



YEAR-END GIVING

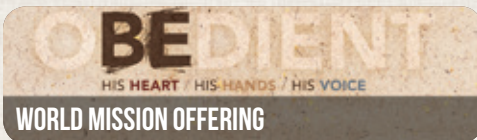
As 2012 comes to an end, the church can assist you with making contributions that will qualify as a charitable donation for tax purposes. Here are three ways you can give:

- **IN PERSON:** The church business office is open Mon–Fri from 8a–4:30p. They will be open until 4:30p on Mon, Dec 31, 2012, to receive contributions that will qualify as a 2012 donation.
- **BY MAIL:** Any donations received via mail will be treated as a 2012 donation if the postmark date on the envelope is before Jan 1, 2013.
- **ONLINE:** Any donations made via the church's website at HoustonsFirst.org/OnlineGiving before midnight on Dec 31, 2012, will qualify as a 2012 donation.

Please contact Kerry Hunter at 713.957.5806 or at Kerry.Hunter@HoustonsFirst.org should you desire additional information.

Gifts of Stock

The gifting of stock to the church is a “win-win” situation for both the donor and the church. Since the church is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, the gift will qualify as a charitable contribution and is tax deductible. This is a very simple and easy process that can be coordinated through the Financial Services office of the church. On all tax questions, it is advisable to consult with your tax advisor or CPA. If you donate a gift of stock, or desire additional information, please contact Amber Willet at 713.957.5807 or at Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org.



Nov 2012–Jan 2013

As of November 2012, there are 7 billion people on planet Earth – and an estimated 1.7 billion have little or no access to the Gospel. Collected each year, the World Mission Offering (WMO) supports missionaries serving with the Southern Baptist Convention around the world to share the Gospel.

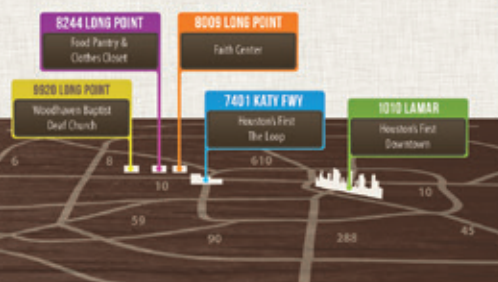
These funds, given in addition to our regular tithes, will support missionary-sending organizations and are dispersed as follows by Houston's First:

- International Mission Board – 85%
- North American Mission Board – 10%
- Southern Baptists of Texas State Missions – 5%

To give, use a WMO envelope and place it in the offering plate, or make your donation online.

- HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering
- Hannah.Bullard@HoustonsFirst.org

TIMES, LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS

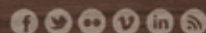


SUNDAYS AT THE LOOP

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5:30p
Life Bible Study 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 4:15p • 6:45p
Kids' Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5:30p

SUNDAYS DOWNTOWN

Worship 11a
Life Bible Study 9:30a



Sat, Dec 15 @ 10a–1p — The Loop (Fitness & Recreation Ctr)

Candy Cane Lane is a Christmas party for kids birth through 5th grade with bounce houses, games, crafts, candy, photo ops – and a special area just for ages 4 and under!

In addition, Candy Cane Lane features *One Starry Night* — an interactive biblical experience that transforms the Fitness & Recreation Center into 1st century Bethlehem. Taste, see, and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born on your own personal guided tour!

Admission to Candy Cane Lane and *One Starry Night* is free, and food is available for purchase.

HoustonsFirst.org/CandyCaneLane



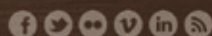
A CALL TO PRAYER

Houston's First is intentionally praying for our city, nation and world from Sep–Dec 2012. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Prayer for additional resources to guide your time of prayer.

CURRENT THEME: World **THIS WEEK'S FOCUS:** Global cities
Pray for Rio De Janeiro as we work to start a new church plant.

RELATED VERSES: 1 Corinthians 3:6–9

OUR CITY (Sep 9–30) | OUR NATION (Oct 7–Nov 4) | OUR WORLD (Nov 11–Dec 30)



NEWS + UPDATES

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant, biblical community where we **gather our hearts**, **grow our souls** and **give our lives** as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

TWEET OF THE WEEK: "Just heard the neighbor children across the street jumping on the trampoline in shorts, singing Feliz Navidad. Only in Texas!" — @GreggMatte

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mon, Dec 24 @ 4p & 6p — The Loop (Worship Ctr)
Gather on Christmas Eve as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with worship through song and a message from Pastor Gregg. Choose from 2 identical candlelight services.

HoustonsFirst.org

UNDER THE TEXAS SKY HOEDOWN

Mon, Dec 31 @ 7:30p–1a — George Ranch Historical Park
Men, shine up those boots and ladies get your dance card ready for the 15th annual Summit Hoedown! Ring in the new year with a live band, mechanical bull, calf roping, hayrides, games and more. Get tickets now online!

HoustonsFirst.org/Hoedown

2013 MISSION TRIPS

Where will God send you?

Where might God be leading you to give your life away in 2013? Mission trips are planned for East Asia, Haiti, Costa Rica, Brazil, New York and more! Go online to learn more and complete an interest form.

HoustonsFirst.org/Missions

CHURCHWIDE

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

To find a Life Bible Study on Sundays, visit the Welcome Center or go to HoustonsFirst.org/BibleStudies. Here are some to consider:

- **Crown** @ 10:45a, Reception Rm, adults 70–90
- **Dayspring** @ 10:45a, Garden Rm, women all ages
- **Veritas** @ 10:45a, Rm 405, couples married 2–5 years
- **EPIC – Chronological Bible Study** @ 6:45p, Harbor Rm, single adults 20–39

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wed, Dec 12 @ 11:30a — 1010 Lamar (tunnel level)
Pastor Gregg Matte speaks at this week's Downtown Bible study at the location of our Downtown Campus. Lunch begins at 11:30a for \$8, and Bible study takes place from 12:10–12:40p.

- HoustonsFirst.org/HighPoint
- Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Every Thu @ 6–9p — Oasis Rm
This ministry, based on biblical principles, provides a safe and confidential place for people to break out of life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups and into God's grace! Everyone is welcome for fellowship, worship, teaching, and small groups.

- HoustonsFirst.org/CelebrateRecovery
- Huston.McComb@HoustonsFirst.org

ABSENT MOVIE PREMIERE

Wed, Jan 9 @ 6:15p — The Loop (Worship Ctr)
Houston's First will host the Texas premiere of the award-winning documentary *Absent* by Justin Hunt. Learn about the effects of absent fathers in the lives of men and women and participate in a Q&A with Justin. Admission is \$5. Go online to view the movie trailer and learn more!

- HoustonsFirst.org/Absent
- Bethany.Caplet@HoustonsFirst.org

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Jan 11–12, 2013 — The Loop (Worship Ctr)
Learn ways that you can make an impact for God in our world at this conference Fri evening and Sat morning. Register online. Cost is \$20 in advance; \$30 at the door.

- HoustonsFirst.org/Missions
- Hannah.Bullard@HoustonsFirst.org

GIVING LIFE AWAY EXPO

Jan 13–27 — The Loop (Main Foyer)
Come discover opportunities to give your life away! Learn about missions, volunteering, prayer, evangelism and much more—and talk to people who are already doing it!

- HoustonsFirst.org/GLAExpo
- Hannah.Bullard@HoustonsFirst.org

HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

Christmas Weekend

Sun, Dec 23
Regular worship service schedule
No Life Bible Studies

New Year's Weekend

Sun, Dec 30
Regular worship service schedule
Life Bible Studies will meet

UPCOMING

JAN 11 **Summit Celebrates Missions**
7p — Oasis Rm
HoustonsFirst.org/SummitNews

JAN 15–MAR 5 **Living Proof Bible Study with Beth Moore**
The Loop (Worship Ctr)
LProof.org

JAN 16 **MidLink spring semester begins**
Wed nights at The Loop
HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink

JAN 19–20 **AsWeGo Weekend**
For 7th–12th graders
HoustonsFirst.org/HUBMissions

JAN 25 **Midnight Madness**
5:30p–Midnight — The Loop
For Life Bible Study leadership & potential leaders

JAN 27 **Fitness Expo**
Noon–3p — The Loop (Fitness & Recreation Ctr)
HoustonsFirst.org/FitnessExpo

FEB 22 **Big Night Out**
For married young adults
HoustonsFirst.org/BigNightOut

MAR 3 **Make It Your Church Orientation**
12:30p & 4p — The Loop
HoustonsFirst.org/NewMember

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Sun @ 8:30–9a — The Loop (Connection Ctr)
Need prayer? Staff and volunteers are on hand to pray with and for you each Sunday morning — no matter what your request may be.

Need more info? Call 713.681.8000 to get in touch with us. Connect with us online anytime at HoustonsFirst.org or follow us on



CREATING A WORSHIPFUL ENVIRONMENT. Worship requires our full attention. We ask that you: >> finish food and drinks before entering >> silence cell phones >> use the restroom before the service (take your children, too!) >> remain seated once our time of Bible study begins. At the end of the worship service, people will be invited to accept Christ or join the church. Please remain in the service during this time. Pastor Gregg and other worshipers will appreciate your thoughtfulness.