



MISSIONS 2020



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

MISSIONS 2020

Moments before leaving this earth, standing before men and women He had trained, equipped, and mentored—His disciples—Jesus gave this command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19) Jesus’ command was clear: His disciples were to go and teach others about Jesus and His message in the same way that Jesus Himself had taught them. Just as they had been discipled, they were to go and make disciples.

Houston’s First Missions is absolutely, singularly dedicated to fulfilling Jesus’ commission. We believe that Jesus’ command to His disciples wasn’t a last-minute adage; it was the final, natural progression of their discipleship. It was the reason for which they were called.

In order to make disciples, one must be discipled.

Therefore, following Jesus’ model, Houston’s First Missions is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission through providing church members, missionaries, and missions organizations with the resources and opportunities they need to be and to make disciples. This year alone, over 180 missionaries were supported, over \$3.8 million in support was given to missionaries and missions organizations, and over 2,340 church members were mobilized on missions trips around the world.

The Apostle Paul writes that those who have been saved by God’s grace “have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel.” (1 Thessalonians 2:4) God has chosen to achieve His plan of redemption through us; His Gospel goes forth through His people. We are proud of the work that has been done and continues to be done in and through Houston’s First, but ultimately, what drives our church’s Gospel efforts are disciples who have made the decision to become who they were created to be.

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God pursued you with His grace in order that you may know Him and grow in your knowledge and reflection of Him. However, like the disciples, the natural and final progression of your relationship with the Lord is not merely to grow in your knowledge of Him. Rather, God has a plan for your life. God has uniquely gifted and impassioned you to fulfill His Great Commission in ways that only you can. Houston’s First Missions is fulfilling this commission all around the city, nation, and world, and thousands have already joined in our vast and varied efforts. Join us in completing the work God has begun by fully stepping into who He created you to be.

IN 2020, WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GO?



GO

MISSION TRIPS

As an important piece of our desire to reach the nations with the Gospel and to play a key role in the discipleship of Houston's First members, hundreds of members are mobilized each year on short-term mission trips. Houston's First is passionate about mobilizing church members and exposing them to the work of the Gospel—and consequently God's heart for the nations—all around the world.

There are dozens of trip opportunities year-round, to dozens of nations, at all campuses. Houston's First Missions is committed to continually, unrelentingly creating opportunities for church members to support our partners around the world, reaping a mutually beneficial harvest of new disciples.

The opportunities are available. Houston's First Missions is able to provide much financial guidance and assistance to whomever is interested in a mission trip. Take the next step in your faith journey—where is God calling you to GO?

For more information regarding trips, opportunities, or assistance, visit HoustonsFirst.org, text HFBCMISSIONS to 41411, or contact the missions representative at your campus:

CAMPUS MISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES

The Loop: Ameer Omar, Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org

Cypress: Zac Hufty, Zac.Hufty@HoustonsFirst.org

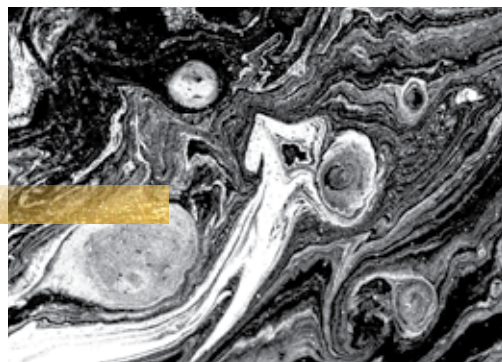
Downtown: Peter Lee, Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

Sienna: Ron Barkley, Ron.Barkley@HoustonsFirst.org



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

Meet the Jordans! They are serving Jesus and discipling young Europeans in Budapest, Hungary. Their vision is to see young Europeans transformed from orphans to Spirit-filled sons and daughters by investing in young Christian influencers with personal and spiritual development tools to cultivate vibrant friendship with God, satisfaction in their day, and lasting impact in their world! They have lived in Budapest for a total of 5 1/2 years and they believe the best is yet to come for this region of Europe.



MISSIONARY CARE

At Houston's First Missions, we firmly believe in caring for our missionaries with excellence. This is done in a variety of ways: missionary home groups (for returned global workers), monthly newsletters and giveaways, hosting missionary retreats, international care trips, and lastly, through our Adopt-a-Missionary program.

Although our missionaries are doing incredible and truly invaluable work, they are often one of the most overlooked demographics in ministry. Therefore, the involvement of church members in the lives of missionaries is truly a game-changer—for both the missionaries and for those who have chosen to engage in the lives of these global workers.

For information on the Adopt-a-Missionary program and other ways to get involved in Missionary Care here at Houston's First, contact Minister of Missionary Care Skyler Womack at Skyler.Womack@HoustonsFirst.org.



LOCAL MISSIONS

To “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) seems so difficult and so far away. However, the nations are here in our city! The strategies to reach them are simple, biblical, easy to learn, and useful for all types of people — your neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family.

Reach out to Houston’s First Local Missions and they can help you take steps to engage those around you, and even those from other nations right here in our city. For more information, contact Director of Local Missions Justin Seale at Justin.Seale@HoustonsFirst.org.

FAITH CENTER SPRING BRANCH

As a part of your discipleship journey, are you beginning to wonder how you can serve at church or get involved? The Faith Center–Spring Branch relies primarily on volunteers to impact hundreds of lives on a weekly basis. If you are an individual, family, group, or Life Bible Study, there are numerous service opportunities for you.

The Faith Center–Spring Branch’s ministry verse is Matthew 25:35: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Living that out, they serve our city through a food pantry, clothes closet, ESL classes, and a kids’ club, among other things. Every week, lives are touched and changed for eternity and with your help we can reach more kids, students, and adults.

If you would like to experience this ministry, please come by during business hours. If you are ready to plug into this ministry, please reach out — there is a place for you at the Faith Center–Spring Branch. Contact Faith Center Associate Director Claudia Reyes for more information at Claudia.Reyes@HoustonsFirst.org.

Open daily (except Fri & Sun) @ 10a–1p
8009 Long Point Rd, Houston, TX 77055

FAITH CENTER HARWIN

At Faith Center–Harwin, the neighbors in our city are being helped in all kinds of important ways: a top-rate food pantry, ESL classes, legal assistance, counseling services, and job placement assistance. Just like the Good Samaritan helped the man traveling on the road (Luke 10:30), volunteers serve those in need at Faith Center–Harwin.

Single adults, couples, families, old, and young regularly serve and provide assistance to those in need. More important than mere assistance, all who come to Faith Center–Harwin hear of Jesus, the giver of true life and salvation.

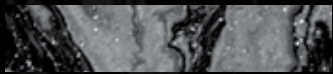
Training to do all this is provided, and it’s simple to learn. To get started, just reach out to Director of Local Missions Justin Seale at Justin.Seale@HoustonsFirst.org.

Tue, Thu & Sat @ 10a–1p
5860 Ranchester Dr #833, Houston, TX 77036

HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG



Faith Center–Harwin



Faith Center–Spring Branch

LEGACY 685

Legacy 685 is the Adoption, Foster, and Orphan Care Ministry of Houston’s First. Legacy 685 connects, equips, and sustains adoptive and foster families, as well as global organizations who are serving vulnerable children and families. Legacy 685 provides opportunities for local families to gather and grow together at The Loop, Cypress, and Sienna Campuses, and mobilizes teams to serve alongside global orphan care partners in places like Guatemala and Kenya. If you are a foster or adoptive family or are interested in volunteering, Legacy 685 would love to connect with you! For more information regarding this ministry and ways to connect, visit our Adoption, Foster, and Orphan Care page at HoustonsFirst.org, text LEGACY685 to 41411, or contact Legacy 685 Director Toni Steere at Toni.Steere@HoustonsFirst.org or the Legacy 685 coordinator at your campus:

LEGACY 685 CAMPUS COORDINATORS

CYPRESS:

Legacy685Cypress@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA:

Legacy685Sienna@HoustonsFirst.org





PRAYER

One of the primary ways that we, as disciples, grow in intimacy and connection with our Father is through prayer. Come and be a part of Houston's First's prayer ministry through prayer before and during our worship services, prayer during the invitation moment, monthly Monday Night Prayer gatherings at The Loop Campus, and many other avenues. The God of the universe's desire to spend time with you and other believers is an awe-inspiring reality! If you have questions about prayer opportunities, please contact Minister of Prayer & Connection Gabriel Ianculovici at Gabriel.Ianculovici@HoustonsFirst.org or a staff member at your campus.

ASSIMILATION

Our assimilation ministry exists to help integrate people into Houston's First by way of church membership, Life Bible Studies, and areas of service.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership at Houston's First is open to anyone who has:

- placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins
- been baptized through immersion by a body of believers of like faith and practice
- agreed with Houston's First's Statement of Faith and Church By-Laws

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Available at every campus, Life Bible Studies are communities within the church—they are how a big church becomes smaller. All Houston's First attendees are encouraged to try out a Life Bible Study and discover community and connection within these biblically-modeled communities.

SERVING AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

God has gifted every believer with a spiritual gift, gifts that are meant to build up the church and fellow believers. We would love to help you discover your gift so that you can experience abundant life through giving it away!

If you are looking to connect more deeply to the life of the church, visit the Connection Center at your campus after any worship service and talk to any staff member or volunteer. You can also find helpful information online, or contact the assimilation representative at your campus:

ASSIMILATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Loop: Kevin Spivey, Kevin.Spivey@HoustonsFirst.org

Cypress: Zac Hufty, Zac.Hufty@HoustonsFirst.org

Downtown: Peter Lee, Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

Sienna: Malcolm Marshall, Malcolm.Marshall@HoustonsFirst.org

THE INTERNSHIP

Are you a college student looking to take the next step in your discipleship journey? Or, do you know any such students? Each year, Houston's First Missions hosts a summer Internship for college students — a two-month investment program. The Internship is dedicated to developing current and future kingdom leaders by enabling them to be a part of some of Houston's best ministry work and exposing them to incredible teaching and intentional community.

This program is an investment. You are not mere workhorses for Houston's First Missions' ministry purposes; investing in you is the ministry purpose. Our team wants to equip and empower college students to live out the Gospel wherever God might be taking them. Contact Missions Internship Director Brady Sharp for more information at Brady.Sharp@HoustonsFirst.org.



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