

# WMU adopts \$5.2 million Texas missions giving goal

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**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

DALLAS—The Woman's Missionary Union of Texas board of directors adopted a \$5.2 million goal for this year's [Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions](#).

Texas WMU promotes the offering—most commonly emphasized in the fall but collected throughout the year—and distributes the funds for specific projects proposed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Texas Baptist Men, Texas WMU and Texas Baptist institutions.

The offering is collected one year and distributed the next. For example, funds collected this year will be given to ministry partners in 2008.

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Texas WMU Executive Director Carolyn Porterfield said the offering supports ministries seeking to expand God's kingdom.

"The theme for the 2007 Mary Hill Davis Offering, 'What Really Matters,' should speak to every Texas Baptist," she said. "Jesus says that where your treasure is there will your heart be also. Texas is a great mission field, but

Texas Baptists are a great mission force. We have a challenging goal of \$5.2 million, and it will support almost 70 different ministries. Each ministry, although unique in how it reaches people, is aimed toward one thing—bringing people to Jesus. That's what really matters to God."

For the ministries to receive the funding they requested through the offering, more Texas Baptists are going to have to give than last year, Porterfield said. In 2006, fewer than half of churches affiliated with the BGCT gave to the Texas mission offering, she noted.

"In 2007 we want to see a great increase in the number of churches giving," she said. "Giving is a reflection of what matters to us and dollars are only a tool that God will use to bring men, women, boys and girls to himself."

The offering provides the entire operating budget for Texas WMU, slated to be more than \$1.25 million in 2008.

Ministries of the BGCT are the largest recipients of funds from the offering. If the goal is met, the offering will give \$1.1 million to help support Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting efforts. The convention facilitates strategic church starting across the state.

BGCT Border/Mexico Missions will receive \$403,300 for mission group coordination, leadership development, health care, and community outreach.

LifeCall Missions, the convention's volunteer missions effort, will receive a total of \$150,000 in Mary Hill Davis funds.

More than \$300,000 in offering funds is allocated for the BGCT's partnership missions efforts, and more than \$400,000 will flow through Baptist associations to fund local ministries.

Among the new projects set to receive offering funds are Texas Baptist camps, support for ethnic pastors ministering in their home countries, a Wayland Baptist University student ministry trip, an effort to encourage churches to start ministries that foster healthy families and the installation of a TBM water purification unit in Mexico.

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