

TEXANS ON MISSION™

A quarterly publication of
Texans on Mission

FALL 2024

A photograph of two young women standing at a construction site. They are both wearing hoodies and jeans. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue hoodie and is holding a red Milwaukee nail gun. The woman on the right is wearing a grey hoodie and is also holding a red Milwaukee nail gun. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a building with white siding and a wooden frame. The text "HAVE NAIL GUNS WILL TRAVEL" is overlaid on the bottom half of the image in large, bold, red and white letters.

**HAVE
NAIL GUNS
WILL TRAVEL**

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BACK PAGE: TEXANS ON MISSION ROLLS INTO CALIFORNIA TO BRING HELP, HOPE AND HEALING

God is at work in the Valley

Texans on Mission volunteers joined with Rio Grande churches to share Christmas joy



A church in Brownsville has a new coat of paint. Children who used to sleep on floors now have beds. Medical needs have received attention. Churches have expanded relationships with local school teachers. And hundreds of children had toys under their Christmas trees.

It all came wrapped in a package of service called the Texans on Mission Christmas in the Rio Grande Valley, which has become an annual effort prior to Christmas.

The 2024 effort “featured a dream team of volunteers,” said Sabrina Pinales, TXM’s director of missions and discipleship. “We had a group of 11 students from Go Now Missions, a six-person team from Watermark Health, eight members of Grapevine’s First Baptist Church, and a group of new and repeat volunteers.”

And people across Texas gave gifts and funds to make the Christmas event possible.

The volunteers concentrated their efforts in the Brownsville, Mission and Donna areas. The effort also partnered with two churches, Iglesia Bautista Horeb and Casa de Oracion Church, to reach into several communities.

Billye Rhudy, of Coryell Community Church in Gatesville, noted it was her second time volunteering with Christmas in the Valley, along with her husband, Sam.

“Part of our purpose is to serve the community,” she explained. “And we want the community to know that Jesus loves them.”

The group held several events designed to benefit the communities.

All these ministries, Pinales said, “worked together to bring the Christmas message and our Texans on Mission brand of help, hope and healing to the Valley.”

MAGNIFYING A CHURCH’S MINISTRY

Olber Roblero, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Horeb, said the teams also magnified the efforts of his congregation to reach into their surrounding community.

“Texans on Mission is helping our church and the community in different ways. First of all, they are helping us build relationships with the schools and the community and the

church itself, so by doing that, we are showing Christ’s love to the people who don’t know Christ yet.”

SUPPORTING IMPROVED HEALTH

The Watermark Health team provided clinics at Iglesia Horeb in Brownsville and New Life Church in Donna. Physician’s assistant Megan Landon said the team sought to “provide the community with resources to navigate the U.S. health care system.”



The Christmas in the Valley effort, said Landon, fit the mission of Watermark Health, a ministry of Watermark Church in Dallas. “We exist to glorify God and make disciples, so we want to make disciples of all nations,” she said. “By serving here, we want to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ and so we’re hoping to tell people about the salvation and joy they can receive from knowing Jesus.”

GIVING COLLEGE STUDENTS MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Go Now Missionary Angelica Martinez, a student at the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley, paused from her duties serving brisket lunches to teachers at Senator Eddie A. Lucio Jr. Middle School to share her perspective on the Go Now Missions team experience.

“We’re serving our community and the teachers, showing our faith and expressing to them how much Christ loves them,” she said.

BUILDING BEDS FOR FAMILIES

Cal Vande Zande of Grapevine's First was part of a team that built and distributed beds and mattresses to families in need. "Some of the homes were nice, other ones not so much," Zande said. "There was one room that we got into where there was



just barely enough space for the bed, and it was very difficult for the people to put the bed together, but they got the job done."

Claire Golema, another Grapevine's First member, helped assemble and distribute the beds. "I got to ... give out two of the beds to the children, and they were just so excited to have a bed," she said. "I can't imagine not having my own bed, ... but they were so excited that they had a bed, that it was theirs."

SERVING SCHOOL TEACHERS

Golema also helped serve lunches to school teachers, an act she said "really opened the conversation between them and the church that is across the street, that perhaps they pass every day and didn't realize was there, and so that's been a really good way to reach out to them and to help them to know that God isn't just in a building, God is outside of the building.

"I hope that they would see that God can change things, that He's relevant for their life," she said. "I think that's my prayer, that people would see God differently because of what we've done this week." 🇺🇸



58 years later, we're still seeking God's kingdom first



In 1967, my father was one of the six men who started this ministry. Years later, I asked him what he thought this ministry would be. His answer was simple: "We didn't know." They clung to Matthew 6:33: "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

All these decades later, we still cling to the truth of this Scripture. It continues to shape the ministry and drive our impact. As a result, we started with Royal Ambassadors. Then we added disaster relief ministries, discipleship initiatives, Builders and Water Impact efforts. Even within those areas, God has blessed and grown the work to include feeding, chainsaw, chaplaincy and shower/laundry teams.

I've been blessed to be part of it since I was a teenager. I believe 2024 was the most impactful year of ministry in the history of this organization. God continues to add to our ministry. At one point, we were working in Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, Peru, Uganda and Spain all at the same time.

God is good. And God is blessing through Texans on Mission. In the past 12 months, you have helped lead more than 1,200 people to faith in Christ.

You are a crucial part of that. Your prayer, volunteer and financial support make it possible to serve in every place we are called. Together, we're still seeking God's kingdom first. And He is transforming lives in His name.

Can I get an amen?

Mickey B. Lenamon

Chief Executive Officer
Texans on Mission

REBUILD

Churches link with TXM in North Carolina rebuilding effort

Disasters spread destruction over relatively short periods of time. Recovery lasts much longer, and Texans on Mission volunteers are coming back and back and back.

Hurricane Helene struck Florida in late September, and then its remains brought flooding to a broad swath of the southeastern United States, especially in North Carolina and East Tennessee.

TXM Disaster Relief volunteers responded quickly, and multiple teams have continued to make the long journey eastward to help as relief moved into recovery.

In December, Grapevine's 121 Community Church joined with TXM and North Carolina Baptists on Mission to rebuild homes in Spruce Pine on the east side of the Appalachian Mountains. In January, First Baptist Church of Woodway and Trinity Church of Grand Island, New York, participated.

"The preparation leading into long-term recovery must be a well orchestrated effort to properly assess areas, families and housing," said TXM Rebuild Coordinator Rafael Munoz.

"In the 10 days the group served, they worked with a lot of flexibility unloading 53 foot trucks with much needed supplies; organizing temporary warehousing; sheetrocking; taping; bedding and floating walls; hauling trash; and many other tasks as those emerged."

And other teams will follow. There is much work to be done, but God is working in a big way through these volunteers, Munoz said. 🇺🇸





UMHB students get taste of missions in helping flood victims

A life on mission begins somewhere. For several University of Mary Hardin-Baylor students, it began with Texans on Mission in North Carolina.

"For a few years, I've wanted to go on a mission trip," sophomore Dani Rye said. "When I saw the global outreach stuff at UMHB, this looked like an awesome opportunity. I wanted to go and serve people. It seemed like a good experience to get out of your comfort and help people who need it."

Rye was one of several UMHB students who took their first mission trip in December. They served disaster survivors in North Carolina, which has been hit hard in recent years by flooding and most recently Hurricane Helene.

Working through TXM, the team of eight built wheelchair ramps, stuffed backpacks for students and prepared food boxes for those in need. Winter weather made the service crucial, with temperatures hovering in the low 20s as the students worked outside.

"These students are some of the hardest working individuals I have had the pleasure of working alongside," said Sabrina Pinales, TXM's director of missions and discipleship. "Despite freezing temperatures, they completed several outdoor projects and blessed multiple families. The impact they have made will bless families for years to come."

Efforts like the work in North Carolina help students see the impact they can have if they live out their faith, said Jonah Sizemore, UMHB's resident director who led the team. Small and large acts of service transform lives and give people the

opportunity to share their faith.

"This is a good starting point for kids who want to get into missions but have never been on a trip before," he said. "This takes pressure off them."

"Missions aren't necessarily going to third world countries to share the Gospel with people who haven't heard it," Sizemore continued.

"It's working here with people who need help. That can be missions for us." 🇺🇸



Love God. Love others.

Sometimes in life we overcomplicate things. Fortunately, Jesus knew we would. So in Matthew 22, He summed up what it means to live on mission with God. When asked what the greatest commandment was, He replied:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

At Texans on Mission, that’s exactly what we seek to do together. Out of a love for the Lord, every Texans on Mission volunteer seeks to love others during the hardest days of their lives.



When you financially support Texans on Mission, you:



Deploy Christian Teams to Serve

Whether there's a tornado in Texas, hurricane in Florida or a water crisis on the other side of the world, you send Christians to serve in Jesus' name.



Meet Crucial Needs

Texans on Mission meets people at critical points in their lives and provides much needed help, such as cooking a hot meal, removing fallen trees or even providing a cold cup of water in Jesus' name.



Share God's love.

Everywhere Texans on Mission serves, we serve in Christ's life-changing name. We seek to encourage and uplift people who are struggling. We pray with them. We walk alongside them. We share the Gospel with them. As a result, God transforms lives.

DONATE NOW.

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**TEXANS
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Texas RA trainers lead camp for young men in Kenya

Thirty-six Kenyan teenage boys and young men came together in November for a leadership training camp in the East Africa country. At the end, 13 of them accepted a challenge to lead future gatherings locally and start encouraging other boys and men.

Six Kenya churches brought together the group in Eldoret, about 200 miles northwest of Nairobi. Five adult leaders of Texas Royal Ambassadors, a ministry of Texans on Mission, provided the training.

The camp grew out of a RA-led meeting earlier this year. "Pastors went home intentionally looking for young men in their churches they believed were leaders and wanted to get them some training," said Savion Lee, state RA coordinator.

Those attending the camp learned leadership skills through adventure recreation and team building challenges. "The lessons highlighted unity and cooperation, responsibility and the importance of prayer in everything we do," Lee said.

Steve Darilek, a long-time RA trainer from Bridgeport, likened the camp in Kenya to the annual RA Leadership Training Camp held in Texas. "We use a lot of different things ... to produce leaders and raise a passion" for

leadership among youth. "It looks like it's just fun and games," but there is a spiritual application. "We hope they will take it back to their churches, to bring about change and open the eyes of their youth group."

The Kenya group included young men ages 14-23, Darilek said. "They were very, very respectful. ...

I was impressed with their ability to stay focused," even when language translation created challenges.

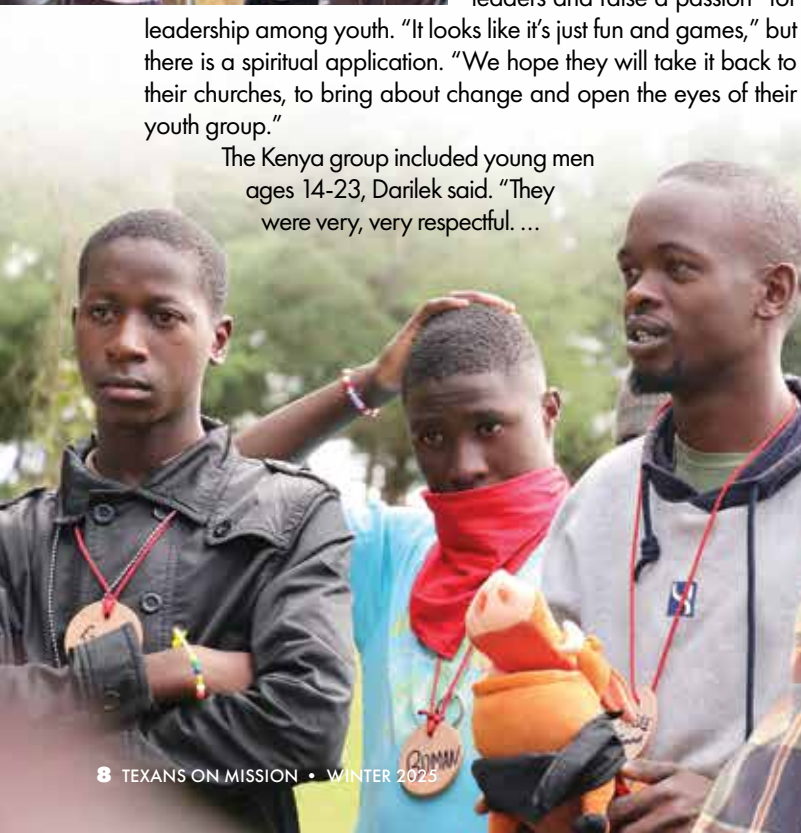
As the camp drew to a close, Lee said the pastors "put out the vision and asked who would be willing to help coordinate recurring meetings in their towns. Thirteen young men responded to that invitation."



Since the regional meeting, those 13 men already have held an initial meeting coordinated via the WhatsApp digital platform.

The Texas RA leaders and Kenyan pastors have the same hopes for what happens as a result of the camp. "They wanted a group of young men to become leaders and to come back to their church and assist them in leading others to Christ... and to be leaders in their church.

The pastors want the young men to know Christ, "speak Jesus," give testimony of their faith and unify their group within their church, Darilek said. 🇺🇸





Texans on Mission volunteers bring help and joy to Puerto Rico. Karen Rocha (left and right photo) provided first-person perspectives on the project. Check out Rocha's reports and videos at [TexansOnMission.org/puerto-rico-experience](https://www.TexansOnMission.org/puerto-rico-experience).

TXM Puerto Rico team brings 'hope after the storm'

Hurricane Maria ripped through Puerto Rico more than seven years ago. Still, today, damage remains, but a Texans on Mission team flew to the island recently to help.

Meet Siri, one of those victims from the 2017 storm, which ripped the roof off her home in Aguadilla.

"She is a lady who has cancer but doesn't have anybody that helps her," said Miriam Lorenzo, president and founder of Stronger than Maria, a Puerto Rico aid organization. "She's a low-income person who doesn't have Social Security or anything else. What we're doing is trying to make this house livable so she will be able to come back and have a decent life and a place that she can call home."

TXM volunteers came to make that happen.

Karen Rocha, a special needs teacher in Dallas and member of Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana, worked with the TXM volunteers. Rocha provided first-hand, day-to-day reports of the TXM team's work in Puerto Rico.

"If you're wondering what we are here for, all of this work we are doing for Siri is work I hope is telling her there's hope after the storm," Rocha wrote. "Even though she lost a lot, there's still hope for her to have that second opportunity to enjoy her time being in the house, spending time with family, spending time with friends. That's what we're here for."

That was only part of the volunteers' work in Puerto Rico.

As the mission trip came to an end, Rocha said the week had been "filled with the joy of building relationships with one another and connecting deeply with the kids at VBS. We've had the chance to experience God throughout this time, and His presence has been so evident in every interaction and moment we've shared."

"As for our project at Siri's home, our mission has been completed, even though we didn't finish the entire house," Rocha said. "We're trusting God to make everything fall into place from here, and we're excited to see how things continue to unfold." 🇵🇷



Witnessing TXM water ministry in Uganda ‘life-changing’

Texans on Mission celebrated Christmas with its Ugandan team of water well drillers, ministers, community builders and their families in December. But it was more than a party with the sharing of gifts. It marked a year of progress in giving new life to countless people.

Mitch Chapman, director of TXM Water Impact, said he has been amazed at the quality of work and commitment to Christ exhibited in 2024 by the workers with Texans and Ugandans on Mission, TXM’s partner.

TXM’s work is centered around the drilling of community water wells, but it is much more — sanitation classes, micro financing and, most importantly, spiritual nourishment. In anticipation of expanded work planned in 2025, Chapman arranged for Mikey Osborne and his wife and son to be part of the end-of-year celebration.

Osborne coordinates Texans on Mission’s discipleship and outreach efforts, which includes writing materials for evangelism and personal Christian growth. Some of those materials are used regularly in Uganda as part of TXM’s Water Impact ministry, but Osborne had never been there, and more materials are needed.

Angie Osborne noted the “most impactful part of the trip” for her came “when they took us to one village where a new well had just been installed.” Leaders took the Osbornes to “the little creek” where the people had been getting their water before drilling of their new community well.

“It is a moment I will always remember and an image that will always stick in my mind,” Angie said. “It was heart wrenching

to think that people would walk over a mile to get water from this nasty source where animals also drink and do other things. It was then I realized how powerful and life-changing” TXM’s work is in Uganda.

“One well alone is providing clean water to over 400 people,” Angie said. “And TXM put in over 60 wells this past year. That is a huge impact, and thousands of people are being reached.

“We witnessed the Gospel being introduced at each well site to all these people who are flocking there for clean water,” she continued. “A Bible study is led each morning while the well is being drilled for the local community, and then local people continue the Bible study weekly. Hundreds of people are now attending regular Bible study and have come to know Christ through the installation of these wells.”

The recent trip will help TXM know how to produce more evangelism and discipleship resources. And Mikey was impressed with the ability of ministry leaders in Uganda.

“I got to see a guy named Moses,” Mikey said. “He was unbelievably engaging. He spoke in the local language. The Spirit of God was on that man in such a way. He spoke with authority but also in an engaging manner. It was humbling to watch.”

The entire experience deeply moved both Angie and Mikey. “To say we were overwhelmed is an understatement,” Angie said. “We went to help change Uganda, but Uganda changed me. ... We got to see the work that Texans on Mission is doing and were blown away.” 🇺🇸



TXM partners with Israel in serving thousands; more trainings planned

Texans on Mission volunteers served more than 80,000 meals in Israel in 2024. TXM works in partnership with Israel's Emergency Volunteer Project, which provided more than 800,000 meals using equipment and facilities TXM helped develop.

"We now have 10 feeding trailers/units, each with a generator, that can be deployed anywhere," said John-Travis Smith, TXM associate executive director. "We can house 40 volunteers in Israel and expand that number if we need to."

TXM organizes disaster relief training trips to Israel throughout the year, and it deployed teams a year ago after Hamas fighters raided Israel.

"We now have 165 people trained in kosher protocols" required for food service in Israel, said Gary Finley, TXM Israel volunteer coordinator.

"This would staff all 10 kitchens for two weeks. We are continuing training in 2025."

More trained volunteers are still needed, Finley added. "If there were a major disaster, we would run short of trained volunteers. So we need more."

Finley called 2024 a "roller coaster year" in Israel. The year began with the emergency response when multiple TXM teams served, which was followed by regular training trips, and then the entire team was placed on standby when the conflict in

Lebanon escalated.

Monthly training trips will resume in March and then skip April as the Jewish world observes Passover.

In November, the last training of 2024, TXM volunteer trainees prepared, cooked and served more than 3,000 meals alongside EVP workers. They trained to cook kosher meals to prepare for any future deployments to deliver relief when needed.



It was "very humbling for me to serve a people who are fighting for their very existence," said TXM volunteer Cheryl Terry. "I absolutely feel that I receive a blessing each time I serve. Everyone that can physically go would see and experience the people of Israel and the resilience of spirit. They have been an inspiration to me personally."

The training efforts did not go unnoticed by the people of Israel, said TXM volunteer Kelton Gunter. "When they see us working very hard, ... they know we have traveled thousands of miles to help them and prove that we care."

Taryn Johnson, TXM's social media strategist, said it was a blessing to see "such humble servants eager to help those in need. A trip to Israel is one that requires flexibility and determination, and every volunteer exuded these traits with a smile. They highly recommended others volunteer for mass feeding in Israel, and for that we are grateful." 🇮🇱



Visit the TXM webpage, TexansOnMission.org/Israel to learn more details about the trips and to register.

DISASTER RELIEF

Texans on Mission walking hand-in-hand with California churches

Whole neighborhoods have been wiped out by the blazing California wildfires, and such fires leave behind little.

Texans on Mission responded quickly with volunteers and equipment on the scene shortly after the fires began. Now, TXM is making plans for long-term efforts.

“Texans on Mission is partnering with local churches to meet needs,” said TXM Chief Executive Officer Mickey Lenamon. “Working through these church partners, we are discovering ways to meet expanded physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The weight of the fires literally hangs in the air everywhere these families turn.”

The first TXM equipment rolled out of Dallas Jan. 15. The laundry/shower units are being used in conjunction with local church services, such as child care, to create “a respite for people that don’t have another place to go to get away from the stress, to be encouraged and to have someone pray with them,” said TXM Chief Strategy Officer Rand Jenkins.

“Their children will have a place to play,” Jenkins said. “They’ll have their clothes washed for them. They’ll get a hot cup of coffee and be able to talk to some of our volunteers and some of the local pastors.”

While TXM focuses now on helping churches provide respite for weary residents, fire recovery efforts commonly called ash out will likely emerge in coming weeks. “As with the 2023 fires in Maui,



authorities have to keep sites secure for a time,” said TXM Chief Mission Officer John Hall. “Recovery time will come, and Texans on Mission will continue to work with churches in how best to be of support,” Hall said.

“As we like to say, we’re bringing help, hope and healing now, and we will need to do so for quite some time,” he added. 🇹🇽

To financially support the response, visit
[TexasOnMission.org/wildfires](https://www.TexasOnMission.org/wildfires) or call (214) 275-1100.

