

Midland holiday outreach touches 400 families

December 31, 2009

MIDLAND—[First Baptist Church](#) handed out hope and cared for more than 400 families through the church's annual Christmas store.

The outreach event provides Christmas gifts and food baskets free of charge to families who applied to the program earlier in the year.

The event is part of [Texas Hope 2010](#), an emphasis led by Texas Baptists to pray for the lost, care for the hurting and hungry, and share the hope of Christ with all Texans by Easter 2010.

In the midst of the Midland outreach, volunteers told the Christmas story to families and gave each one a Texas Hope 2010 multimedia compact disc that includes gospel presentations and the New Testament in more than 400 languages.

"For the CD and the Christmas store, the whole goal is to encourage our people to minister in the community, to be the hands and feet and words of Christ in the community and to help those already Christians to grow in the faith," said Bill Johnson, minister of missions at the church.

Johnson sees the whole Christmas effort as a way for church members to grow in their faith while sharing the hope of Christ with others.

"As they come in, they are greeted with a reception and that is where they are handing out the CDs," Johnson said.

"Then everyone who goes through the Christmas store has a face-to-face interview where they have the opportunity to give their lives to Christ. (The CD) is a great opportunity to put something in their hands."

