

# Meet The J-People

Nearly 8,000 miles away in East Asia is a group of people most of our church family will never meet. Few of us will ever walk among them, hear their language, or experience their culture. Despite the many obstacles between us, we want you to get to know them. They are a part of Houston's First.

We call them the J-People. For security reasons, we cannot put their full name or location in print or on the church's website. And, we cannot share with you the names of the team members working with the J-People right there in their own community. That's the reality of sharing the Good News in a difficult place.

The majority of the roughly 300,000 J-People are farmers, working with livestock and various crops. Some J-People who live closer to cities are merchants or shop owners. They tend to be Tibetan Buddhists or followers of polytheistic practices.

Missionary work in the early 1900s was halted when civil war broke out in their home nation. Ongoing political hostilities and a remote location make reaching the J-People a particular challenge. The home nation's government does not recognize the J-People as minorities; therefore, they have no access to resources offered to official minority groups.

Currently, there are no Bible translations, radio broadcasts, *JESUS* films or Gospel recordings in the language of the J-People. This is due to their language not being a written language — it is only spoken — and a lack of manpower to take on these significant projects.



## 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: "Really enjoyed visiting @HoustonsFirst for the first time this morning! Can't wait to explore it some more!!" — Crystal Schendel, @asianpersWASIAN

### 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 Nov 6, Executive Pastor David Self shares "Stories from South Africa."  
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

**CanHope**  
Mon, Nov 11 @ 6:45p — The Loop (Reception Rm)  
CanHope ministers to families touched by cancer. Steve Seelig, our special guest, will share about his journey through brain cancer. An entree is provided; please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Come enjoy this time of testimony, prayer and fellowship! RSVP to 713.957.6764.  
CONTACT Sherry.Oradat@HoustonsFirst.org

**Biblical Principles of Estate Planning**  
Fri, Nov 22 & Sun, Nov 24 — The Loop (Fellowship Ctr)  
Why do I need a Will? What are Incapacity Documents? Do the Scriptures teach about these? These free seminars will answer these questions and more. Learn about estate planning, life insurance, and designating someone to act on your behalf. Facilitated by Dave Keesling, Co-Founder of PhilanthroCorp, and Lantz Bowman, certified financial planner with Everyday Steward. Friday is 6:30-8:30p with dinner and childcare; Sunday is 12:15-2:30p with lunch only. Registration required at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.  
CONTACT Amber.Willet@HoustonsFirst.org

**YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS**  
"Under The Texas Sky" Hoedown  
Sat, Nov 16 @ 6-11p — Hunt Retreat  
Men, shine up those boots and ladies get your dance cards ready for the 16th annual "Under The Texas Sky" Hoedown! Join us at the church's new Hunt Retreat in Brookshire for an evening of dancing, live music from the SnakeBit Band, BBQ dinner, mechanical bull, dunk tank, cake baking contest, western games and much more. Get your tickets at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.  
CONTACT Ryan.McPhetridge@HoustonsFirst.org

**MEN**  
Men: Serve  
Sat, Nov 16 @ 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 HoustonsFirst.org/Events.  
CONTACT Eric.Reed@HoustonsFirst.org

### THE LOOP

**Make It Your Church Orientation**  
Sun, Nov 10 @ 12:30-1:45p — Fellowship Ctr  
Discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First Baptist Church — and enjoy lunch, too! Pastor Gregg and other staff members will share our vision and mission, and talk about how you can make it your church. Register at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.  
CONTACT Malcolm.Marshall@HoustonsFirst.org

**HUB STUDENTS**  
**High School Girls' Retreat**  
Fri, Nov 15 @ 6p - Sat, Nov 16 @ 3p  
Get ready for an amazing weekend of sisterhood! This short retreat will be packed with fun activities, great bonding time, biblical teaching, and service. We'll meet at The Loop then spend the night at a local hotel. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and to the other girls in the High School ministry. Cost is \$40. Register at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.  
CONTACT Amy.Pardue@HoustonsFirst.org

### CYPRESS

**HUB STUDENTS**  
**Student Scavenger Hunt**  
Sat, Nov 16 @ 9a-Noon — Smith Middle School  
Students in Grades 6-12 will head out to find — well, you'll have to come and see! We'll meet in the parking lot at Smith Middle School (donuts and water provided), then head out on a scavenger hunt around town. Parents can pick up their kids at noon at Smith. RSVP to Sharon Stringfellow. Parent drivers needed!  
CONTACT Sharon.Stringfellow, ss-string@sbcglobal.net 713.859.3997

### WOMEN

"Taste And See . . ."  
Sun, Nov 10 @ 4-6p — Ministry Center  
Join Joanne Thompson, our own Jill Betz's mother and author of Table Life: Savoring the Hospitality of Jesus in Your Home, as we begin to prepare our hearts and homes for the upcoming holiday seasons. Looking at Jesus' "table life," we will discover how He transformed the tone, meaning, and connection of life at the table. Register at the Opportunities Table or contact Rebecca Dinkins.  
CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonsFirst.org

### DOWNTOWN

**IMAGO Arts Gathering**  
Tue, Nov 12 @ 7-9p — Ministry Center  
On the second 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@HoustonsFirst.org

**KSBJ Prayer Station Training**  
Thu, Nov 14 @ 6:30-8:30p — Ministry Center  
The Downtown Campus is partnering with KSBJ to train volunteers to serve at their Prayer Stations located in the downtown jails. Come learn how you can minister to families of inmates in Harris County. Visit KSBJ.org for details about this growing ministry.  
CONTACT Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

### SIENNA

**Family Outdoor Movie Night**  
Today, Nov 3 @ 6p — 4309 Sienna Pkwy  
Grab some blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic for your family then head over to the Sienna Campus as we watch a family-friendly movie *Epic* under the stars! We'll provide the popcorn!  
CONTACT Cathy.Clemons@HoustonsFirst.org

**Thanksgiving Banquet**  
Sun, Nov 24 @ 6p — Harvest United Methodist Church  
The Sienna Campus continues a Grace Church tradition with their annual Thanksgiving Banquet! Look forward to an evening with friends and all your favorite Thanksgiving dishes. Childcare will be provided for ages 5 and under. Registration and additional details coming soon!  
CONTACT Jeff.Rees@HoustonsFirst.org

### GIVING LIFE AWAY

**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 HoustonsFirst.org/Missions for details.  
CONTACT Charlotte.Nease@HoustonsFirst.org

**2014 MISSION TRIP REVEAL**  
Sun, Nov 17 @ 12:30p — Fellowship Center  
Where will Houston's First take the Gospel in 2014? Next year's mission trips will be revealed at this special lunch following the 11a worship service at The Loop. Lunch is provided.  
CONTACT Bethany.Caplet@HoustonsFirst.org

### THE CHRISTMAS STORE COLLECTION DAY

Sun, Nov 17 — All Campuses  
At The Christmas Store at the Faith Center on Sat, Dec 7, hundreds of families will shop for Christmas gifts — for free! We rely on the Houston's First family to donate more than 3,000 new, unwrapped gifts on Collection Day to make this ministry possible. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events to learn more about The Christmas Store and how you can contribute and volunteer!  
CONTACT John.Gresham@HoustonsFirst.org

### 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@HoustonsFirst.org or 713.335.6453 or any member of your campus team.

### CELEBRATION

Who will you invite to experience the spirit, the songs, and the story of Christmas at Celebration this Dec 12-15? Tickets on sale at TheFirstChristmas.org and 1.888.338.5338, or at The Loop inside Corner Books or at the kiosk in the Main Foyer.

### WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Through the World Mission Offering, our church supports Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Texas, the USA, and around the world. Contributions collected from Nov-Jan are dispersed to Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board. Last year, Houston's First was first in giving in Texas, and ranked 5th nationwide! Learn more and contribute at HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering.

### 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 11:23

Nov 2013

## Meet the J-People



Identity hidden for his protection



# TAKING THE GOSPEL TO ASIA

Introducing the love of Christ to an Unreached People Group

## What is a people group?

A people group is an ethnolinguistic group with a common self-identity shared by the various members. *Ethno* refers to common history, values, practices, culture, and patterns of life. *Linguistic* refers to the common language.

## What does unreached mean?

A people group is considered unreached when less than 2% of their population is evangelical. To be more specific, the best reports put the number of believers among the J-People at 20-30 people — about .01% of their population of 300,000. If that percentage were applied to Harris County, only 410 of our 4,100,000 neighbors would be believers — at most.

## What does it mean to adopt them?

Houston's First is committed to seeing the J-People transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the point where they are self-sufficient and self-reproducing — no longer in need of our support and planting churches on their own. That is not accomplished quickly. Our commitment is to the J-People themselves, so we will partner with the missionaries working with them as the years go by until the goal is reached.

## What is happening there now?

Team leaders are working on orally translating ten Old Testament stories. Once translated, the stories will be recorded and given to locals. As of now, they have three stories translated and recorded! They are praying for manpower and financial support to complete the project.



We are thankful for Houston's First's partnership with our team in our efforts to reach those who have never heard the good news of Christ. Because of your giving, we have been able to set up a sound studio in our city to record Gospel stories. Your giving is getting the Word to people who have never heard it in their own language.

We are thankful for Houston's First's consistency in giving of your time to really come alongside of us. Many of the people from your church have come and encouraged us personally, walked among our people, and served us simply by serving with us.

## “WE ARE THANKFUL”

Team members serving full-time with the J-People share their appreciation for Houston's First

We are thankful for gifts of coffee and cereal! These really show love to our family and team. Fifteen boxes of macaroni and cheese and special treats for our family and team have been such a gift. Thank you Houston's First for loving on us!

We are most thankful for your partnership in prayer. Please continue to pray for our team and the J-People.



## What One Member Saw

Dean recently visited the J-People on a trip with Houston's First. Dean and his wife of 31 years have been at Houston's First for 3 ½ years and recently started a Life Bible Study at The Loop for empty nesters. Here's what Dean shared about his trip:

“We have lived in Asia previously. When I saw the trip at the Missions Expo in January and talked to a person that had gone on an earlier trip, I decided that I wanted to go. When there, I was reminded that all people are made in His image and that He loves them all. I saw how prayer and effort can make anything happen and that God's masterpiece of nature is beautifully awesome and that nothing man creates can compare. And, I saw a very dark and very difficult place to work. We also saw and heard first-hand what Houston's First's funds were helping the team members there do.”

## Also in East Asia

Houston's First has made a commitment to holding house church Bible conferences three times a year to train and disciple house church leaders. In addition, we sponsor vocational training for youth and college students, and minister to orphans in a large city.

## 2014 Trips to the J-People

Jun 5-15 & Oct 10-19

Visit [HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips](http://HoustonFirst.org/MissionTrips) for details or contact [Bethany.Caplet@HoustonFirst.org](mailto:Bethany.Caplet@HoustonFirst.org).

MISSION 1:8 at Houston's First Baptist Church seeks to expand our financial generosity to support our current ministry and multiply our missional endeavors to the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners, and to our city, our nation, and our world. MISSION 1:8 launched in March 2013 and will continue through February 2015. Discover more at [HoustonFirst.org/MISSION18](http://HoustonFirst.org/MISSION18).