

January 27, 2025

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

Dear Texas Mission Partners.

Mission Prayer calls you to prayer. Jesus tells us to ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest. In this, we see the heart of God, the mission of Jesus, and the initial action of disciples in the building of the Kingdom, namely prayer. This is counter to the cultural context that insists we take action and stop thinking. Will you assist in building the Kingdom? Sit down and make prayer for the mission a priority in your life of faith.

Mission Stories



Mission Movement

Texas District



Reflecting on God's Blessings Over the Past Year

As we begin a new year, we pause to reflect on God's abundant blessings over the past twelve months. Together, we celebrate His work through the efforts of faithful leaders, congregations, and partners committed to advancing the Gospel.

Exceeding Our Church Planting Goals
Through God's grace, we witnessed the planting of 13

new congregations by November, exceeding our goal of 12 for the year. These new communities are lights in their regions, sharing Christ's love and hope with those who may never have encountered the Gospel before.

In addition, 85 congregational mission multiplication partners are now actively engaged in growing God's Kingdom, surpassing our goal of 79. These partners play a vital role, from participating in church-planting networks to deploying evangelists to planting new congregations.

Building for the Future

Significant progress was made this year in building systems to support and account for evangelist activity. These tools and strategies ensure that our efforts are focused, measurable, and effective.

Strides were made to address pastoral formation needs. Both seminaries enthusiastically received our church planting forums, and we engaged in fruitful discussions with seminary leadership about the critical need for church workers. These conversations are key to preparing the next generation of pastors and leaders.

Preparing for What's Ahead

Among our upcoming initiatives, we are excited about the Catalyst Innovation Lab, which awarded \$40K in grants to individuals with innovative ideas for sharing the Gospel. Additionally, the Seminary Church Planting Lab, scheduled for the second weekend in April, will address pressing pastoral formation needs.

Continuing Challenges and Opportunities

Even as we celebrate God's blessings, we recognize ongoing challenges. The shortage of church workers—especially pastors equipped for church planting—remains critical. We are committed to addressing this need with urgency and prayer.

Another major milestone—the election of a new district president—awaits us in June. Ensuring a smooth strategic transition will be vital for maintaining momentum and advancing the mission.

Gratitude and Hope

Reflecting on the past year, we see evidence of God's faithfulness and the Holy Spirit at work in our district. From planting new congregations to the dedication of leaders and partners, each milestone is a testament to God's power and provision.

Looking toward the future, we remain hopeful and excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, let us continue to pray for His guidance, rely on His strength, and trust in His promises.

Mission Prayers

- Praise for a great Community Christmas Eve at Community Park and all Jesus is doing through and for the Table of Los Fresnos
- Pray for the upcoming "938 for the 956" emphasis (Mt. 9:38) in 2025
- Pray for our upcoming outreach at the annual Los Fresnos rodeo



The Table
Los Fresnos
Rev. Chad Bresson

Lutheran Schools

Memorial Lutheran School

Houston

Little Fishers Preschool Sugar Land

Evangelists

Michael Ratke Hope, Lubbock

Gabrielle Schillings Hope, Lubbock

Caleb Schumacher
Hope, Lubbock

Next Steps For Partners



Join Evangelist Training Session

In this 8-session training, you'll gain the tools to make disciples who make disciples.

Visit the <u>Evangelist Training Series</u> for more information and to register.



Give To Texas Partners in Mission

- Start-up grant for a church planter
- Sponsor training and coaching for an evangelist
- Provide a scholarship for an EIIT or SMP student
- Support a new church plant

<u>Texas District CEF Two Step Program</u> multiplies your gifts and investments.

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Exponential Learning



Expansion Mission Network



Pathways to Ministry



Posture of Prayer

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