



Greetings in Christ! Thanks so much for taking the time to attend the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) volunteer safety training. This is a necessary step in your becoming an “approved” volunteer, so you can enter the prison on a regular basis without escort.

The training in Austin is offered at the Travis State Jail from 8am till noon on selected Saturdays. Below are directions to the Travis State Jail and other pertinent information needed for your training.

**Before you go:** You must have your training approval letter from TDCJ before you can attend the training. This letter is your entry ticket, so remember to bring it with you to the training. If you don't have your training letter, either you haven't sent in your application for training or you've sent in your application but haven't yet received your approval letter. If you need an application, let us know, and we'll send you one. If you've sent in your application a few weeks ago and still haven't received your approval letter, you can call the Volunteer Services office at Huntsville to check on your status. Their number is (936)437-4977.

Also, please RSVP to the Travis State Jail to let them know you'll be attending training. Their number is (512)926-4482.

**Location:** The address for the Travis State Jail is 8101 FM 969 (also known as MLK Blvd in east Austin), about one mile east of Hwy 183 on the south side of the road.

If you're coming from south Austin, take Hwy 71 east to Hwy 183 north (which is the exit just before the airport). From Hwy 183, take the MLK/FM 969 Blvd exit to the right. After turning right onto FM 969, the Travis Unit is approximately one mile on the right. If you're coming from north Austin, take Hwy 183 south and turn left on MLK. The Travis Unit is approximately one mile on the right.

Upon your arrival, please park in the front parking lot and enter the doors near the flagpole.

**Time:** Try to arrive at the prison around 7:30 – 7:45am. You'll have to go through an airport-like security check at the front gate, and there may be a line, so allow time for this. The officials at the entry will show you to the training room.

**Other regulations:** With regard to dress, the Travis State Jail does not allow sandals, shorts, or white shirts. Cell phones and pagers are also prohibited. Wallets and all money should be left in the car. You will need only your driver's license and perhaps a writing pen and tablet. If you drove, you can carry your car keys.

**After you go:** After you take the training, be sure to let us at the God of Hope Ministries know that you completed the training. We still have to get your approval transferred to the “access list” at the unit where you'll be serving (presently either the Travis State Jail or the Lockhart Prison). This will take another couple of weeks. Once we notify you that you're on the access list, then you can enter the prison with only your driver's license.

We are fortunate to have this opportunity to share the hope of God with people who are in desperate need, so I appreciate your willingness to go through the procedure to become an approved volunteer. It really is worth it!

In His service,

Mike Kump – Volunteer Coordinator – God of Hope Ministries  
mmkump@austin.rr.com

God of Hope office: (512)891-1649