



Hello, WMU of Texas Friends!

September is the month most churches celebrate Texas missions by praying for and giving to state missions. We want to give you a head start in preparing for the emphasis. With 12.1 million unchurched in Texas, our task is formidable. One way to reach out to the lost peoples of Texas and beyond is through the Week of Prayer for Texas Missions and the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. The theme this year is “Unchained...Set Free.” Our goal is \$4,110,000. This insert will help as you lead your church to pray, teach missions, do missions and give to missions.

Week of Prayer for Texas Missions and the Mary Hill Davis Offering materials were sent to each church, as well as each WMU Director we have on record. Visit www.maryhilldavis.org for a copy of most materials. On the website, you will find the adult/churchwide study, as well as other age-level studies. If you have a standing order for the Week of Prayer materials through WMU of Texas, prayer guides, envelopes and posters will automatically be sent to your church. If you need additional materials or have questions, contact us at 888.968.6389. Thank you for promoting this vital endeavor.

Provide the '411' on Mary Hill Davis

411 Buttons

Give children information about Mary Hill Davis (available at maryhilldavis.org). Invite children to make buttons that say, “411...Ask me about Mary Hill Davis.” Station children at entrances to the sanctuary at the close of a worship service to distribute the prayer guides and share their knowledge of Mary Hill Davis.

411 Art Show

Invite children to create posters highlighting Mary Hill Davis or the ministries supported through the offering. Create a gallery to showcase their work.

411 GOAL

This year the offering is \$4,110,000. We are calling it the 411 goal. Think of creative ways to highlight this target amount.



Challenge GAs and RAs to collect 411 quarters or \$411 in dollars.



Increase your Mary Hill Davis Offering goal by 41.1%.



Stretch your congregation by setting a challenging goal at \$411, \$4,110 or \$41,100.



Virtual Prayerwalk

Use a fellowship hall, gym or other large area to tape an outline of Texas on the floor. Create markers to identify locations fairly consistent with a map of Texas. Copy the information below on individual pieces of paper and place at different locations inside the Texas outline. Invite your congregation to prayerwalk Texas, moving to each location, reading the request, and praying.



Top O' Texas

Consider the unique needs of the Panhandle as you pray for Panhandle Reach. These evangelistic efforts will prayerfully result in new ministries and church starts in areas such as **Amarillo**. Activities will include BMX bike rallies, hunting and fishing experiences, rodeo events, block parties, prison evangelism and more. Pray for coordinators, volunteers and recipients of this ministry.

Central Texas

San Antonio is home to the Baptist University of the Americas. Pray for staff as they grow the Christian Institute of Islamic studies. This program trains present and future pastors, missionaries and laity to be effective ministers of the Gospel to Muslims. Pray for this unique ministry endeavor.



East Texas

Pray for community outreach projects of East Texas Baptist University BSM in **Marshall**. They sponsor Kids' Clubs in low-income housing complexes and mentoring in local elementary schools. Thank God for young adults willing to step out by faith to meet needs and share Christ.



Houston is the second largest international community in the United States. It ranks in diversity only behind New York. It is one of the first options for refugee settlements. Pray for an Arabic church plant. The new pastor is from Egypt. Pray for his transition. Pray for effective evangelistic efforts among Muslims. Pray, also, for congregations to become sponsors for new church plants.

North Texas

Hundreds of Japanese (primarily women) live in Texas. They have no way to hear the Gospel, as well as have Bible study and prayer in their language, without an itinerant pastor who comes to visit and assist them with their spiritual needs. Pray for Pastor Yutaka Takarada as he travels to several areas across the state, including **Wichita Falls**, to share the Gospel and disciple Japanese believers.



Pray for Church Under The Tree in **Plano**. This church was started in 2006 to minister to disadvantaged people in Collin County. The church meets in a park. Pray for this ministry as they launch a transitional living home called "The Tree House" to get young adults off the streets. They will offer discipleship, addiction recovery, counseling, GED and college preparation, job skills and mentoring.

South Texas

It is estimated that five million adults in Texas are marginally illiterate. Pray for the efforts of Literacy ConneXus as they strive to provide a library in the homes of families in poverty living along the **Texas-Mexico border**.

Cowboy churches use bull riding as a source of outreach to young men in **Del Rio**. As a result of one of their outreach events, several men came to know the Lord. Pray for Pastor David Nugent as he continues to minister through bull riding, that Christ will be known through this effort.

West Texas

Texas Baptists are involved in a broad, collaborative ministry response directed to offenders (in prison and after release), to their families, to prison/jail workers and to crime victims. This ministry involves both statewide and local efforts to minister in Christ's name to people impacted by the justice system, almost one quarter of the state's population. Pray specifically for the Hospitality House in **Abilene** that ministers to inmate families.

Recent demographics indicate there is a high percentage of third and fourth generation Hispanics who are unreached in the **Midland** area. Pray for Church Starter John Silva as he meets with area pastors to establish a strategy to reach this population.

River Ministry exists to connect people and churches searching for a mission project with people along the border in need of food, water and the hope of Christ. We celebrate more than 2,000 professions of faith through this endeavor last year. Pray specifically for the River Ministry Office in **El Paso** as they work to open doors of ministry on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Mission Banquet Ideas

Barbeque

Everyone loves a good ole Texas barbeque. Create a barn-like atmosphere in your fellowship area with checkered table cloths, oil lamps, and bluebonnets in vases. Ask everyone to wear jeans, bandanas, cowboy hats, and boots. Use country western music or ask a band from a Cowboy church to provide music. Show the video on Stock Show and Rodeo Ministries supported by the Mary Hill Davis Offering. "Pass the hat" to collect your offering. At the end of the banquet, sing together, "Happy Trails to You."

Wednesday Night Dinner

Select at least two of the four videos to show during the Wednesday dinner hour. Create a true/false quiz using the following statements. (All the statements are true.) Have them at each place. Before introducing the videos, refer to the statements and talk about the changing face of Texas as a great mission field that has a growing and diverse population. Close the dinner with prayer around the tables.

- 25% of all US human trafficking victims are in Texas.
- 12.1 million Texans are unchurched.
- In 2010, 3% of Texas Baptist churches were of the Western Heritage culture.
- The 2010 state population is now 25,145,561.
- 38% of our state's population is Hispanic.
- 9.1% of our state is Baptist.

Bulletin Board Ideas

Shorten the Chain

Using cut-out letters, put these words on the bulletin board: "My Chains Are Gone." Underneath the words, put your church goal. Create a paper chain using construction paper. Attach one end to the first letter of the sentence and the other to the last letter. As money is received, shorten the chain. When the goal is reached, the chain will be totally removed.

Set the Captives Free

Using cut out letters and numbers, place these words in the middle of your bulletin board: "12.1 Million Texans Are Unchurched". Create a paper chain using construction paper. In each corner of the bulletin board, place a picture of a man, woman, or child. Attach a paper chain from the words in the center of the bulletin board to the corner of each picture. Underneath the first sentence add, "Set the Captives Free." Then add "Mary Hill Davis Offering Goal: \$_____."

Missions Involvement Ideas

Go beyond praying and giving to state missions. Look for ways your family and church can meet needs and share Christ.

Set Free: The Gospel Unleashed

Conduct a Bible or scripture portion distribution in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Plan a block party to attract families in the neighborhood. Some associational offices have fully equipped block party trailers you can borrow. Meet your lost neighbors through fun and fellowship. Remember to follow up.

Set Free from Cultural and Language Barriers

Contact the pastor of a language/ethnic church in your community. Ask the pastor for ways your church can pray for and support the language congregation. Consider beginning English classes in the church if there is a need.

Set Free from Hunger

Consult with the director of a local Baptist center that distributes food or a local food bank. Discover needs and then guide your church to gather the items for the food bank. If possible, present the items to the director in a Sunday morning worship service. Allow the director to talk about the impact the food ministry has in your community

Set Free from Darkness

Choose a neighborhood in your community and organize a prayerwalk. No matter what type neighborhood or business district you visit, you will find people who need to hear the Gospel. Pray for the light of the Gospel to be unleashed.

Set Free from Poverty

Connect with a Christian Women's Job Corps or Christian Men's Job Corps site in your area. Go to: www.wmutx.org/get-involved. Volunteer to provide child care during classes. Encourage available adults to help with administrative needs in the CWJC/CMJC office. Offer to host training for mentors at your church. Collect needed items (such as clothing for job interviews, good second hand computers, snacks and books for children, paper products, office supplies, etc.).

Set Free from Prison

Learn about prison and jail ministry. Consult with your local jail ministry team to find out how your church can become involved. If there is an ongoing ministry, explore ways your church can support it. If there is no ministry, begin to pray about how God might be calling your church to minister behind prison bars.

For a full list of 2012 allocations, visit www.maryhilldavis.org.

Gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions may be sent to:

WMU of Texas
Attn: MHDO
333 N. Washington Ave.
Dallas TX 75246

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF TEXAS
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Visit WMU of Texas on the web at www.WMUTX.org