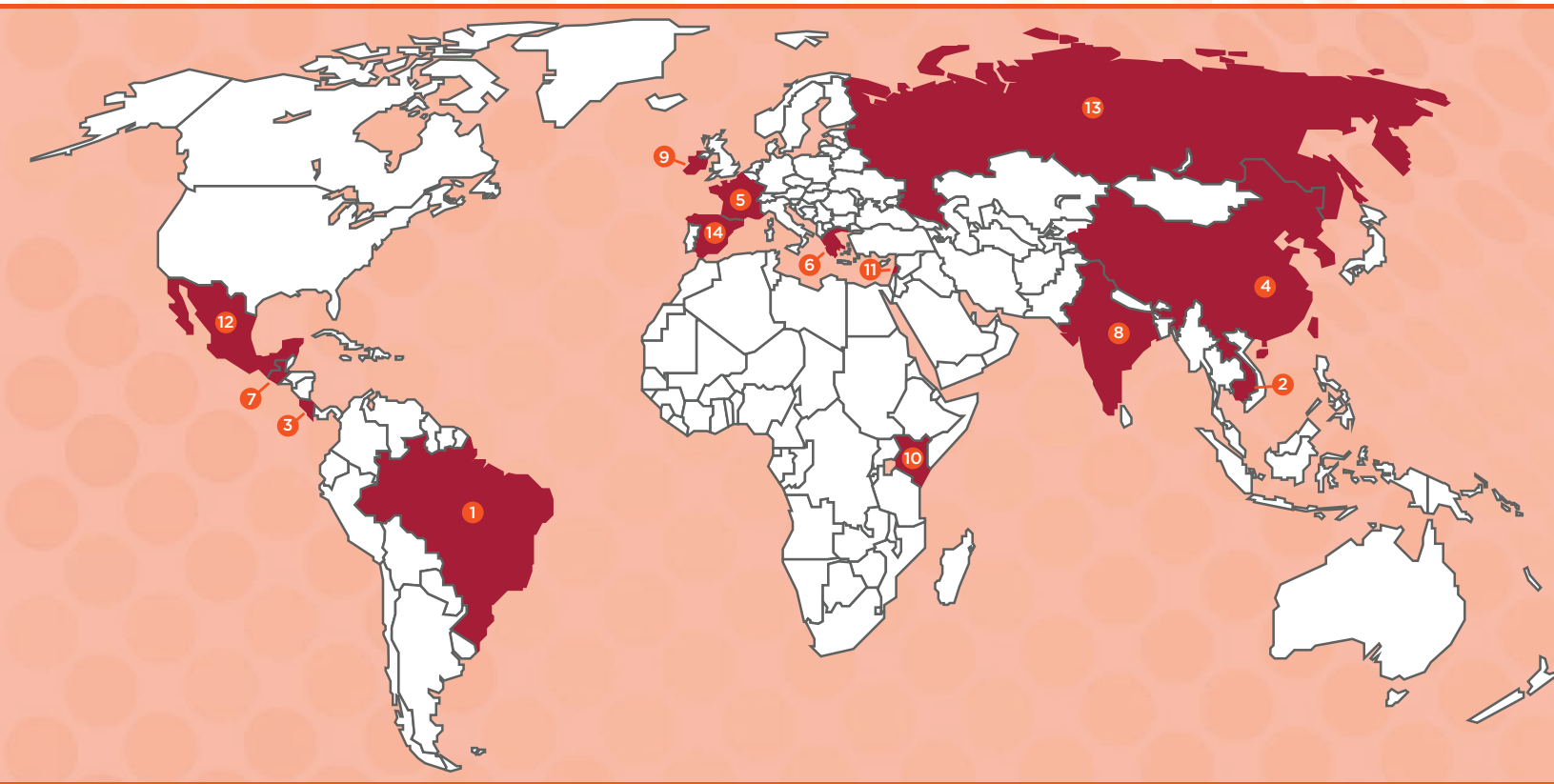


# GOT YOUR PASSPORT?

Houston's First is sharing the Gospel on five of the seven continents in 2014. (Sorry, Australia and Antarctica!) Where might God be calling you to go, give toward a trip, or pray for the teams? Visit [HoustonsFirst.org/Missions](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Missions) for up-to-date details and to complete a Mission Trip Interest Form.



**1 Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)**  
Summer - Dates TBD

**2 Cambodia**  
May 15-25

**3 Costa Rica (San Jose)**  
Mar 15-22 — FULL!

**4 East Asia**  
Jul 4-13  
Oct 12-19

**5 France (Grenoble)**  
Mar 15-23

**6 Greece (Thessaloniki)**  
Jun 10-17 — FULL!

**7 Guatemala**  
Mar 15-22 — FULL!  
Jun 14-20

**8 India**  
Jul 10-18 — FULL!  
Mid-December - Dates TBD

**9 Ireland**  
Jul 19-30

**10 Kenya**  
Jul 10-24 — FULL!  
Jul 22-Aug 2 (Choir & Orchestra)

**11 Lebanon**  
Summer - Dates TBD

**12 Mexico (Monterrey)**  
Jun 7-13

**13 Russia**  
October - Dates TBD

**14 Spain (Madrid)**  
Jun 21-Jul 5

## NEED A PASSPORT?

Applying for a passport is probably easier than you think. Online, go to the Department of State website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for the forms you'll need and to locate acceptance facilities near you. Forms are available at most post offices, public libraries, and municipal offices, as well. Finally, contact our Missions staff for any tips or advice you might need.

## 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:** "Exciting year ahead... Trip to Kenya with @HoustonsFirst! Make this the year you #giveyourlifeaway #MISSION18" — Dora Pop, @dorapop

### 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 29, Executive Pastor David Self looks at "Will 2014 Be Any Different Relationally?"  
**CONTACT** Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

**First Place 4 Health Orientation**  
Today, Jan 26 @ 2:30p — **The Loop (Harbor Rm)**  
Discover a new way to healthy living with First Place 4 Health! This weight loss and healthy living ministry will hold its Winter Orientation after the Fitness Expo. Orientation attendance is required for new members wanting to participate in a FP4H group. Learn more at [FirstPlace4Health.com](http://FirstPlace4Health.com).  
**CONTACT** Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org

**Midnight Madness**  
Fri, Jan 31 @ 5:30p-Midnight — **The Loop**  
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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/Events).  
**CONTACT** Jeanene.Andrus@HoustonsFirst.org

**First HOPE Job Ministry**  
Sat, Feb 1 @ 9a-Noon — **Faith Center**  
Looking for a new or better job? The First HOPE Job Ministry's next free workshop looks at how to use Microsoft Word to generate a resume. The workshop takes place in the computer lab at the Faith Center (8009 Long Point), and breakfast foods and coffee are provided! Registration is not required.  
**CONTACT** Fay.Suitor@HoustonsFirst.org

**Great Sexpectations**  
Wed, Feb 5 @ 6:30-8p — **The Loop (Harbor Rm)**  
Sex is of God and is considered holy when it's between a husband and a wife. That intimacy is an act of worship, and passion in marriage will last if pleasure is the goal. Aaron Bunker from our Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center facilitates this Spotlight Class as part of our Milestones discipleship program. Registration is not required.  
**CONTACT** Greg.Curnutte@HoustonsFirst.org

### WOMEN

**Living Proof with Beth Moore**  
Every Tue, Jan 21-Mar 4 @ 6:30-8:30p — **Worship Center**  
Women of all ages are invited to this 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 and carpooling is greatly encouraged.  
**CONTACT** Haylee.Nelson@HoustonsFirst.org

### THE LOOP

**Fitness Expo**  
Sun, Jan 26 @ 12:30-2:30p — **Fitness & Rec Center**  
See what the Fitness Center has to offer at this Expo showcasing their facilities, health screenings, chair massages, kids' programs, and more! Bring workout clothes and join in on class demos, too. Food provided for the first 400 people, and you can win an iPad, too!  
**CONTACT** Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org

### SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

**The Loop Campus**  
7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024  
Worship 9:15a-11a-9:30p  
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



**EVERY WED THRU MAY 14 — THE LOOP**  
Find full schedule at [HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink](http://HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink).

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

**WORSHIP/MUSIC**  
Singers @ 7-8:30p — Rm 337  
Worship Choir @ 7-8:30p — Rehearsal Hall  
Worship Orchestra @ 7-8:30p — Worship Center

**FITNESS**  
TRX @ 5-5:45p — Rm 274  
Boot Camp @ 5:45-6:45p — Rm 270  
Zumba @ 6-7p — Rm 274

**PRE-SCHOOL**  
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

### 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 [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) to find one that's right for you, or ask the Welcome Team at your campus for assistance.

### GIVING LIFE AWAY

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY**  
Volunteer to befriend one of 25 international students at the University of Houston who have signed up for a non-live-in family or single adult to share cultures, experiences, and practice their English. Students are from China, India, Denmark, Iran, Nigeria, Russia, Turkey and Vietnam.  
**CONTACT** Marie.Downing - [downings@flash.net](mailto:downings@flash.net)

### 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](http://HoustonsFirst.org/WorldMissionOffering).

# MISSION 1:8

Jan 26, 2014

## Taking The Gospel To OUR WORLD



### EAST ASIA

Only 3-4% of over 1 billion people know Christ



### MADRID

6.2 million people and 25% claim no religion



### RIO DE JANEIRO

6.1 million people and the 2nd most irreligious city in Brazil





# OUR WORLD

Through MISSION 1:8, Houston's First will invest \$2,250,000 through partnerships with other churches and ministries to extend God's kingdom in three strategic regions across the globe — East Asia, Madrid, and Rio de Janeiro.

Sociologists note that the world's population is becoming more and more urban. In 1800, there were only 3 cities on the planet with more than 1,000,000 people — London, Beijing and Tokyo. Today, there are nearly 500 such cities. In their December 2011 edition, National Geographic stated that cities "are the best cure for our planet's growing pains." Ironically, the cover story of that issue featured what we believe to be the best solution — the Bible.

Continue to pray for the missionaries, churches, and ministries we're supporting through MISSION 1:8 in these diverse regions of the world. Each area presents unique challenges to the work being done there — cultural differences, language barriers, security concerns, and others. But, God is faithful and He is making a way for the Gospel to go forth! May we in turn be faithful to follow Him as He leads our church family — wherever that may be.

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

**\$427,831**

## 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.

Three Houston's First family members share how God placed a desire in their hearts for the three regions we're focusing on through MISSION 1:8. As you read their stories, remember that you can join with them by going on a trip, by praying for these areas, and by giving to MISSION 1:8.

## EAST ASIA

When I took the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course at Houston's First, the Lord placed a desire in me to be involved in the House Church movement in East Asia and to see unreached people groups (UPGs) reached with the Gospel message. Eventually, I researched the J-People and made a proposal for the church to adopt them.

My wife and I took an exploratory trip there in August 2009 to meet with our IMB workers and learn more about this UPG. On that same trip, we met with our contact whom we partner with to serve in an orphanage, teach House Church leaders, and train House Church vocational students in the capital city.

Since then, I've been back 5 times and will be leading a trip this November. Each time, I've had the privilege of leading teams as we serve in the capital and in the mountains with the J-People. In addition, I travel there for my role with an international information technology corporation at least once



a year and am able to use that opportunity to meet with our partners.

On these trips, I've seen orphans loved on, House Church leaders and youth disciplined, and the Gospel shared with J-People for the very first time. I've seen the Bible translation activity up close when I met with the translators — including the second known believer among the J-People — and visited the recording studio that was designed and resourced by Houston's First. And, I've had the joy of casting vision with House Church

leaders and youth for them to engage in reaching UPGs in their own country.

I'm grateful and humbled that God would use me to enable others to catch a vision for what He is doing in East Asia, as well as provide a connection for them to serve with the various ministries we do there.

By Roger



## MISSION 1:8

MISSION 1:8 is a two-year initiative from Mar 2013-Feb 2015 that will 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. Learn more at [HoustonsFirst.org/MISSION18](http://HoustonsFirst.org/MISSION18).

## MADRID



My connection with Spain was a complete move of God. Years ago, my friends went on a mission trip to another country, but I felt that God wanted me to go to Spain — so I went. Spain as a whole is roughly 1% evangelical Christian. The country is in dire need of Christ. Madrid, being the capital and the center of the country, is pivotal in starting a revival in Spain.

I've now been to Madrid four times, as a team member and a mission trip leader. While there, we've done evangelism and prayed for the city. God has enabled me to minister to strangers in Spain and engage them in talks about Christianity and faith. We are slowly seeing people be more engaged and curious about the Gospel as we have a constant presence in the city.

By Ric Lorilla

## RIO DE JANEIRO



For the past 17 years, I have been a dance director and teacher at a studio in Kingwood. I've dedicated the past five years to completing my seminary degree in Christian Education. Along the way, I've volunteered with the Long Point Baptist Church youth group that meets at the Faith Center on Wednesday nights.

Back in 2004, Patti LaCarter — our church's missionary in Brazil — was home visiting and spoke in my Life Bible Study. She said people were welcome to come on their own to serve at her church in Rio, so I asked her if she would be interested in having me come teach dance to her youth group. Now, I've been to Brazil 7 times — 4 times with Patti and 3 times in more rural parts with missionary Keith Jefferson.

The trips to work with Patti included street evangelism, VBS, sports camps, dance camps, opportunities to teach, preach, lead small groups, and be a part of amazing praise and worship and church services. What I love the most is seeing the growth over the 10 years. On my last trip in July 2013, I asked the congregation at Patti's church to stand if they had been saved and baptized

there. More than half of them stood up. I was overwhelmed at how the Lord is moving!

I love every aspect about missions and have known in my soul that I would one day be more involved. Now, several pieces of the puzzle have fit together and I feel that God is calling me to move to Rio full-time later this year. I will be serving the Lord in any way He should call me to serve towards helping the new church plant in Ipanema. My desire is for relationships to be built and for the people there to see the love of Jesus shining through me. I will be helping Rafael and Luiza (the missionary couple living in Rio) in any way they need help. And yes, I will be teaching dance classes and some stretching classes on the beach to start building relationships and community.

We serve a God of order. Looking back on my journey as a Christ follower, it is fun to see how methodical and timely He is. I have listened, learned, and grown — and now it is time for me to GO. I had no idea how liberating it would be to step out in faith like this. My world as I know it is turning upside down, yet I have never felt it to be so right side up! I am so excited to be following the lead of my church and "going" to truly be a living sacrifice and to help make a difference for the Kingdom in Rio.

By Tonya Thompson

## EAST ASIA



### J-People

- Houston's First is committed to seeing this unreached people group transformed by the Gospel to the point that they are no longer in need of our support and are planting churches on their own.
- The best reports put the number of Christians among the J-People at 20-30 people — about .01% of their population of roughly 300,000.
- Team leaders are working on orally translating and recording stories from the Bible to share with the J-People since they do not have a written language.

### Other East Asia projects

- Holding Bible conferences three times a year to train and disciple house church leaders.
- Sponsoring vocational training for youth and college students.
- Ministering to orphans in a large city.
- Providing funding for other Bible translation projects.

## MADRID



- Houston's First is partnering with English-speaking Immanuel Baptist Church (IBCMadrid.com) to plant a Spanish-speaking church in the capital city to reach the indigenous people of Spain.
- We continue to partner with Iglesia Evangélica Bautista in Xátiva (IEBXativa.org), about 240 miles from Madrid. Leaders from that church are helping with the Madrid church plant.

## RIO DE JANEIRO



- Houston's First is partnering with Comunidade Batista Oceanica — Patti LaCarter's church — to plant a church in Ipanema, an influential and expensive neighborhood in Rio.
- Rafael and Luiza Cordeiro are the church planters, and they are hosting small groups, connecting with people in the community, and laying a foundation for the new church.