

December 14, 2025

West Hill

Church of Christ

Walk and Work Together in the Light

The Salvation Army: To Give or Not to Give

By Steve Higginbotham

I wish you well as you brave the cold winter weather, the agitated shoppers, and the long lines at the check-out stands. Along with these holiday standards are the “soldiers” from the Salvation Army, ringing bells and soliciting donations to help the needy.

The Salvation Army raises approximately \$100 million through these holiday donations. Their solicitation appeals to our sense of benevolence at a time when we are feeling particularly benevolent. Surely there would be no harm in making donations to these tireless workers who are willing to endure the cold winds of December, or is there?

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth, a Methodist preacher, in 1865. Booth believed that God had called him to minister to the outcast. His philosophy was “Soup, Soap, and Salvation, believing that a person who is hungry or in need of a bath would not be interested in the gospel. So, in 1878, Booth and his wife, Catherine, organized the Salvation Army as a new denominational church, with the Protestant doctrine of Methodism. Booth designated himself as General, his best leaders as lieutenants, captains, and majors, and faithful converts became soldiers.

Thus, the Salvation Army differs from other benevolent organizations such as “The Red Cross,” or “The American Heart Association,” in that it is a church, a religious denomination. As a religious denomination, it teaches a distorted gospel and does not teach what one must do to be saved.

But does the fact that the Salvation Army does a lot of good mean that we should support them? Let me answer with a few questions. “Should a Christian, a member of the church that Jesus purchased with His own blood, support a man-made religious body, which rivals the Lord’s church? “Should we support by our donations a false religious organization that teaches a false plan of salvation, which, if followed, will cause people to come short of obeying Jesus?”

Friends, an organization that feeds the stomach but starves the spirit, is not truly helpful. I certainly don’t question their sincerity or their willingness to help the poor, but their zeal is not according to knowledge (Romans 10:2). Instead of doing our benevolence through a denominational church, why don’t we maintain a benevolent spirit, giving as we are prospered to the church, and let Christ be glorified through His church (Ephesians 3:21).

As the little bell is rung in your direction this holiday season, why don’t you join me in politely saying, “I do my benevolent work through my local church.”

Sunday: Worship 10:30am & Class 5:00pm

Tuesday: Benevolence 9:00-10:00am & Young at Heart Class 10:30am

Wednesday: Class 6:30pm

Address: 3400 W Hwy 22, Corsicana, TX 75110 • **Phone:** 903-872-5696
Email: office@westhillchurchofchrist.org • **Website:** westhillchurchofchrist.org

God's Wisdom for the Hard Times

Walking in Wisdom Series

Psalm 130

Psalm 130:1

Out of the _____

What can You do? Maybe _____

But there is _____ who can!

But you may have to _____ (What can you do
while you _____?)

Psalm 130:1b-2

You can _____

Psalm 130:3-4

You can _____ God's Power

Psalm 130:5-8

You can _____ and _____

La sabiduría de Dios para los tiempos difíciles

Serie Caminando en Sabiduría

Salmo 130

Salmo 130:1

Desde lo _____

¿Qué puedes hacer? Quizás _____

¡Pero hay _____ que sí puede!

Pero quizás tengas que _____ (¿Qué puedes
hacer mientras _____?)

Salmo 130:1b-2

Puedes _____

Salmo 130:3-4

Puedes _____ el poder de Dios

Salmo 130:5-8

Puedes _____ y _____

Our End of the Year Contribution

will be held on December 14th

The Elders request your prayerful consideration in contributing to our many works



Church Leadership & Westhill Works

Deacons

David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Casey Hendrix - 817.307.2127
Michael Jones - 430.236.2244
Matt Newman - 972.935.5789
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Jose Sosa - 903.872.0535
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Mike Wylie - 214.837.3848
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Shepherds

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
Percell Milton - 214.803.2644
Rusty Owens - 903.229.3650
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Ministers

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Brandon Watson - 903.771.6359 (Family)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

Community Outreach

Addiction [Recovery](#) Counseling
Benevolence Program
Food for Fitness

Forever His

Wed. Night Focus Groups
Spanish ESL Classes

Local Missions

Apologetics Press - Jeremy Pate
Bear Valley - Wayne Jones
Cherokee Children's Home
Disaster Relief
The Jenkins Institute
Memphis School of Preaching
WVBS school.wvbs.org

U.S. Mission Points

Tilton, NH & Mesa, AZ

Foreign Missions

Cameroon Preacher Training
India Preacher Training

Prayer Needs:

Tanya Rowden recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Steve Gaines recovering well from corrective heart surgery.

Cam Haden recovering from back surgery.

Ruth Ann Watson began dialysis.

Tanya Rowden's daughter, Tiffany Smith, recovering from heart bypass surgery in Longview, TX.

Angela Moore has a hole in her eardrum from a fungal infection, causing hearing loss.

We extend our sympathy to the **Lightfoot family** of Lubbock, TX after their recent sudden passing.

Continue to remember: Bronny & Ruth Watson, Dan & Rita Dominy, Eula Henry, John Braly, Louie & Patty Williams, Nick Tooley, Bill & Beverly Abercrombie, Beverly Heathcote, David Mahoney, Millard & Martha Dowdle, Carol Barham, Judi Olsen, Joseph Haden, & Patty Williams

Announcements:

End-of-Year Special Contribution – Sun, Dec 14
Today's contribution will go toward the growing ministries, works and needs of Westhill. We invite you to prayerfully consider how your giving can advance the Lord's Kingdom.

Gift Bag Assembly & Delivery – Sun, Dec 14
Youth will meet at 3 PM in the Outreach Center to assemble and deliver gift bags.

Youth Christmas Party - Wed, Dec. 17 • 5:30–6:30pm
For children 5th grade and below. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun! RSVP with Brandon: (903) 771-6359.

Tuesday Night Devotional – Dec 23 @ 6:30pm
Please note: There will be no Wednesday service on Dec 24.

Wednesday Night Prayer Service – Dec 31 @ 6:30pm
Join us for a special prayer service, then stay afterward as we ring in the New Year together.

Next Men's Breakfast – Fri. Jan. 9 @ 7am

WOW Ladies' Retreat – Jan 30–31, 2026
Theme: "You Can Do Hard Things" w/ speaker Lindsay Olsen.

Young at Heart Class meets on Tues. @ 10:30am.

Westhill ARC (Addiction Recovery Counseling) meets weekly - contact Jay Mahoney

Staffed nursery available for babies up to 2 yr old.
Nursery Attendant this week:

This Week's Birthdays

December 14 - John Braly, Korri Nicholson, Diana Ramirez, & Billy Roughton

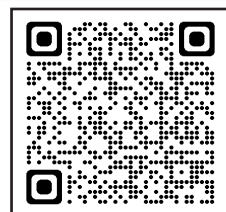
December 18 - Jordan Banks & Natasha Vargas

Records for December 7, 2025

AM Worship..... 192
Contribution \$15,056

Visitor Form

Thank you for joining us for worship! We would love to follow-up with you...



Privileged to Serve

AM Song Leader

Justin Williams

AM Opening Prayer

Dan Gibson

Scripture Reading

Paul Wells

Communion Leader

Rusty Smith

Communion Servers

Carson Barham

Luke Baumgartner

Micah Haden

Joshua Miller

Donny Beal

Rick Newton

Jason Burnett

Dylan Nors

Ronnie Giles

Ti Saulus

AM Closing Prayer

Colton Gowan

PM Song Leader

Justin Williams

PM Opening Prayer

Terry Hoehn

PM Devo

Brandon Watson

PM Closing Prayer

Samuel Ramirez

Wed. Song Leader

Michael Jones

Wed. Invitation

James Olsen

Dec. Worship Coord.

Matt Newman / Billy Roughton

Dec. Elder of Month

Rusty Owens