

# GOD IS MOVING IN NEW YORK CITY

George Russ has his hands full. That's a good sign when you're the Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA). The spiritual needs of the New York City area can seem overwhelming, but God is faithfully providing church planters, partnerships and resources as George and his team work to spread the Good News. Here's a recent update from George about what's been happening:

The partnership between MNYBA and Houston's First focuses on planting churches among all the nations of the earth. It's a God-sized vision that matches what we are all about — connecting local churches for global impact. Here are a few highlights:

Ecclesia is a new church in East Islip, Long Island, a suburban county of 1.3 million people. Sterling Edwards is the planter. Over the summer, Ecclesia hosted 10 mission teams, doing day camps, baseball camps, and Hurricane Sandy relief. Sterling recently led two Muslims to Christ. Plans are underway for a third plant near the State University of New York at Stony Brook, with nearly 20,000 students.

Victor Carranza and his wife Celina are planting a Hispanic church in Westbury, Long Island, called Iglesia Bautista Fundamento de Vida. The Carranzas are relentless evangelists, sharing the gospel several afternoons a week in the neighborhood. They have seen many come to Christ, and recently began weekly services in a dance studio.

Derick and Stella Mehboob from Pakistan lead Metropolitan New Revival Church in Brooklyn. The church has seen many come to Christ this last year. Many are former Muslims. The church worships in 4 languages: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and English.

Speaking of Brooklyn, James Roberson is an African American church planter, beginning The Bridge Church NYC in a multi-ethnic

neighborhood. A recent café outreach drew 120 people. A second outreach is planned for October.

To respond to the growing number of Asians living in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, MNYBA is helping to plant the Faithful Korean Baptist Church. The church meets in the MNYBA building.

The New York City metropolitan area is home to 4 million people from unreached people groups. Boto Joseph is working among South Asians in Jackson Heights, Queens. Recently, he met for the second time with 20 Nepalese Hindus who are using the Discovery Bible Study method to learn the Scripture. This is a real breakthrough. In 2014 we hope to begin a church planting center there, with four new congregations.

The involvement of Houston's First is crucial to all of this. Your financial support is helping to establish these churches. Your mission teams and prayer walking groups are providing encouragement to our planters and a spiritual covering as they witness and minister. Your staff has encouraged us in so many ways. Thanks be to God!

Pray that the Spirit of God will sustain and empower these planters. Pray for continued and expanded breakthroughs among the nations. Pray that MNYBA will continue to foster church planting and evangelism for the glory of Christ among the nations.

A team from the Downtown Campus of Houston's First is headed to New York City the week of Oct 13-19. They'll partner with the MNYBA on the various church plants underway throughout the city.



George Russ, Executive Director, MNYBA



Metropolitan New Revival Church



Iglesia Bautista Fundamento de Vida

## 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: "For a Heart that beats, today. For a Mind that thinks, today. For Eyes and Ears to take it in, today... Thank You. #GodIsTheHero" — Tommy Luna, @TommyLuna001

### ALL CAMPUSES

**Three Strands Marriage Retreat**  
**Oct 25-27 — Jordan Ranch, Schenectady, NY**  
Facilitated by Sienna Campus Pastor Jeff Rees and his wife Martha, the Three Strands Marriage Retreat is designed to equip you with insights and tools. You'll leave with a better understanding of yourself and your spouse, and increase the joy and intimacy of your marriage. The retreat is open to members and non-members of Houston's First. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Jeff.Rees@HoustonFirst.org**

**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 Oct 9, Dr. David Self continues a series on "Making A Difference In Your Business."  
**CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonFirst.org**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Middle School Retreat**  
**Oct 25-27 — Lake Tomahawk Retreat Center**  
Hey Middle Schoolers at The Loop and Sienna! Don't miss this weekend away as we look at God's Passion. Students in Grades 6-8 will explore what God is passionate about and how to align ourselves with Him. Cost is \$80. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Tony.Bianco@HoustonFirst.org or Corbett.Thompson@HoustonFirst.org**

### THE LOOP

**School of Fine Arts Faculty Concert**  
**Fri, Oct 18 @ 7-8:30p — Rehearsal Hall**  
The School of Fine Arts (SoFA) at Houston's First invites you to a free concert showcasing the talent of their incredible faculty members. You'll enjoy pieces featuring voice, piano, and orchestral instruments. Learn more about SoFA at [HoustonFirst.org/SoFA](http://HoustonFirst.org/SoFA).  
**CONTACT Nancy.Pollard@HoustonFirst.org**

### MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

**Big Night Out**  
**Fri, Oct 18 @ 8-9:30p — Fellowship Ctr**  
Go to dinner with your spouse then gather at The Loop with other couples for a night of encouragement and laughter. ComedySportz will provide the laughs, and we'll provide the encouragement — and dessert! Doors open at 7:45p. Childcare available starting at 6p with registration. Register for both at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT Melanie.Russell@HoustonFirst.org**

### Newlywed or Close Life Bible Studies Sundays

If you're engaged, newly married, or close, the Newlywed or Close Life Bible Study is just for you. You'll find other couples like you, a year of practical and biblical training for marriage, and experienced leaders who will invest in your life. Your marriage is what you make it — for better or worse, for richer or poorer. Are you prepared? The class is offered at 9:15a (Fellowship Ctr), 10:45a (Rm 501/502), and 6:45p (Rm 253/254).  
**CONTACT Melanie.Russell@HoustonFirst.org**

### SENIOR ADULTS

**Bus Trip: Heritage Village**  
**Fri, Oct 18 @ 8a-4p — Woodville, TX**  
Adults 60+ will board a bus at The Loop and spend the day in Woodville exploring all that Heritage Village has to offer during their annual Harvest Festival! And, we'll enjoy lunch at the Pickett House Restaurant right there in the village. Cost is \$20. RSVP to Tracie at 713.957.7661 or by email.  
**CONTACT Tracie.Bowman@HoustonFirst.org**

### CYPRESS

**Make It Your Church Orientation**  
**Sun, Oct 13 @ 5:30-7p — Ministry Center**  
Enjoy dinner with Pastor Jason and the Cypress Campus staff while you learn more about what it means to be a member of Houston's First Baptist Church! Registration is required for attendance and childcare. Register at the Opportunities Table or at [HoustonFirst.org/Cypress](http://HoustonFirst.org/Cypress).  
**CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonFirst.org**

### DOWNTOWN

**Happy Anniversary!**  
This week, the Downtown Campus celebrates their 2nd anniversary! In 2011, a group of Houston's First members from The Loop boldly stepped forward to launch the new campus on the block of land where our church was located for decades. Continue to pray for the Downtown Campus as God uses them to reach the people of Houston!  
**VISIT HoustonFirst.org/Downtown**

### IMAGO Arts Gathering

**Tue, Oct 8 @ 7-9p — Ministry Center**  
On the first Tuesday of each month, artists and those who love the arts gather to talk about glorifying God through the arts, to provide inspiration, and to connect with others. The gathering takes place at our Ministry Center at the Vine Street Studios and is open to anyone who would like to attend!  
**CONTACT Lee.Hsia@HoustonFirst.org**

### SIENNA

#### MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

**Re|create Date Night**  
**Fri, Oct 18 @ 6-10p**  
Go out for an evening with your spouse or join in with other couples while we take care of the kids! Whether you go to dinner, go to a movie, or just hang out at home, use this time to invest in one another. Registration for childcare is required, so visit [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events) to sign up.  
**CONTACT Jordan.Blaylock@HoustonFirst.org**

### WOMEN

#### Women's Prayer Gathering

**Tue, Oct 8 @ 7-8p — Rees' home**  
The women of the Sienna Campus family are invited to gather at the Rees' home on the 2nd Tuesday of each month as Martha hosts a time of prayer for our church. The next gathering is Oct 8, with future gatherings on Nov 12 and Dec 10.  
**CONTACT Martha Rees, mrees1221@gmail.com**

### GIVING LIFE AWAY

#### PRAY FOR MISSION TRIP

Pray for the mission team leaving this week (Oct 11-20) for East Asia as they work with the J-People — an unreached people group Houston's First is focusing on through MISSION 1:8.

#### MISSIONARY PRAYER TIME

**Sun, Oct 13 @ 2-4p — The Loop (Reception Rm)**  
This time of prayer and intercession allows us to be a part of what God is doing through our missionaries around the world by praying for them. Mary Ann Bridgwater of Pray the Word Ministries leads, and all are welcome to come and pray for our missionaries on the field.  
**CONTACT Charlotte.Nease@HoustonFirst.org**

#### 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. Register, volunteer and get more info at [RunForHopeHouston.org](http://RunForHopeHouston.org).  
**CONTACT Kasey Mathew, RunForHopeHouston@gmail.com**

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Pick up a box and label from the Missions Office then fill it up and send it to a child around the world in Jesus' name! Packed boxes are due on or before Nov 11 in the Missions Office or can be dropped off at a designated center around town Nov 18-25. Visit [HoustonFirst.org/Missions](http://HoustonFirst.org/Missions) for details.  
**CONTACT Charlotte.Nease@HoustonFirst.org**

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Do you have a story about God working in your life? We want to hear it. More importantly, others need to hear it. Your story may provide the encouragement someone is seeking. Visit [HoustonFirst.org/MyStory](http://HoustonFirst.org/MyStory) to share what God has done.

### CELEBRATION TICKETS

Celebration is a musical presentation of the spirit, the songs and the story of Christmas. Tickets to this year's six performances (Dec 12-15) go on sale in person on Sat, Oct 19 @ 8-11a at The Loop (Main Foyer) and online that afternoon at 1p at [TheFirstChristmas.org](http://TheFirstChristmas.org). Be the first in town to get tickets for you and those you plan to invite!

### 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.

### MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH!

Houston's First encourages believers in Jesus Christ to commit to a local body of fellow Christians. If you're interested in making us your church today, come forward at the end of a worship service, visit the Connection Center at your campus, or contact Malcolm Marshall at [Malcolm.Marshall@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Malcolm.Marshall@HoustonFirst.org) or 713.335.6453 or any member of your campus team.

### 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

# MISSION 1:8

Oct 2013

## New York City

Gotham

The Big Apple

The Capital of The World

The City That Never Sleeps



# START SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

The Gospel Is  
Going Forward  
Throughout NYC

## A Different Sight-Seeing Trip

*A group of women from Houston's First travelled to NYC and exchanged sight-seeing for a look at the city through God's eyes. Michelle Reynolds shares about their trip.*

On September 12, 22 women — mostly from the As One Life Bible Study at The Loop — embarked on a three-day journey to New York City with the expressed purpose to pray. We were going to pray for the people of New York City — for both the lost and the believers, for the congregants of First Baptist Church of New York, and for their pastor and his wife, Matthew and Kimberly Hoskinson.

Some of these women I knew and some I had never met before, yet before landing back in Houston, we all had gone from polite

conversation to approaching His throne of grace together with boldness so that we would receive mercy and find grace to help us.

We started our mornings off with a brisk New York-paced walk to have a time for prayer, worship, a devotional and a look at the agenda for the day. Then, we would continue to FBCNY where we met with Pastor Matthew and Kimberly.

We were welcomed with warm hearts and open arms as they shared the difficulties they have encountered, including cancer, as they pursued the Lord and moved their family from a small southern town to Gotham. Their small chapel became holy ground as we surrounded this couple and prayed the Holy Spirit would



This is the body of Christ in action and the 22 of us were forever changed.



## Reaching The Forgotten Borough

*Nick Mustakas, the Pastor of The Journey Church - Staten Island, realizes that people in "the forgotten borough" may have forgotten God. He has not forgotten them. He and his wife Julie (and their first child due November 16) are working to reintroduce their neighbors to Him.*

The borough of Staten Island and New York City as a whole is home to me. I grew up on Staten Island from a very young age. I know the community, the lifestyle and the heartbeat of the people that make up Staten Island. I have a passion to help the people of Staten Island come to know Jesus Christ and become fully developing followers. Just over a year ago, as I was sitting in a Worship Service (I was serving as a Pastor at The Journey Manhattan), I felt clearer than ever that God was calling me back to Staten Island to start a new church there.

We are seeing God starting to stir a curiosity in people's hearts. God is continuing to open doors and we are excited for all that is ahead.

Houston's First has played an integral part in our ability to start this church. As a partner, Houston's First has not only offered financial support but they have provided prayer, great relationships, a mission team to serve and great friendships.

Please continue to pray for us as we continue this work on Staten Island. We are thankful for what God has already done and can't wait to see what God has in store! Also, please join me in praying for 100 people and 10 first-time decisions to follow Jesus Christ at our October 20 service!

We have already had an exciting start, we had our first service on Sunday, September 15, and

Visit them at [JourneySI.com](http://JourneySI.com)

Pray for these key dates for The Journey Church

Sun, Oct 20 — Monthly pre-launch service  
Sun, Nov 17 — Monthly pre-launch service  
Sun, Dec 15 — Monthly pre-launch service  
Tue, Dec 24 — Special Christmas Eve service  
Sun, Jan 12 — Monthly pre-launch service  
Sun, Feb 2 — Monthly pre-launch service  
Sun, Feb 9 — Grand opening

## Rekindling at FBC NYC

*When Houston's First was founded in 1841, New York's First Baptist Church was already nearly 100 years old. Pastor Matthew C. Hoskinson shares how God has used our comparatively young church to bless his church as we partner with them through MISSION 1:8.*

The First Baptist Church in the City of New York has been a witness to the gospel of Christ for over two-and-a-half centuries. Since WWII, however, our congregation has fallen on hard times as rapidly growing crime drove countless families from the city to the suburbs—and consequently, from our church. But the Spirit is at work!

Over the past three years we have watched Him redirect our attention to the life, death,

and resurrection of Christ. God has humbled us with a sight of Jesus' glory, and He has reassured us that His plans for us are plans of peace. Now, He is turning our congregation outward once again.

Our theme this year has been Kyrie Eleison—Lord, Have Mercy. We've fasted and prayed for Him to have mercy on us, on our congregation, and on our city. And He is hearing us! Already this year, the Lord has used our members to transfer four people from the dominion of darkness to the kingdom of the Son of His love. And many more are faithfully sharing the gospel and praying for their unsaved friends, neighbors, and coworkers. It is amazing to watch the Spirit rekindle a missional zeal among His people for the glory of Christ.

The First Baptist Church of Houston has had an enormous part in that. Your financial investment in our church has been huge. Quite frankly, I don't know if I would still be able to pastor this congregation without your assistance. Thank you so much.

But your partnership has gone way beyond that; for you are praying for us. The team you sent in September to spend a weekend praying for our church and our neighborhood blessed the hearts of our people spectacularly. We are overwhelmed by your extravagant love for us and by your desire to see the gospel of our Lord advance in this great city. We love you and thank God for you.



Pray for these key dates for First Baptist Church in the City of New York

Sun, Oct 27 — Congregational meeting to affirm a new confession of faith  
Nov 8-9 — Frontline Experience: equipping business people, teachers, doctors/nurses, etc. for missionary work overseas  
Sat, Nov 23 — Operation Christmas Child: host site for a large section of Manhattan  
Sat, Dec 7 — Christmas concert: a classical concert attended by hundreds of non-Christians  
TBD — Evangelistic Bible study following the Christmas concert

Visit them at [FirstNYC.org](http://FirstNYC.org)