

POOR, WIDOWS, ORPHANS, & PRISONERS

From the beginning, the MISSION 1:8 initiative planned to give away \$1,500,000 to ministries serving the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners. Thanks to the generosity of the Houston's First family, we were able to bless the following ministries very soon after the MISSION 1:8 contribution period began! As you look over the list, pray for each of these groups as they serve those in need here in Houston and around the world.

POOR

Family Legacy Missions International
Generation One
Houston Habitat for Humanity
Living Water International
Maasai Tribe
Star of Hope
WorkFaith Connection

WIDOWS

Mission:Dignity
Romanian Christian Enterprises

ORPHANS

As Our Own (India)
Family Legacy Missions International
His Cherished Ones (Kenya)
Into Abba's Arms (Kenya)
Mike Eden Ministries (Kenya)
Romanian Christian Enterprises
The Harbor (Russia)
Village of Hope (Guatemala)

PRISONERS

C.H.A.R.M. Prison Ministries
WorkFaith Connection

STAY CONNECTED TO MISSION 1:8

Want updates on MISSION 1:8 missional endeavors — opportunities to serve, prayer requests, or reports from the field? On social media, look for the #MISSION18 hashtag. To receive related text messages, subscribe to the MISSION 1:8 text alerts by texting "MISSION18" to 41411.

TOTAL GIVING TO POOR, WIDOWS, ORPHANS, & PRISONERS
(March 1-December 31, 2013)

\$1,534,015

GIVING LIFE AWAY EXPO

MISSION 1:8 IN ACTION

Where is Houston's First going in 2014? What are some of the greatest needs? How can I help? Get answers to those and other questions at the Giving Life Away Expo as you explore the ways God is moving and where He is calling Houston's First to join Him. The Expo takes place this week in the Main Foyer at The Loop and at each campus on Sundays, as well. Stop by, ask questions, get answers, and take the next step toward giving your life away.

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: "To pray rightly, you must make God your hope, stay, and all. John Bunyan #comeboldly #liveboldly #hope @HoustonsFirst" — Derek Nease, @dnease87

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 Jan 15, Executive Pastor David Self looks at "Will 2014 Be Any Different Emotionally?"
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

Midnight Madness
Fri, Jan 31 @ 5:30p-Midnight — The Loop
While "mission" often involves going somewhere, Christ's mission involves being His hands and feet right where you are today. Learn how Life Bible Study is a critical part of the mission of Christ and how you can be more effective as a missionary in Houston. Current and prospective Life Bible Study leaders from each campus will gather for this annual equipping event for great training, inspiring vision, fantastic giveaways, interactive fun — and food, of course! Register at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Jeanene.Andrus@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN
KSBJ presents Girls' Night Out
Thu, Jan 16 @ 7p — The Loop
Hear from Pattie Mallette, author of Nowhere but Up: The Story of Justin Bieber's Mom, as she takes you through her journey of being a single mom and a survivor of sexual abuse, and shares the faith and hope that has set her free. Joining her are singer Britt Nicole and comedian Mark Lowry. Details and tickets at TicketServant.com.
CONTACT 281.319.6900

WOMEN
Men: Serve
Sat, Jan 25 @ 8:30a-1p
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

Fitness Expo
Sun, Jan 26 @ 12:30-2:30p — Fitness & Rec Center
Come see what the Fitness Center has to offer at this Expo showcasing their facilities, classes, and more! Bring your workout clothes and join in on class demos, too. Lunch is provided for free, and prizes will be given away — including a chance to win an iPad.
CONTACT Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org

YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS
Summit Dodgeball Tourney
Sun, Jan 19 @ 1-5p — Fitness & Rec Center
Ready to dip, duck, dive, and dodge? Teams of eight will relive their school days by throwing dodgeballs at their opponents. So, warm up your throwing arm and practice dodging and be prepared for this in-your-face elimination tournament! \$10 per person, includes lunch. Register at the door or online at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT George.Watson@HoustonsFirst.org

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

WOMEN

Living Proof with Beth Moore
Every Tue, Jan 21-Mar 4 @ 6:30-8:30p — Worship Center
Women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to this free citywide Bible study led by Beth Moore with worship led by Stephen & Star Smith and others. Beth will teach a new series called *Breath: The Life of God In Us*. The Cafe opens for dinner at 4:45p, doors open to the Worship Center at 6p, and carpooling is greatly encouraged.
CONTACT Haylee.Nelson@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS

WOMEN
Tuesday Women's Bible Studies
Begins Tue, Jan 14 @ 9:30-11:30a — Ministry Center
Gather with other women and choose from one of three studies: Motherwise taught by Meredith Burk, Lord, I Want to Know You taught by Simone Fleming, or A Modern Girl's Guide to Bible Study taught by Katie Brou. Childcare available with advance registration.
CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN

Men: Fight The Good Fight
Begins Tue, Jan 14 @ 6:30-7:30a — Ministry Center
Jason Swiggart and Ian Brou lead this new weekly Bible study for men of all ages. Make it a part of your Tuesday mornings and invite friends or co-workers to come with you or meet you there.
CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN

IMAGO Arts Gathering
Tue, Jan 14 @ 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

Marathon Sunday

Sun, Jan 19
The courses for the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon take runners right past 1010 Lamar. Pick up maps in the lobby for directions to the Downtown Campus using alternate routes. We'll cheer for the runners during our Life Bible Study hour — and we'll have hot cocoa and coffee ready for you!
CONTACT Tiffany.Butterfras@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA

WOMEN
Living Proof with Beth Moore
Every Tue, Jan 21-Mar 4 @ 6:30-8:30p — The Loop Campus
Women from the Sienna Campus are getting together for Beth Moore's new 7-week series at The Loop — *Breath: The Life of God In Us*. Contact Susan Barnett to learn about our plans, and visit HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna for more about the study.
CONTACT SusanKBarnett@yahoo.com

Ruth...Loss, Love, & Legacy
Begins Thu, Jan 23 @ 9:30-11:30a — 4309 Sienna Pkwy
Laura Seifert leads this study focusing on the life of Ruth. The study begins Thu, Jan 23, and continues for 7 weeks. The \$20 fee includes a workbook. Register for the class and childcare at HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna.
CONTACT Kathy Pfoff, kpfhoff@hotmail.com

MIDLINK SPRING 2014

EVERY WED THRU MAY 14 — THE LOOP
Find full schedule at HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink.

CHURCHWIDE
MidLink Cafe @ 4:45-6:30p — Fellowship Ctr
The Link (Adult Bible Study) @ 6:30-7:30p
Garden Rm (begins Jan 15)
Palabras de Vida: Words of Life (Adult Spanish Bible Study) @ 7-8:30p
Rm 145 (begins Jan 15)
Milestones classes @ various times and locations

WORSHIP/MUSIC
Singers @ 7-8:30p — Rm 337 (begins Jan 15)
Worship Choir @ 7-8:30p — Rehearsal Hall (begins Jan 22)
Worship Orchestra @ 7-8:30p — Worship Center (begins Jan 22)

FITNESS (begins Jan 15)
TRX @ 5-5:45p — Rm 274
Boot Camp @ 5:45-6:45p — Rm 270
Zumba @ 6-7p — Rm 274

PRESCHOOL
Thru the Roof - Special Needs @ 5:45-8:30p — Rm 324 & 326
Wee Worship (Babies-1s) @ 6-7p — Preschool Suite
W.O.W. (Worship Our Way) (2s & 3s) @ 6-7p — Preschool Suite
High 5 Kids' Choir (4yrs-K) @ 6-7p — Rm 303 (Clubhouse)
Mission Friends (Birth-K) @ 7-8p — Preschool Suite

CHILDREN
Thru the Roof - Special Needs @ 5:45-8:30p — Rm 324 & 326
High 5 Kids' Choir (1st-5th Grade) @ 6-7p — Rm 301 (Loft)
Breakout (1st-3rd Grade) @ 7-8:30p — Fitness & Rec Ctr
Friction (4th-5th Grade) @ 7-8:30p — Rm 325

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Wired @ 6:30-8p — Rm 364

HIGH SCHOOL
AMP @ 7-8:30p — Rm 363

GIVING LIFE AWAY

EVANGELISM TRAINING
Every Sun, Jan 12-Mar 9 @ 4:15-5:30p
The Loop (Harbor Rm)
Learn how to share the Gospel with those around you through XEE — a lifestyle witness training for a postmodern culture. XEE equips believers to articulate the Gospel conversationally within the context of relationships. Childcare is provided.
CONTACT Jonathan.Huegel@HoustonsFirst.org

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Nov 2013-Jan 2014
Through the World Mission Offering, our church supports Southern Baptist missionaries serving with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board. Learn more and contribute at HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering.

MISSION 1:8

Jan 12, 2014

Taking The Gospel To OUR CITY



OUR CITY

As the 4th largest and most diverse city in the nation, Houston is large, growing, and filled with people who do not know Jesus as their Savior. That's why Houston's First has adopted a multisite approach to expanding our ministry impact in the greater Houston area. God is doing great things through our three multisite campuses as these communities of believers connect with their neighbors in unique and relevant ways just right for where they are.

Total invested in OUR CITY
(March 1-December 31, 2013)

\$3,194,160

CYPRESS CAMPUS

Since the campus
launched on
March 31, 2013:

35
BAPTISMS

&

132
NEW MEMBERS

- This semester, expanding MidLink at the Cypress Ministry Center to include programming for all ages
- On January 14, launching a weekly men's Bible study and expanding options for women from 1 to 3 studies
- During Houston 1:8, hosted 5 backyard Bible clubs and a Sports Camp, and began ministering to a multifamily housing community (The Mansions) that continues to today
- Participating in mentoring programs at Smith Middle School and Arnold Middle School
- Hosted Teacher Appreciation Events at Smith Middle School
- Launched a Life Bible Study for young single adults
- Hosted over 800 people at Christmas Eve at Tin Hall



GOD IS FAITHFUL.



When the Houston's First family was asked to make generosity commitments to MISSION 1:8 in early 2013, Pastor Gregg challenged us to pray about taking a step up on the generosity ladder. Many who made commitments did so without knowing where the funds would come from to fulfill their pledge. But that's what faith is — following God's leading and trusting Him to provide. Here are three stories about people who have experienced God's faithfulness.

UNEXPECTED PROVISION

My wife and I owned a piece of property since 2007. We had initially planned to build on it, but plans changed and we decided to sell it. We had it on the market several different times over a couple of years, but because we were not allowed to put a sign on the property, we had very little interest from potential buyers. We eventually decided to take it off the market and just sit on it.

Out of the blue, an acquaintance of mine found out that I had the property and he asked me if I were interested in selling it. He told me he might know someone who might be interested in buying property in that area. I told him yes and he asked me what I would take for it. I told him a price and he said he would talk to his interested party.

A few days later I received a call from my acquaintance and he told me his friend wanted to buy the property, but not for the price I told him — he offered \$15,000 more! We thought it was too good to be true, but 45 days later we closed on the property with no realtor involved. It was the easiest business deal we have ever done. Praise the Lord!

Shortly after we closed, the Lord brought to my mind a message Pastor Gregg had shared on Acts 5 where Ananias and Sapphira had sold property and disobediently held back a portion of the price they had sold the land for. Before we had any knowledge of the potential sale of our land, I had told someone that if we had to, we would sell something in order to fulfill our commitment to MISSION 1:8. Therefore, I knew in my heart that God had orchestrated the sale of the land and the proceeds from the sale — in its entirety — would go towards our MISSION 1:8 pledge.

Although we request anonymity, it is our prayer that this testimony may be an encouragement to others who may have stretched themselves in pledging beyond what seems possible. May we all remember that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and that He is able to give to those who give "a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over."

Anonymous couple
The Loop Campus

Though submitted separately, these two stories reference the truth Christ shared in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over — will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Since the campus
launched on
October 2, 2011:

30
BAPTISMS

&

108
NEW MEMBERS

- During Houston 1:8, served at the Houston Food Bank, hosted a dinner for international college students, prayer walked and distributed zipkits to Downtown's homeless population, and ministered to Kelly Village
- Launched our Preschool Ministry in October with dedicated space at 1010 Lamar
- Launched our Women's Ministry with an event at the Downtown Ministry Center in December
- Celebrated our first wedding with Bryan and Wanda Prejean, a formerly homeless man and woman
- Began hosting Celebrate Recovery gatherings at 1010 Lamar in January 2014
- Partnering with KSBJ to host training sessions for Prayer Stations at Harris County jails
- Sponsoring Living Water International through our Downtown Running Team for the Chevron Houston Marathon



SIENNA CAMPUS

Since the campus
launched on
March 31, 2013:

6
BAPTISMS

&

155
NEW MEMBERS

- During Houston 1:8, partnered with Crossing Point Christian Church to provide Vacation Bible School for area children
- Hosted a community-wide summer kick-off festival
- Partnered with other churches and The Heart of Texas Foundation to provide Day with Dad, enabling children to visit their fathers in prison
- Celebrated Thanksgiving meal and testimony night with over 200 adults in attendance
- Observed Christmas Candlelight Services on December 22
- Starting a weekly women's Bible study on January 23
- Construction is underway on expansion of facilities at 4309 Sienna Parkway with a move-in date in mid-March



Wes and Brenda Jackson
Cypress Campus

EXPECTANT FAITH

Adults with steady income aren't the only ones who made commitments to MISSION 1:8. Grace Hofer, age 12, pledged \$200 when the two-year initiative began in early 2013 — even though she didn't have a job and wasn't receiving an allowance. But that didn't stop her determination or her faith that God would provide.

Shortly after making her pledge, she hung up a mailbox outside her room at home with a sign that asked passersby (her mom Jill and brother Jordan) to give to MISSION 1:8. For her birthday, Grace asked for money for MISSION 1:8 (along with Xbox games). But soon, funds came from sources she would never have expected.

Her older sister Ashley shared with someone in California about MISSION 1:8 and Grace's determination to fulfill her commitment.

Upon hearing that, the man opened up his wallet and asked Ashley to mail Grace \$100. Later, when Jill told someone about that man's generosity, the person gave her \$30 for Grace's MISSION 1:8 goal.

Now, posted next to her mailbox is the letter from Pastor Gregg she received in December showing her pledge and the progress she's made so far. Although she lacked the income to fund her commitment, Grace knew she had a God who would provide — and He is!



EXCEEDINGLY ABOVE

Early in 2013, we knew we had major changes coming in our small company, of which I am part owner. My business partner announced he was retiring at the end of the year, and with a new partner coming in, along with his associated salary and benefits costs, our personal income was going to be significantly lower than previous years.

I distinctly remember thinking and saying to my wife that we were going to have to cut back in our charitable giving as a result. It wasn't that we wanted to — we just saw it as necessary and that it would only be in proportion to the expected drop in our income.

Of course, in God's timing, Pastor Gregg rolled out MISSION 1:8 to the church only a week or two after my "proclamation." Every member was challenged to grow in their giving for the expanded mission work of sharing the good news with Houston, the United States, and the world. That is, for each of us to move up a rung on the ladder of giving to the Lord.

We prayed about our decision, and we felt like we were being led to be obedient to Pastor's call to move up a rung on the ladder with the rest of the church. We made the pledge to do so and fulfilled it soon after.

The real message here is not about us being obedient, but about God, His faithfulness, and what He has done since we made the commitment. I will boast only in the Lord our God, not in anything that we have done. In spite of the expected lower income for 2013, the year actually turned out to have been the best year our company has EVER had — by far! It was exceedingly and abundantly above what I would have ever imagined.

Every time our family has made a special commitment or gift to the Lord, He has multiplied it and given it back, "pressed down and shaken." We can say with certainty — and not really by faith anymore because we have come to know it — that you cannot outgive God. Not even close!