage others.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for more churches to see the need for special needs ministry. The Special Friends Retreat is a model for how this ministry can impact the life of a church.
- Pray for the health of the campers throughout the year, as many struggle with health issues.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church can be involved by identifying families and sharing information about the Special Friends Retreats. Consider providing transportation to the retreat(s), and care for family members at home while the parent(s) and/or caregivers attend the retreat. Learn more at txb.org/specialfriends.





CHURCH STARTING

Church Starting consists of multiple partners sharing the responsibility God has given to reach the lost. New Church Starts receive assistance in evangelism, discipleship, core group development, leadership development, programs, and outreach events, all with the purpose of developing vision and strategy to start new churches across Texas.

My Texas Missions Story

In the Fall of 2018, Pastor Fermin Sifuentez and his wife Desirae began to sense God was shifting their life in a new direction. Over the following year, the Lord revealed their next step was to plant a church.

Planting a church was not on their radar but once revealed, it became the only thing they could see. Soon a group of friends invited them to dinner to reveal God had spoken to them to join the journey of their new church.

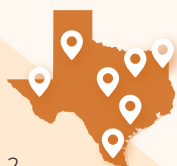
After completing the necessary training through the Texas Baptists Church Planting Center, Fermin and Desirae started a new church, Lubbock Unified Church in Lubbock, Texas. Their vision was “people unified with God, fulfilling their calling, and loving everyone in their paths.”

On Sunday, July 23, 2023, Lubbock Unified used a local pool for a baptism service. Thirteen signed up for the service and many friends and family came to watch. During the service, the lifeguard started asking questions. Pastor Sifuentez was able to share with all the lifeguards about Jesus. All three accepted Christ and were immediately baptized.

Since the launch of the church, Lubbock Unified has had 63 Baptisms.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the Church Starting team to identify areas for starting churches.
- Pray for the ground to be prepared for a new church to be started and to grow.
- Pray the hearts of the people in these communities will be open and prepared for the gospel.



HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church can be engaged as a sponsor or partner church to come alongside new church plants to help with ministry, leadership, and prayer. Learn more at txb.org/churchstarting.

EMBRACE MENTORING PROGRAM



EMBRACE, a ministry of WMU of Texas, is a mentoring experience for young women between the ages of 18-39, who are searching for their ministry purpose and calling.

My Texas Missions Story

EMBRACE came at just the right time as I was praying for a spiritual mentor.

Through the six-session program, I had the opportunity to be paired with a wonderful mentor. She was a spiritual mentor. We prayed together and encouraged each other. I am grateful for this experience and continue to mentor younger ladies as they seek the Lord. I believe in the value of mentoring relationships to help guide and develop us spiritually and professionally.

The curriculum also challenged me to look at the spiritual disciplines. Our small group discussed each session's topic and we were able to share about the impact and struggles we were facing. Meeting women from different organizations and hearing their stories reminded me that we all can be used by God in ways we may have never imagined. His plan and timing is always perfect.

– Jassmine Posada, EMBRACE Mentee

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom to guide young women in their pursuit of God's purpose for ministry.
- The ability to empower young women to fulfill their calling.
- To identify mentors to join the cause of discipling the next generation of women in ministry.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church can be a vital part of this mentorship endeavor. As you encourage young women to be active and connected to a local body of believers, your church can also identify key leaders among young women in your congregation. Learn more at wmutx.org/embrace.





ETHNIC MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Ethnic/Minority Scholarships invest in emerging Baptist leaders by providing up to 33 ethnic/minority scholarships for students attending a Texas Baptist university or institution.

My Texas Missions Story

Upon entering Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2003, I discovered the Mary Hill Davis scholarship on the Texas Baptists website. As I was unfamiliar with the namesake of the scholarship, my required interview with Dr. Michael Evans gave him the opportunity to explain who she was, and the impact of her legacy.

In 2007, I graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree, debt-free. After obtaining a job in the nonprofit sector, I learned of the staggering school debt of many of my colleagues. Their stories made me even more appreciative to the donors who enabled the scholarship.

Seven years later I was the first African American to graduate from that institution with a Ph.D in the School of Preaching. This would not have been possible without the Mary Hill Davis Scholarship.

The legacy of Mary Hill Davis not only impacts the present, but continues to impact the future. I know I run the risk of being trite, but it is the gift that keeps on giving.

– Dr. Timothy Fuller, Associate Director of Evangelism with a specialty in African American Evangelism at Texas Baptists.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that students be encouraged and equipped through their scholarship.
- Pray for the leadership distributing these scholarships to build strong relationships with churches, encouraging pastors to support the Mary Hill Davis Offering.
- Pray for the churches whose students receive scholarships, that they would disciple and mentor the students to be salt and light in their universities.



HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church can help support this initiative by contributing to the Mary Hill Davis Offering. Learn more at wmutx.org/scholarships.

MISSIONS MANIA CAMP



Missions Mania provides an opportunity for Royal Ambassadors (RA's) from Texas to gather for a "Campout and Missions Mania." The boys and their leaders camp out, participate in fun games and competitions, and engage with missionaries from around the world as they encounter Christ.

My Texas Missions Story

Six-year-old Bradley Trevino had never been to Royal Ambassadors Campout and Missions Mania before. In fact, neither had anyone from his congregation. Church leaders from Bradley's church heard about the Texas Baptist Men (TBM) outdoor fall event during Pursue, WMU of Texas Annual Meeting, and felt like it could help their students grow spiritually as they encounter Christ and learn about mission work. The games and competitions provided lots of fun. The group heard inspiring stories from missionaries who served around the world, and ended the day camping outside.

But what happened on the last night changed Bradley's life eternally.

That evening, he heard about Christ, and accepted Jesus as his Savior. "God is working in the lives of boys across this state," said TBM Royal Ambassador Coordinator Savion Lee. "We thank God for the work of WMU, which helps make life-changing events like Missions Mania possible."

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the Royal Ambassadors staff and leadership as they prepare for Missions Mania.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would begin preparing the hearts of the young men who will be in attendance.
- Pray for the courage to be counter-cultural men who live like Jesus.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Encourage and engage your church to begin a Royal Ambassadors chapter. If you have an RA chapter in your church, pray for the boys and leaders involved. Learn more at texasroyalambassadors.com.





CHRISTIAN JOB CORPS

The purpose of **Christian Job Corps (CJC)** is to equip men and women in a Christian context for life and employment providing mission opportunities through service in their community. Texas currently hosts 46 sites. CJC provides scholarships to CJC graduates and leaders for continuing education through the Becky Ellison Scholarship Endowment Fund.

My Texas Missions Story

After a series of unfortunate events, Corey found himself at a crossroad. Sensing a divine calling deep within his heart, Corey stepped out in faith and contacted Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) in Lufkin, Texas.

What began as a plan to restart his life, soon provided a place to learn new skills, and experience support and growth that would transform his life. At CMJC, Corey found a community of kindred spirits, and individuals striving for spiritual growth and empowerment.

CMJC introduced him to a faith community of strong spiritual men. Corey's love for learning not only opened doors to new employment opportunities, but also life skills and a faith community that would challenge and encourage him.

Corey also walked away with a desire to give back. He had experienced the transformative power of CMJC and longed to be a beacon of hope for others.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that the needs of our sites are met including: adequate funding, plentiful participants, servant-hearted volunteers, space to offer classes, and spiritual growth for participants, leaders, and volunteers.
- Pray for the new sites and leaders.
- Pray for the participants to hear and respond to the gospel message, follow in believers baptism, and that God will transform their lives as they surrender to Him.



HOW TO BE INVOLVED

CJC sites across the state are primarily supported by local churches. Churches and WMU groups can volunteer in all capacities of the CJC ministries, including providing meals and support for graduation celebrations. Learn more at wmutx.org/cjc.

APARTMENT CHURCHES



Apartment Church / Multi-Housing Churches provides an opportunity for Texas Baptists to minister to the ever-growing influx of new Texas residents. Whether economically disadvantaged or young professionals beginning employment in the state, this ministry opens the door for gospel conversations in apartment communities.

My Texas Missions Story

Bud Houston is a Catalyst with Texas Baptists who trains, equips and provides opportunities for mission teams to take the gospel to residents in local apartments in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

"I coach apartment missionary teams that are sharing the gospel, making disciples and planting organic churches in apartment complexes," Houston said.

This past year saw God's blessing through a young woman and her daughter. Yolande, originally from Cameroon, was a recent graduate of Dallas Baptist University and had a heart to reach her apartment community with the gospel.

Yolande prayed faithfully and began to share her faith with others in her complex. Thanksgiving and Christmas provided opportunities to partner with a local church to provide gatherings to celebrate the holidays and share the gospel with neighbors.

As a result, over 30 youth and adults professed faith in Jesus.

God had worked all year in this apartment complex, and the ministry team witnessed the seeds that were planted take root.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for leadership to remain focused on evangelism as churches are added at a rate of 20% per year.
- Pray that traditional churches would catch the vision of this emerging movement of God. Last year, new Church Starts saw 3,000 professions of faith.
- Pray that there will be more gospel conversations with people living in apartments and that apartment management will allow common areas to be used for church starts.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church can be engaged in this ministry by identifying and prayer-walking apartment complexes in your community. As a church, pray about beginning an apartment ministry. Learn more at txb.org/housechurch.





WOMEN'S BUILD PROJECT

Women's Build is a partnership between WMU of Texas and Buckner Children & Family Services. The outcome is a new home for a family living in the El Polvorin Colonia in Peñitas, Texas. In 2023, WMU of Texas volunteers, including Latrice Neal from Bethlehem Baptist Church, joined together to build the 13th home in South Texas.

My Texas Missions Story

I participate out of gratitude for what the Lord has done in my life regarding adequate housing. As a child, I lived in a house with no indoor plumbing. In the winter we would heat water on the wood stove to take a bath in a tin tub. I thank the Lord daily for His faithfulness to bring me out of those circumstances.

Secondly, I enjoy building. It is important to use what God has given us to glorify Him and draw souls closer to Him. We may not all be preachers or teachers of the Word, but we all have gifts we can share with others to show God's goodness.

The greatest joy is knowing that something has been said or done by believers to bring another soul to Christ. Although we come to build a house, only the Lord can make it a home for the family. Giving someone a chance to start a lifelong relationship with Christ is the greatest gift any human being will ever share with another.

– Latrice Neal, Women's Build Volunteer

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the safety and health of the WMU of Texas volunteers during the annual fall home build.
- Pray for the family selected to receive the home to experience the love of Christ from the volunteers and choose to follow Jesus as their Savior.



HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Your church is encouraged to participate in this volunteer opportunity this October. Visit wmutx.org/womens-build for more information.

Testimonials at wmutx.org/pray.



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

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 Commission, 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.

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MEMO: "MARY HILL DAVIS OFFERING"



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