

# MISSION 1:8

## UPDATES

### POOR, WIDOWS, ORPHANS, & PRISONERS

As Our Own is a ministry in India that rescues vulnerable children from certain enslavement and exploitation, caring for them as our own. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, Houston's First recently presented As Our Own with a financial gift that will provide a lead gift to their Capital Campaign and provide funding for the launch of their Sparrows Nest campus. Mission teams from Houston's First travel to India throughout the year to work with this ministry, so watch for details about upcoming trips in 2014.



### OUR CITY

Our three multisite locations each participated in Houston 1:8 the week of July 7-11. Cypress hosted a free sports camp, offered VBS at local apartments, and held backyard Bible clubs around town. Downtown ministered to the homeless, volunteered at the Houston Food Bank, hosted international students for dinner, served at Kelly Village ministry site, and prayer-walked through Downtown and the Texas Medical Center. Sienna partnered with CrossingPoint Church in Arcola to provide VBS for area children.



### OUR NATION

Later this month, a team from The Loop and Cypress are headed to Boston to work with City on a Hill Church in Brookline (Aug 31-Sep 7). Next month, 21 ladies from the As One Life Bible Study at The Loop are going on a prayer mission trip Sep 12-15 to pray for New York City and for the ministry of First Baptist Church in Manhattan. A group from The Loop and Downtown are partnering with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and their church planters Oct 11-17. Out west, a new church plant we're supporting in the San Francisco area is up and running in Oakland — theMOVEMENT with Lead Pastor Edward Paz and his wife Rebekah (right).



### OUR WORLD

MISSION 1:8 identifies Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, and East Asia as our three strategic global areas for sharing the Gospel. But, Houston's First continues to send mission teams and develop relationships with ministries doing His work in other nations. This summer alone, we've sent teams to Cambodia; Chimaltenango, Guatemala; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Quetzaltenango, Guatemala; Honduras; India; Dublin & Galway, Ireland; Nairobi, Kenya; Lebanon; Mvolo, South Sudan; Granada, Spain; and Valencia, Spain. Visit [HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips](http://HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips) to see where we're going later in 2013.

## 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: "I officially moved my church membership to @HoustonFirst today. Somewhat nervous but grateful to have found such a great church." — Catarina Cron, @thecatarina

### ALL CAMPUSES

**HighPoint Bible Study**  
Every Wed @ 11:30a — 1010 Lamar (tunnel level)  
HighPoint meets at our Downtown Campus with lunch beginning at 11:30a for \$8, and Bible study taking place from 12:10-12:40p. On Aug 7, Executive Pastor David Self shares "Stories From Around The World" with a focus on China. On Aug 14, he'll begin a series on "Making A Difference In Your Business." **CONTACT** Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org

**Become A Stephen Minister**  
Applications due Sun, Aug 25  
Stephen Ministers are Houston's First members equipped after 50 hours of training to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or experiencing difficulty in their lives. If you're interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, apply by Sun, Aug 25, to attend the fall training Wed, Sep 4-Nov 20, at The Loop. **CONTACT** Debbie.Portilla @HoustonFirst.org

**Miss PattyCake**  
Sat, Sep 7 @ 8a-1p — The Loop  
Parents and their young children are invited to spend the morning with Miss PattyCake! After breakfast, she'll share words of encouragement with the parents while the children play, then she'll lead a "PattyCake Praise" Concert for everyone! Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events). **CONTACT** Haylee.Pearson@HoustonFirst.org

**Empowered To Connect Conference**  
Sep 13-14 — The Loop  
This two-day event is designed to help adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders, and professionals better understand how to connect with children from hard places. Sponsored by Show Hope in association with Focus On The Family and Houston's First. Details and registration at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events). **CONTACT** Toni.Steere@HoustonFirst.org

**MEN**  
Men: Serve  
Sat, Aug 24 @ 8:30a-3p — The Loop  
Men will gather at The Loop then go out in teams to serve the widows of our church family through yard work, home repairs, and other projects. Advance registration is required, so sign up to serve at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events). **CONTACT** Eric.Reed@HoustonFirst.org

### THE LOOP

**CHILDREN**  
End of Summer Party  
Fri, Aug 23 @ 6-10p  
Warrior Field (Silver and Long Point)  
Kids entering 1st-5th grades - end the summer with a splash with a water day at Warrior Field! Wear something you wouldn't mind getting wet in (think water games and slides!) Kids will enjoy food and fun with Mr. Chad, the FirstKids staff, and friends at the End of Summer Party — a bash they won't want to miss! **CONTACT** Amanda.Westberry@HoustonFirst.org

### STUDENTS

**Fall Kick-Off**  
Fri, Aug 23 @ 6-9p — HUB Student Area  
Students will close out the summer and kick off the new semester with a night of fun and games! Middle School will play Clue, and High School will have the HUB Game Challenge. This is a great time to invite friends, so start asking now! **CONTACT** Susan.Newman@HoustonFirst.org

### MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

**Recreate Date Night**  
Fri, Aug 23 @ 6-10p — The Loop  
Whether you spend it with just you and your spouse or with other couples, plan on making the most of the next Recreate Date Night! If you need it, for childcare (birth-Kinder) is open now. Sign up at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events) before it fills up! **CONTACT** Melanie.Russell@HoustonFirst.org

### CYPRESS

**MISSION 1:8 Goes Backpacking**  
Now until Aug 25, drop off backpacks and school supplies at the Cypress Ministry Center during the week (M — Th @ 8a — 4:30p) or Smith Middle School on Sunday mornings. Supplies will be donated to students at The Mansions, a multi-housing community in Cypress. **CONTACT** Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonFirst.org

### DOWNTOWN

**IMAGO Artists Gathering**  
Tue, Aug 6 @ 7p — Vine Street Studios  
Amateur and professional artists from all media are invited to our Vine Street Studios for the next gathering of the IMAGO artist ministry. Connect with and learn from other artists about using the arts to glorify God — no matter what the media! **CONTACT** Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

### SIENNA

**Summer Nights**  
Tue, Aug 6 @ 7-8:30p — 4309 Sienna Pkwy  
Laura Seifert leads this last of three casual gatherings for women this summer as she looks at women in scripture whose messy lives were transformed by Jesus. This is a great way to introduce friends and neighbors to the Sienna Campus — even if you missed the first two Summer Nights! **CONTACT** Cathy.Clemons@HoustonFirst.org

**Back-To-School Family Pool Party**  
Sun, Aug 11 @ 6:30-9:00p  
Sienna Plantation Bucket Pool  
Invite friends and family to join us for a fun-filled night! We'll provide hamburgers and hot dogs and a special ice cream treat, too! There'll also be a time for baptism that evening. If you are interested in baptism or have any questions, contact Pastor Jeff. **CONTACT** Jeff.Rees@HoustonFirst.org

### LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies on Sunday are the primary method for connecting with others and growing together at Houston's First. Go deeper into God's Word, relate in a way that builds community, and experience the Bible as relevant to your life. Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) to find one that's right for you, or ask the Welcome Team at your campus for assistance.

### INTRODUCING OUR BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Add your business to the Houston's First Baptist Church Business Directory — a new resource for our church family! The directory is available online now, and a print version is coming this fall. Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) to see who's listed and to submit a listing for your business before the Aug 19 deadline.

### GIVING LIFE AWAY

**RUN FOR HOPE HOUSTON 5K**  
Sat, Oct 26 — Houston Christian High School  
Benefitting the Adoption Assistance Fund of Legacy685, the Run For Hope includes a Kids' 1K @ 8:45a and an Adult 5K @ 9a. Early bird special registration through Sep 1: \$25 Adult 5k, \$10 Kids' 1K. Register, volunteer and get more info at [RunForHopeHouston.org](http://RunForHopeHouston.org). **CONTACT** Toni.Steere@HoustonFirst.org

### PERSPECTIVES

Every Wed, Aug 21-Dec 4 @ 6:30-9:30p  
The Loop (Reception Rm)  
Perspectives helps believers see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. **CONTACT** Peggy.Meeks, [peggymeeks50@gmail.com](mailto:peggymeeks50@gmail.com)

### CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS

Please bring men's clothing, ladies' clothing (plus sizes), and diapers to the Missions & Connection Center at The Loop. All donations are considered charitable giving and are tax deductible. Receipt available upon request. **CONTACT** Fred.Polenz@HoustonFirst.org

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Do you have a passion for ministering to international students? Discover how you can do that through the International Student Friendship Ministry. They can connect you with students right here in Houston! **CONTACT** Bethany.Caplet@HoustonFirst.org

### HELP FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Run in the Houston Half Marathon on Sun, Oct 27, and raise funds for As Our Own (MISSION 1:8 partner) as they rescue girls in India — like Sabeena. The goal is for 100 runners to commit to raise \$750 each. Register to run at [HoustonHalf.com](http://HoustonHalf.com), then sign up to raise funds at [AsOurOwn.org/Sabeena](http://AsOurOwn.org/Sabeena). **CONTACT** Meredyth.Cann@HoustonFirst.org

# MISSION 1:8

## Aug 2013

## Helping the next generation find their role in the Great Commission



### SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

**The Loop Campus**  
7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024  
Worship 9:15a-11a-5:30p  
Life Bible Studies 8a-9:15a-10:45a-4:15p-6:45p

**Cypress Campus**  
10300 Warner Smith Blvd • Cypress, TX 77433  
Worship 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

**Downtown Campus**  
1010 Lamar St • Houston, TX 77002  
Worship 11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

**Sienna Campus**  
4309 Sienna Pkwy • Missouri City, TX 77459  
Worship 9:30a-11a  
Life Bible Studies 9:30a-11a



# MANY PEOPLE AREN'T INTRODUCED TO HOW THEY CAN BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS UNTIL LATER IN LIFE.



The NextGen Ministries at Houston's First, however, actively seek to make sure our church family members age 18 and under discover missions sooner than later. Here, we provide a few examples of how they're doing that — from preschool through High School.

## RUSH WEEK

a week with a camp feel and a missions impact for 7th-12th graders

What if students could enjoy the fun of camp while gaining the experience of being on the mission field? That question posed by the HUB Student Ministry staff led to the creation of Rush Week — a merger of their summer camps and mission trips. The first two Rush Weeks were in Pensacola, FL, and then it moved to Branson, MO last year. Rush Week returned to the Ozarks this July 20-27 with 210 students and 90 adults for a week of fun and ministry.

"Rush Week taught me that mission trips are about putting yourself behind, and allowing God to use you however He pleases," said Bryan Delfino Flores, a senior at Lamar High School in HISD who attended his first Rush Week this year. "God showed me that I don't have to travel to serve Him, that I can do it in my own town, in my own school."

For the first time at Rush Week, students could participate in a new Student Worship Arts Team (SWAT). SWAT provided a worship experience of blended mediums of music and worship arts at church services, VBS events, and block parties. Many SWAT

members plan to join ELEVATE Student Worship — a new ministry for Grades 6-12 starting this fall.

"Our evangelism team started out a bit hesitant, but ended the week excited about meeting people in the community and praying for and with them," recalls Clark Reynolds, one of the adults on the trip. "I pray that the Lord uses this week as a stepping stone to a deeper walk with Him for all the students who went to Rush Week."

Clark's prayers were answered in part during Rush Week. Among the students who attended, there were 10 salvations, 19 who said they were ready to be baptized, 12 who felt called to ministry, and 88 who said they were rededicating their lives to the Lord or who felt a call to change their current lifestyle.

"If it weren't for my friends who welcomed me then I wouldn't be at Houston's First today, and I wouldn't have gone to Rush Week," says Bryan. "But now that I went, I can't quit praising God for what He's done



### RUSH WEEK BY THE NUMBERS

8 ministry sites (local churches) in 6 cities

3 sports camps

2 VBS teams

9 evangelism teams

8 service teams

3,000+ people ministered to

1,000+ doors knocked on

100,000+ miles driven

120 pizzas for lunch one of the days

### ELEVATE Student Worship

New ministry begins this fall

Grades 6-12

Kick-Off Retreat Sep 6-7

Contact Josh.Harris@HoustonsFirst.org  
HoustonsFirst.org/ElevateStudentWorship

in my life, for taking me and transforming me to His humble servant — for giving me this eternal fire for Him!"

In 2014, the HUB Student Ministry is expanding opportunities for students to gain missions experience. Rush Week takes place the week of July 19-26, and the new RushMore will take place the week of July 12-19. Where will they go? Students and parents will find out when locations are announced later this year!

### 6TH GRADE ONE DAY PROJECTS taking one day to give back

Before they can go on their first Rush Week after 7th grade, students who completed 6th grade this past year gained missions experience this summer at three One Day Projects. While at Camp Intersect, a group of 53 students prayer-walked Huntsville just a few miles away. At the next project, students played Bingo and other games with residents at The Forum assisted living center. The Faith Center's Food Pantry & Clothes Closet was the focus of the last project, with students sorting out donations and supplies.

### FAMILY MISSION TRIP a one-day trip for 1st-5th graders and their families

Great things happen when families serve together. That's what 25 families of 1st-5th graders discovered on the Family Mission Trip to Galveston on July 26. Families partnered with Galveston Urban Ministries to clean up the area around their facility through yard work and painting — including priming and painting the outside of the ministry's youth building. Later, families passed out flyers telling residents about GUM's upcoming school supply store.

### MISSION FRIENDS introducing preschoolers to missions and the world

Mission Friends on Wednesday evenings at The Loop helps preschoolers explore the mission field through the eyes of real missionaries. They learn about the missionary's country and its culture, and explore them further through crafts and special activities — and sometimes taste new foods! Mission Friends provides the youngest members of the Houston's First family with an understanding of how broad the world is, and how far the church extends out!

