

The voice of the Unión Femenil Misionera de Texas – Ninth Edition – March 2024

# VozMisionera

107 ANNUAL MEETING | SAN ANTONIO, TX | 2024

## Designed IN PERFECTION

"Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man."

-Genesis 2:22 (NIV)







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**CONTENT**  
Silvia Ake

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Denisse Delgado-Ibarra



# PERFECTED *in Christ*

It is easy to ignore the call of love in our daily lives. The desire to control situations, people, or things around can make us unable to hear God's voice and His call, where fighting ends and communion flourishes. His love calls us to a place where our souls are satisfied, because we have seen that only He is good. It offers us the truth that while life may seem completely out of order, God's peace can still be found in the midst of chaos.

It's really no surprise that our hearts long for perfection, because perfection was God's original plan and is infused into our DNA. From the moment of creation, Adam and Eve had no imperfections, there was no need to fight, because they lacked nothing in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:25). God was the fullness and complete satisfaction of their existence.

But after sin came into the picture, flaws became part of their history and ours. And how far sin took us from God's original intention! Work became a necessity. Childbirth went from a "walk in the garden" to "crawling through the trenches." Perfection was exchanged for imperfection, which caused Adam and Eve to hide from God when He, the Voice and essence of perfect love, called them. (Genesis 3:8-10)

Sin created a chasm between us and God, the Author of perfection. Centuries after Adam and Eve, Jesus bridged that chasm on the cross, filling the void and offering us salvation so we could access God once again.



The apostle John reminds us of the hope that abiding in Christ brings. He encourages us when he says, ***"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."*** (1 John 4:12b).

It is important to note: John does not describe the absence of defects. As long as we live in a fallen and sinful world, imperfection will exist. But the "perfect" in this verse comes from the Greek word, *teleioó*, which connotes an act of completeness in Christ, a continuous but achievable process of becoming more like Him.

Although we may still miss the mark, when we surrender to the Voice of love, our God-designed perfection is restored. This way of life brings a fulfillment that we will not find by striving to make things in our lives "just like that." There is no greater achievement than living a life of love.

At the end of life, I doubt anyone who knew me would brag about my organizational skills. It doesn't matter if my house was spotless or if my closet was color-coded. My human efforts to achieve perfection continually fall short, but to obey the call to love with the love of Christ through us? That will bring you and me closer to His original design, and a love like that will always be the perfect goal.

***Father, forgive me for all the times I have given more importance to striving for perfection than to listening to your call of love. I lay all my realistic and unrealistic expectations at your feet. Thank you for the privilege of abiding in you so that your love for me and others may grow. In the name of Jesus, Amen.***



**Bea Mesquias**  
UFM Executive Director  
and Treasurer



# Vision & Mission of the UFM of Texas

## VISION

- To Reach Hispanic Women in Texas
- To Develop a Missionary Spirit and a Missional Lifestyle
- To Equip and Train Hispanic Christian Women in Texas
- To Develop Hispanic Women Leaders in Texas
- To Minister Women in Texas on their Moral and Spiritual needs

## MISSION

This organization exists to provide support and assistance in developing leaders, and to the research of resources that allow members of the Hispanic Baptist Congregations in Texas to:

- Pray for missions
- Participate in action, mission and testimony of a missional lifestyle
- Learn about missions and support missions
- Grow spiritually towards a missional life
- Participate in the work of the church and Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas



## What is the Unión Femenil Misionera de Texas?

The Unión Femenil Misionera de Texas is the women's ministry of the Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas.

The UFM of Texas was born on June 26, 1917 in San Marcos, Texas. Made up of women from the churches of San Antonio, Laredo, Austin, Bastrop and Waco.

In its early days, the Unión Femenil Misionera was known as auxiliary to the Mexican Baptist Convention in 1943.

In 1962 in Dallas a resolution was made to continue supporting the unification program; this means that the UFM would be under the responsibility of Texas Woman's Missionary Union and that it would be part of the "Language Mission Department."

In 2012, the UFM of Texas became independent from the WMU. However, we continue doing missionary work, praying, offering, educating in the missions and teaching the new generations, so that we continue the work that one day the baptist women of Texas started.

On May 20, 2015, the UFM of Texas was trademarked, and in 2017 we celebrated 100 years of ministry!



## The Heart of the UFM

Historically, the heart has been considered the center from which the life of the body comes. It represents the center of love that is part of our lives. If the heart doesn't work, the body doesn't work. The heart of the UFM lies in **six tasks** through which the UFM does its work. They are tasks well taught by the apostle Paul in the New Testament. These are necessary actions to support the missionaries and their work and fulfill God's call in our lives.



**Pray for the missionary work.** The prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16) in missionary work. It connects us to the power of God, and is needed to fulfill many plans. Paul challenged the churches to pray for him and for the other missionaries, witnessed and started churches, as well to church members to pray for each other.



**Support the missionary work.** Paul reminded the churches to give especially to support his work and other missionaries. Paul depended on the generosity of the members of the early church. Without financial support and lodging, it would have been almost impossible for Paul and the others to do what they did. Today is the same. If we do not offer to support the missionaries, it will not be possible for the missionaries to fulfill their work.



**Learn about the missionary work.** Paul wrote to the churches to inform them of what was happening. If we know what is happening in the missionary work all over the world, we can pray more effectively for the missionaries. We also need to acquire God's world perspective if we are to grow as Christians.



**Do the missionary work and testify.** Paul encouraged the churches to demonstrate the love of Christ through actions and words. When we all participated in the missionary work and testified of the love of Christ, we fulfill the commission that God gave the believers (Matthew 28: 18-20).



**Spiritual growth towards a missional lifestyle.** Spiritual growth was one of Paul's concerns for the early church. If we do not grow spiritually, we cannot understand well what God wants from us and we will lose the blessing that comes as a result of serving Him. Paul understood that spiritual growth results in living a missionary life wherever we are.



**Participate in the work of the church and denomination.** Paul's letters indicate the importance to participate in the local church. He knew that participating in the work of the church gives us the opportunity to support and encourage each other. Together we can accomplish much for the kingdom of God. Although there were no denominations in those days, the principle remains the same today but on a larger scale.

**Everything UFM does must be based on at least one of these six tasks. They are the heart of the UFM!**



# UFM OF TEXAS OFFICIALS 2022-2023



**Miryam Chairez President**  
Member of Iglesia Bautista Calvary Harlingen Tx  
Leadership at UFM of Texas.  
Director of the UFM of the RGVA Association



**Maxi Portales 1st Vicepresident**  
Member of Iglesia Bautista Central de Fort Worth for 35 años.  
Teacher of 1st and 2nd grade children, young singles and young couples. Director of UFM. Teacher of missionary friends, children in action and other different church committees such as: pulpit, social, etc. She was also part of the UFM Tarrant planning team in charge of promoting the UFM and the prayer materials.



**Guadalupe Esparza 2nd Vicepresident**  
Member of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Creación de Georgetown  
Director of the UFM of her church for 3 years. And 3 years Director of the UFM of the PC Bell Fellowship association. Member of the appointment committee of the UFM of Texas. Homeless Ministry Leader.



**Melida Musquiz Secretary**  
Member of Primera Iglesia Bautista Maranatha Houston  
UFM of Texas Board Member for 3 years. Her husband, Pastor Johnnie and Melida worked at Richey Street Baptist Ch, Pasadena. Bible study for teachers. Christian women's group leader. Director of Women with Purpose.



**Bea Mesquias**  
Member of Agape Baptist Church, San Antonio  
Executive Director/Treasurer of the UFM of Texas

## GOVERNANCE BOARD

Margoth Camacho, President  
Miryam Chairez  
Melida Musquiz  
Leticia Gonzalez

Bea Mesquias  
Lulu Cortez  
Silvia Aké  
Frances Barrera

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Miryam Chairez, President  
Gloria Zapata  
Rosa Aguilar  
Esmy Juarez

## RECRUITMENT & ENLISTMENT

Melida Musquiz, President  
Maxi Portales-Assistant  
Claudia Treviño

## FINANCE

Lulu Cortez, President  
Umbelina Flores  
Guadalupe Esparza  
Leticia Gonzalez

## WEEK OF PRAYER TEAM

Silvia Aké, President  
(Magazine for  
Bea Mesquias  
Week of Prayer)

## SCHOLARCHIP

Evernia Luna,  
President  
Gloria Zapata

## UFMT OFFICIALS (2020-2024)

Miryam Chairez, President  
Maxi Portales, 1st VP  
Guadalupe Esparza, 2nd VP  
Melida Musquiz, Secretary

## UFMT BOARD OFFICERS (2020-2027)

Margot Camacho, President  
Lily Martinez, VP  
Leticia Gonzalez, Secretary

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Raquel Zapata,  
President  
Elizabeth Martinez,  
Secretary

TECHONOLGY  
WORK FOR UFMT  
Silvia Aké  
Jesse Rincones Sr.

LA VOZ MAGAZINE  
Silvia Aké  
Denisse Delgado-Ibarra



# UFM of Texas presents:

## *Personalities*



### **MARICRUZ VALDEZ**

Licensed Professional Counselor, MA, CSC, LPC. Licensed and Certified Professional Biblical Counselor. I have a strong desire to work with people who want to improve their lives and find meaning and purpose in their lives. I provide a holistic counseling service, addressing the psychological and spiritual components with practical solutions to the painful difficulties you face, whether spiritual or emotional. I view my clients as unique individuals and adapt my techniques and approach to meet their specific needs. I strive to instill hope, perseverance, and biblical truth to help clients achieve their goals and find the root of their problems. I have experience working with people experiencing anxiety, depression, grief, low self-esteem, marital and communication problems. I offer compassionate counseling that addresses both psychological and spiritual aspects. I provided biblical and practical solutions to the painful difficulties you face, both spiritual and emotional.

### **ELIZABETH GARCIA MARTINEZ**

Elizabeth is a Pastor's wife. She is currently serving with her husband in Houston, TX at Iglesia Bautista Maranatha, where they have pastored for over 10 years. She has served in youth and children's ministry for over 15 years and currently serves in our Women's Ministry.



### **MARIA MARTINEZ**

I am from San Luis Potosí, Mexico. I studied Public Accounting at the University of San Luis Potosí. I received Christ on March 25, 1997 and was baptized on April 12, 1998 at the Iglesia Bautista Monte Calvario in San Antonio Texas. In 2004 my husband was called as Pastor at Somerset Baptist Church and as the pastor's wife I organized the UFM in my church. In previous years I have served as secretary, assistant and currently serve as director of the San Antonio UFM.



### **SILVIA AKÉ**

Pastor's wife for 45 years. Bachelor's Degree in Christian Education. Chaplaincy Certification. Conference speaker, Bible teacher, she has served as Vice President of Convencion Hispana de Texas, and has been President of the UFM of Texas. She is a member of the Primera Iglesia Bautista Edinburg where for 30 years she has served with her husband. She currently works as a Hospice Grief Coordinator and assistant to the Executive Director of the UFM.



### **MARTIN MARTINEZ**

I serve at First Baptist Church of San Antonio, the other members of the group represent San Antonio churches including Iglesia Bautista Camino Del Rey and Community Bible Church (CBC).





# PROGRAM

UNIÓN FEMENIL MISIONERA 107 ANUAL MEETING I SAN ANTONIO, TX

## FRIDAY, MARCH 8 REGISTRATION 5:00 PM

### GENERAL SESSION 7:00PM

PRAISE & WORSHIP .....	Martin Martinez
WELCOME .....	Bea Mesquias UFM Executive Director/Treasurer
PRAYER & BIBLE READING.....	Maxi Portales UFM 1st Vice-President
TESTIMONY .....	Elizabeth Garcia Martinez
PRAISE & WORSHIP .....	Martin Martinez
SPEAKER PRESENTATION.....	Miryam Chairez UFM President
SPECIAL.....	Christina Uribe
MESSAGE.....	Maricruz Valdez Guest Speaker
OFRENDA .....	Gloria Zapata, Umbelina Flores, Lulu Cortez
ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL .....	Melida Musquiz UFM Secretary

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9 REGISTRATION 9:00 AM

PRAYER & DOOR PRIZES .....	Miryam Chairez UFM President
1ST CONFERENCE .....	Maria Martinez: "Testimonio de la Transformación"
2ND CONFERENCE .....	Silvia Aké: "Deja que Dios Moldee tu Vida"

### GENERAL SESSION 11:00AM

PRAISE & WORSHIP.....	Martin Martinez
WELCOME .....	Bea Mesquias UFM Executive Director/Treasurer
PRAYER & BIBLE READING.....	Guadalupe Esparza UFM 2nd Vice-President

### 107 SESIÓN DE NEGOCIOS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE .....	Raquel Zapata President UFM Nominating Committee
VOTING AND NOMINATIONS.....	ASSEMBLY
PRAYER FOR NEW OFFICIALS .....	Bea Mesquias UFM Executive Director/Treasurer
PRAISE & WORSHIP .....	Martin Martinez
GRATITUDE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE .....	Miryam Chairez UFM President
SPEAKER PRESENTATION.....	Miryam Chairez UFM President
SPECIAL.....	Christina Uribe
MESSAGE.....	Maricruz Valdez Guest Speaker
RECOGNITION .....	Hortensia Contreras, Eva Torres, Miryam Chairez, Maxi Portales, Melida Musquiz
OFFERING .....	Gloria Zapata, Umbelina Flores
ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL .....	Silvia Aké UFM Director Assistant



# ARTICLES ON THE ELECTION OF LEADERS

## Article Seven Nominations and Elections

7.1 The Nominating Committee shall be composed of one representative from each of 9 regions of the Hispanic fellowship used by UFM of Texas. In case of a vacancy the Chair of the nominating committee shall appoint a person from the 9 regions where there is a vacancy to serve until a person can be elected by UFM of Texas at the next Annual Meeting. Terms shall be for three consecutive years with one third of the committee rotating each year. A person must be off the committee for one year before being re-nominated to serve.

7.2 If a member of a nominating committee is asked to serve as an officer she will be removed from the nominating committee until elections are completed. If she is elected to serve as an officer, automatically she is removed from the nominating committee, and at that point the chairperson can appoint her replacement for the remainder of her term, If not chosen, she returns to the Nominating Committee until the end of his term.

## Article Eight: Annual Meeting

8.1 The annual meeting shall be held annually for the purpose of electing state leaders, inspire congregation with inspirational speakers, and provide training.

## Article Nine: Committees

9.1 The Nominating Committee shall be selected according to article 7; its purpose is to nominate qualified leaders to be elected at their Annual Meeting, according to section 6.6.

9.2 The Executive Director of UFM de Texas in consultation with the other elected UFM of Texas leaders shall appoint other committees as needed.

9.3 The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee member is to look for new members when there is a vacancy in one of the 9 regions you represent.

9.4 Each member that represents one of the 9 regions will be in charge of calling the churches in your region and find out if they have an organization of the Union Femenil Misionera or a group of women that meet in their churches for Bible Study. Report monthly to the President of the Nominating committee.

9.5 The Secretary will keep a report

9.6 The President of the Nominating Committee will meet every three months with the other members to share the information that will be reported by the members of the 9 regions.



## "EMPOWERED WOMEN , EMPOWER WOMEN"

**SHE IS STRONG - Isaiah 40:31**  
**SHE IS FEARLESS - Proverbs 35:21**  
**SHE IS ENOUGH - Psalms 46:5**

Are You Ready??? We are excited to announce one of the most powerful conferences, **BLOOM 2024** is coming to San Antonio! **We are back and we are stronger!**

If you need empowerment, encouragement, and motivation to rise and bloom where God has planted you, this conference is for you.

A day full of door prizes, worship, fellowship, food, guest speakers, testimonies, merchandise, mini breakout sessions, prayer circle, and women empowerment.

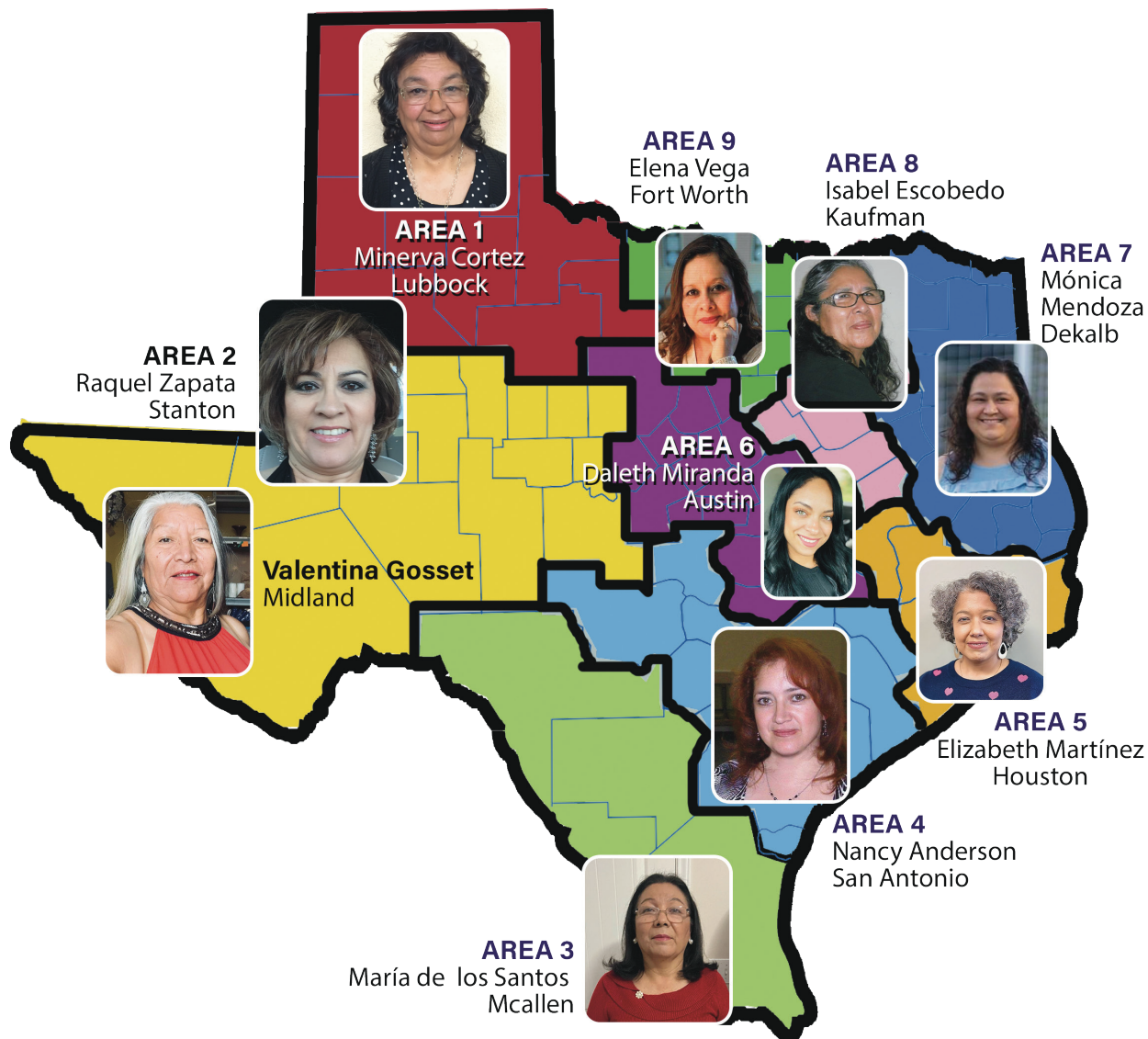
This is the Women's Conference of the year, you Don't want to miss it. **Follow us on Facebook @Bloom** to stay tuned for all information and upcoming conference details.

**AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH-SAN ANTONIO**  
**APRIL 20TH, 2024 10:00AM- 4:00PM**  
**FREE EVENT**





# NOMINATING COMMITTEE UFM OF TEXAS



## UFM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Esmy Juarez**  
Midland, TX



**Margoth Camacho**  
Farmers Branch, TX



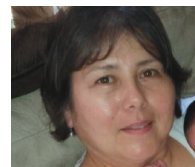
**Leticia Gonzales**  
Corps Christi, TX



**Paula Lopez**  
Burleson, TX



**Blanca Cuellar**  
Houston, TX



**Delia Gonzales**  
Corps Christi, TX



**Rossy Aguila**  
Boerne, TX



**Lidia Lara**  
Mcallen, TX





**Lulu Cortez**  
Finance Director for the UFM

## - THE CHALLENGES OF TREASURER -

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

- A. Trainer of others is often the role of the treasurer. The members of the finance team are willing to learn, support, and contribute to the vision and mission of UFMT. Often, members of the financial team are new, but have a desire to learn and work together.
- B. The Treasurer requires technical knowledge of accounting background. It is also exploring the role of technology by deciding which is the best and safest tool

to use.

- C. The treasurer and board trustees must comply with legal and accounting requirements and create a sustainable yearly budget to operate from.
- D. Our faith in God's provision is tested, as it requires careful discernment when stepping out in faith and avoiding reckless spending beyond our needs. It is staying focused on the mission of UFMT.
- E. How does UFMT support its mission work? The mission work of UFMT is supported by individual members and churches who financially support the work of Union Femenil Misionera de Texas.
- F. Pray, pray, pray is a must! Asking for God's guidance where discernment is required, is a must by asking the Lord to guide us and seek His will.
- G. Ensuring that the finance team and board members know their responsibilities is a big responsibility. The treasurer cannot be managed in isolation, but in prayer, and with the finance team in place.
- H. Training should be on-going, and the team should be prepared for fulfilling the position in finding the next new treasurer. God accomplishes His work through our participation as a team and under His guidance.

**GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ABOUT GENEROSITY!  
THE WORLD WE LIVE IN DOES NOT! WHEN WE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY, WE INVEST INTO ETERNITY AND NOT TO THE  
WORLD.**



**Dr. Margoth Camacho**  
President of the UFM Board  
of Directors

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UFM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the last 5 years in which I have been involved with our Texas UFM, I have been given the opportunity to serve very closely with our Executive Director and other members of the Board of Directors. This has given me the opportunity to know the hearts of those who serve because, like me, we love this ministry. I have been a part of the UFM since my childhood, involved in their missionary organizations and later with Pastors in the different churches where God has led us to serve. We have always supported the mission of the UFM.

Today I serve as President of the Governance Committee, and each year when we meet we have the opportunity to evaluate our progress, but we also have the opportunity to look to the future and see what we still want to achieve in our Churches throughout the State. We pray asking God to help us find strategies to help more women from our UFM to get involved in this work of serving our communities, knowing that

there are many needs, not only within our Churches but also around our families and even distant communities.

In our annual meetings we have the opportunity to get to know our sisters more closely and to know their hearts that burn to serve our God. Some are achieving it and others lack resources, direction, support, or don't know how to do it. This is why we have our annual meeting, always with the hope that more and more women are involved in this task and ministry.

The Word of God always reminds us women and every child of God that "The harvest is plentiful..." and for that reason I encourage each woman to see the harvest, and also get involved in being part of those workers who are always indispensable for the work of God.

We have women, children, young people, and the elderly who expect us to be those workers ready to serve and give them a hand of support. And knowing that there are many women willing to invest time in the UFM, I invite you to find a way to serve, so you can call us, ask, and someone from the UFM will tell you how, where and when to get involved.

***We are designed in perfection.*** In the image of God we were created, that is, we have the wisdom of our God, which He gives us and equips us with service skills. It is up to us to make them emerge day by day and in every place where He takes us.





## GENERAL REPORT UFM OF TX 2020-2024

**Miryam Chairez**  
*President of UFM of Texas*

In 2020 in Lubbock; We were elected as officers of the UFM of Texas, Miryam Chairez, President; Ana Ramos, 1st VP; Maxi Portales, 2nd VP; and Melida Musquiz, Secretary. The theme for the annual meeting was STEPPIN' OUT IN FAITH. And we were exactly put to the test, that weekend everything was closed because of Covid, and now what? We had big plans and a lot of

enthusiasm but the Lord had other plans for us. Not being able to go out and travel to work, we began to pray and the Lord guided us to move forward in a very different way.

We started a Newsletter, to encourage the sisters to keep going during difficult times, we started with one article per week and we implemented other plans.

In April we started a meeting via Zoom and invited some pastors and wives to share their testimonies during this difficult time when their churches had closed. We met on May 4, the officers, Sister Bea Mesquias and 6 pastors and their wives from different areas of Texas, Houston, Fort Worth, Weslaco, Edinburg, Pasadena and Del Río.

On August 25, the UFBAL (Unión Femenil Bautista Alianza Latina) invited us to participate in its "Connected in Prayer" program with the theme, "Fasting and Prayer for Texas," in which many Latin countries came together via Zoom to pray. . And from there the idea to have prayer through Zoom was born. Sister Ana Ramos proposed to start our own prayer time where we could come together and invite everyone around Texas to pray for each other. Thus, in the month of August we began our Prayer Time via Zoom and although it was a technological challenge, God helped us. We carry out this event every third Monday of each month, with the theme, "From a contrite heart to a new heart" (Isaiah 43:19). We have had the participation of several cities around Texas, the RGV, Houston, Fort Worth, Odessa, and soon Austin. God has been faithful and we recently began broadcasting on Facebook live on the UFM of Texas page.

On September 18 we joined with UFBAL on Zoom and FB live with the theme, "Impacting my generations with good health."

On September 21 we had a training via Zoom, where we introduced the new material from the UFM of Texas; Leader's Manual and Tiempo de Trabajar. We thank the Sisters Bea Mesquias, Silvia Aké and Alma Valera for making this possible.

In the third week of September we received a letter from Buckner International expressing the great need they had. They were missing 13 thousand pairs of shoes but they only had until the last of September to achieve this. We got to work and thank God and all the churches that participated, we were able to collect 310 pairs of shoes, 127 pairs of socks, and a love offering of 200 dollars. To God be all the honor and glory!

In November we had a basket event, collecting food items and handing them out a week before Thanksgiving with the theme, "Sharing Blessings Luke 8:39: Go and tell how great things God has done for you." Some Churches held a pantry parade, where families drove and picked up their food, others took the food basket to the door of some families' houses and prayed for them. Some baskets had essential items such as gloves, lysol, germex, masks, etc.

In December we returned to collecting shoes for Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls. And again the UFM around the state of Texas got to work and we collected 332 pairs of shoes and 122 pairs of socks. How great is our God in a time where we thought we couldn't do much. God gave us victory, to Him be all honor and glory!

In 2021 we begin as officers Miryam Chairez, President; Maxi Portales, 1st Vice President; Guadalupe Esparza 2nd Vice President and Melida Musquiz, Secretary. We continue with Our Prayer Time on the third Monday of each month through Zoom and FB live, and many sisters around Texas participated.

On May 8th we participated in a Health Fair in the City of McAllen.

On June 12, I was in San Antonio and shared a conference titled, "Experiencing the Best of God," at the Angeles Heights Baptist Church where 5 churches from this same city participated.

In June we participated in the Annual Meeting of the Convencion Bautista Hispana de Texas where Maxi Portales and I shared a conference and collected children's shoes for a missionary activity in the Valley.

On July 10 we celebrated a missionary event in coordination with Vanessa Lerma from Ministerios del Río. We were at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen delivering 464 pairs of Shoes and 823 pairs of socks. It was a great blessing to have the opportunity to put a pair of shoes on each immigrant child.



On August 10 we were participating with the sisters of UFBAL (Unión Femenil Bautista América Latina) in its Connected in Prayer event. We were in charge of this event together with sisters from New York and New Jersey.

On November 12 we participated with the sisters of Ecuador on the World Day of Prayer.

In 2022, we Continue with Our Prayer Time. This year we had two themes: "Woman You Are Born to Shine-Isaiah 60:1" and "Dare to Fly Above the Difficulty-Isaiah 40:31." This year we begin with the theme, "With Our Eyes on Our God-Colossians 3:1-2."

On July 30 we went to Del Río at the Border Humanitarian Coalition where we worked with immigrants. We took 275 backpacks and Bibles for adults. We thank each of the churches that supported us in this event.

On September 10, I installed leaders of the UFM of the Rio Grande Valley.

On November 6 we were at Primera Iglesia Bautista Belton with Pastors Demetrio and Lidia Salazar honoring sister Martha Canava for 55 years of work at the UFM in her church, what a beautiful example!

In 2023, we continued with Our Prayer Time the theme, "I am the Woman that God Chose-1 Peter 2:9" and "Women of Prayer- 1 Thessalonians 5:17," where we were able to study the different women of the Bible. We have heard powerful messages, prayed for each other and heard testimonies of how God has responded; women that had been reached are now working at the UFM of Texas. We support our Sister Guadalupe Esparza, 2nd Vice President of the UFM of Texas in her ministry of helping the homeless. Our goal was 150 backpacks with hygiene products to distribute to each of them, prepare a hot meal and provide haircuts, glucose and high blood pressure checks. But above all, to share the Word of God with them. We thank God for the participation of each of the churches around Texas that came together to have this event. Thank you to the volunteers, thank you for the donations of backpacks and money, but above all for your prayers. Thanks to Susie Perez for her donation of 175 food plates. More than 350 backpacks were collected. Brother Sergio Ramos, President of the Convencion Bautista, shared the Word. We thank the Good Will Baptist Church and its Pastor Isidro Carranza for allowing us to hold this event in their Temple.

Four years of work and a lot of blessings, we thank Sister Bea Mesquias for her support. We thank Sister Silvia Aké for always being willing to help us in everything, she made 99% of the flyers to promote Our Prayer Time for the past four years. We also thank the following people for their great support and participation in Our Prayer Time: Sister Brenda Rincones, to the sisters of the Board of Directors and Nominations Committee, to our Brother Jesse Rincones, Executive Director of the CBH of Texas. To Brother Tony Miranda who during his time as President of the CBH of Texas invited us to collaborate in some activities. Thank you to Pastor Sergio Ramos, President of the CBH of Texas, for inviting us to participate in Convencion and for his support in participating in our missionary event. But we specially give thanks to our God, for His grace, provision and care during these four years.

Thank you to each of you for your trust in allowing me to be the President of the UFM of Texas these four years, it has been a great blessing and joy to be able to serve. We pray for our new leaders, that the Lord gives them wisdom to carry His work forward. **1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Miryam Chairez**  
President of UFM of Texas

***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23***

God is big, powerful and wonderful but sometimes I think He has a good sense of humor. In 2020, when I was called to be President of the UFM of Texas, the theme was, "STEPPIN' OUT IN FAITH." When we came back from the annual meeting, everything was closed due to Covid, and now what? How do we work if we can't go out? I remembered what Esther 4 says when Mordecai said to Esther, "Who knows if you have come here for such a time as this!"

God's timing is perfect, I have learned to totally trust the Lord, prayer is the most important thing for our daily life and even more important for leading a ministry. The Lord gave us wisdom and guidance to carry out His work during these four years, it was not easy but it was not impossible either. We have achieved big goals.

God continues to shape our lives and the work of the UFM, now that I will hand over my position as President, it is my prayer that we remain firm and to continue praying for the new leaders. We encourage them to make prayer their priority, and to always remember what the Word says in **1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."**

Trials, obstacles, discouragement will come, but by the hand of the Lord everything is easier. We learn new things every day, let us remember that God does not call the equipped, but he equips the called. Press ahead in the work of the Lord!





**Silvia Aké**  
Assistant Director  
UFM of Texas

# WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT TALENTS AND ABILITIES

***Our Heavenly Father gave each of us special talents and abilities.*** When we were born, we brought those talents and abilities with us.

Moses was a great leader, yet he needed his brother Aaron to be his spokesman (see Exodus 4:14-16). Some of us are leaders like Moses or are good speakers like Aaron; Others can sing or play an instrument very well, while there are those who are very good at teaching, or preaching, or have the ability to work very well with their hands. Other talents may be the ability to understand others, patience, or good sense of humor.

## **HOW HAVE YOU BENEFITED FROM THE TALENTS OF OTHERS?**

## **WE MUST USE AND IMPROVE OUR TALENTS: HOW CAN WE DEVELOP OUR TALENTS?**

We have the responsibility to grow the talents we have been given. Sometimes we think that we don't have many or that other people have been blessed with more abilities than we possess. Sometimes we don't use our talents for fear of failing or being criticized by others. However, we should not hide them; We must use them so that others can see our good works and glorify our Heavenly Father (see Matthew 5:16).

## **THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS WE CAN DO TO DEVELOP OUR TALENTS.**

***First, we must discover our talents and evaluate ourselves to know what our aptitudes and abilities are.*** Our family and friends can help us. We should also ask our Heavenly Father to help us know what they are.

***Second, we must be willing to put in the time and effort*** to develop the talents we wish to acquire.

***Third, we must have faith*** that our Heavenly Father will help us, but also have faith in ourselves.

***Fourth, we must learn and acquire the skills***

**AS GOD'S CO-WORKERS WE URGE YOU NOT TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN. 2 FOR HE SAYS, "IN THE TIME OF MY FAVOR I HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU."**

-2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-2 (NIV)

necessary to develop our talents. We can do this by taking a class, asking a friend to teach us, or reading books about it.

***Fifth, we must put our talents into practice;*** All talent requires effort and work and mastering it requires dedication.

***Sixth, we must share our talents with others;*** These improve when we put them into practice (see Matthew 25:29).

All of these steps are easier to accomplish if we pray and seek the Lord's help. He wants us to develop our talents and will help us achieve it.

The UFM of Texas invites you to discover your talents and use them to help the organization's funds to be able to do more missionary work in Texas and in our country. Remember that we are God's collaborators in His work.



PUT YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS  
TO HELP WITH UFM FINANCES  
**CONTACT LULU CORTEZ**  
**(210) 421-8399**





**SHINE Girls Conference** is a 2-day state-wide winter event held in San Antonio where teen girls, young adults, and women of all ages are encouraged by the message of Jesus Christ and empowered to live for Him daily. ***This ministry was birthed by God in the heart of Brenda Rincones with a passion to reach the younger generation.***

Because it is completely run by volunteers, it is self-sufficient and able to provide basic needs. But thanks to the donations of individuals, churches, and organizations like UFM Texas, SHINE is able to reach out to other regions throughout the state to share the gospel and reach more young girls and women with the transforming message of Jesus.

Recently, UFM Texas gave a \$500 donation to Convencion Bautista Hispana de Texas' 2023 end-of-year campaign, which supported the work Convención does with Young Latino Leaders, Conexión Pastors Wives, and SHINE Girls Conference. We praise God and trust that He will bless every offering given for His glory. We encourage you to continue supporting UFM Texas.

And we invite you to pray for the ministry of SHINE. In the last two years, we have seen a noticeable decline in the mental health of our girls and women that attend SHINE. We saw an overwhelming number share that they struggle with feelings of fear and loneliness, and several have contemplated suicide. We know that the pandemic created traumatic stressors.

**"I HAD THE MOST AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT SHINE. THE WAY I COULD FEEL AND SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WAS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER. I THANK GOD FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SHARED THIS EXPERIENCE WITH MY MOM, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I AM LOVED. I AM FORGIVEN. I AM CHOSEN!"**

-MAKAYLA RODRÍGUEZ-11/20/23-SHINE LUBBOCK

So during our 2-day conferences we have created workshops where we address hard issues. Our target demographic is Latina teens because we know that minorities and girls are amongst the most vulnerable and underserved. And we invite and welcome women of all ages because God's word is for all, and the mandate of Titus 2 calls for older women to disciple young girls.

The adult women play a critical role, and we discuss these issues with them so they can better understand what this generation is facing. It is encouraging to receive feedback from those that attend.

For more information or to support this work, visit our website or follow on social media.

**WWW.SHINEGIRLS.NET**







## WEEK OF PRAYER & MISSIONS OFFERING

*Bea Mesquias*

**GOAL \$30,000**

Scholarships

Convención

Mission  
Work in  
Texas

Christian  
Education  
& Training

Speakers  
& Retreats

UFMT



**SEND YOUR OFFERINGS TO:**

**27722 Cascabel Lane  
San Antonio, TX 78260**

*Write on memo line: Week of Prayer*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**APRIL 20** | BLOOM  
SAN ANTONIO

**MAY 3-4** | RETIRO DE ORACIÓN  
ALTO FRIO

**JUN 30-JUL 2** | CONVENCION  
HOUSTON

**SEPT 6-7** | XV YEARS UNCR  
HOUSTON

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

956.929.8729

AKE\_SILVIA@HOTMAIL.COM