

THE BAY AREA

"A place of both affluence and influence, the San Francisco Bay Area is poised to impact the future like no other place in the United States. Southern Baptists there have a vision not only that the Bay Area will be vibrantly transformed by Christ, but also that it will become a major global exporter of the Christian faith. Hundreds of church leaders are praying Luke 10:2, beseeching the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to their fields. Believing that the fields really are ripe for harvest, they have set their cell phone alarms for 10:02 each morning as a reminder to pray that God will raise up and send out evangelists and church planters to their fields." — North American Mission Board (namb.net)

7,563,460

people live in the greater Bay Area

60.8%

are unaffiliated with any religious body

7.0%

are affiliated with an evangelical church

1 : 16,920

ratio of SBC churches to Bay Area residents

THE MOVEMENT CHURCH

One of our MISSION 1:8 partners, the MOVEMENT Church officially launched in September 2013 and meets on the campus of Mills College in Oakland. To get a sense of the heartbeat of this new church, here's a summary of a section of their website titled *The Church We See*:

We do not see...

A brick building to attend.
A religious organization to join.
A political cause to be a part of.

We see a movement to advance!

Joining and modeling ourselves after the 2,000 year-old movement started by Jesus Christ in the book of Acts, we envision becoming a movement that...

**Passionately Proclaims the Gospel.
Relentlessly Reaches the Lost.
Deliberately Develops Disciples.
Strategically Serves the City.
Methodically Multiplies Itself.**

This is the church we see, and by God's grace, this is the church we will be!



To read more about the church they see, visit their website at theMOVEMENT.us

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: "Eureka! I've found an #HTown church. Today's 11 a.m. service w/Pastor @GreggMatte & High 5 Kids Choir at @HoustonsFirst = repentance, tears." Nik Bannister, @NikBNice

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 Apr 9, Executive Pastor David Self will talk about "Encouragement Toward Things to Embrace."
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

Houston's First Baptist Church Night at Minute Maid Park
Fri, Aug 29 @ 7:10p — Minute Maid Park
Astros vs. Rangers! Pastor Gregg throws the first pitch! Houston's First's Singers lead the national anthem! Houston's First family members from all four campuses are headed to the ballpark for a night of baseball, hot dogs, fireworks, and more! Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events for discounted tickets and more information about our night at Minute Maid Park!

YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS
Summit Spring Retreat
May 2-4 — Trinity Pines, Trinity, TX
Unwind from your daily routine and join other single adults at the Summit Spring Retreat! Speakers Jerrell and Kay Altic will dive deeper into the idea of "Bold and Courageous: Living Set Apart" while the David Gentiles Band leads worship. Registration opens May 2. For more information, visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Joshua.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP

LBS Leadership Luncheon
Today @ 11:30a-1:45p — Fitness & Rec Ctr
Life Bible Study leaders from all age groups will gather for lunch, inspiration and vision-casting today. Lunch begins serving at 11:30a, and program starts at 12:30p. It's free and walk-ins are welcome!
CONTACT Brenda.Garza@HoustonsFirst.org

First Place 4 Health Orientation
Thu, Apr 10 @ 6:30p — Rm 257
& Sun, Apr 13 @ 3p — Rm 257
Discover a new way to healthy living with First Place 4 Health! The spring session of this weight loss and healthy living ministry will start Apr 24. Orientation attendance is required for new members wanting to participate in a FP4H group. Learn more at FirstPlace4Health.com.
CONTACT Debbie.Brown@HoustonsFirst.org

Make It Your Church Orientation
Sun, Apr 13 @ 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

Milestones Bonus Semester
Every Wed, Apr 23-May 14 @ 6:30-8p
MidLink takes a week off on Apr 16, then resumes Apr 23 with four new 3-week classes taught by Jerrell Altic, Doug Bischoff, Chad Chambers, and Russell Minick. The fourth week (May 14), the church will gather to pray for our summer mission trips. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events for class information and other details.
CONTACT Doug.Bischoff@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
Hippity Hoppin' Easter Party
Sat, Apr 12 @ 10a-1p — Oasis
Join us for our big Easter event! You and your family will enjoy Easter egg dying, an egg hunt, baby animals to hold and pet, a petting zoo, photo booth...and so much more! This event is free and lunch is provided, but please let us know you're coming! For details and to register, visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS
Recreate Date Night
Fri, Apr 25 @ 6-10p
Enjoy a night out with your spouse — dinner, a movie, hang out with friends, or whatever. We'll provide "date kits" for download from HoustonsFirst.org. These kits will help you be intentional about the time you spend together. Childcare is available at The Loop by registering at HoustonsFirst.org/Events. Space is limited!
CONTACT Melanie.Russell@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS

Walking Through Cancer?
Then we want to pray with and encourage you! This new ministry is for cancer patients and caregivers. Ella Edmiston and Teresa Triplett are both cancer survivors and would welcome the opportunity to pray with you!
CONTACT Ella Edmiston (ellaedmiston@gmail.com or 832.788.0697) or Teresa Triplett (tttriplett@aol.com or 281.389.4625)

Boston Mission Trip
Aug 30-Sep 4
Members at the Cypress Campus are heading to Boston over Labor Day weekend to serve with our MISSION 1:8 partner churches. Spots are limited and the cost is \$1,000 per person (not including food).
CONTACT Ian.Brou@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN

Free Coffee Night at Minuti
Fri, Apr 11 @ 7-9p — Minuti Coffee (909 Texas Ave)
Join other members from the Downtown Campus for an evening of free coffee and great conversation! This is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend! For more details, please visit the Information Center.
CONTACT Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

IMAGO Arts Gathering
Mon, Apr 14 @ 7-9p — 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 Lee.Hsia@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA
Helicopter Easter Egg Drop
Sat, Apr 19 @ 9a — Sienna Amphitheater (9600 Scanlan Trace East)
One helicopter. Lots of eggs. Endless fun! Over 4,000 eggs will drop from the sky at this event for children through 5th grade! Who will you invite? Registration is free and takes place at the event. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna for more and to invite others!
CONTACT Katie.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org

HOLY WEEK AT HOUSTON'S FIRST
Observe Holy Week through the following gatherings at Houston's First. Visit HoustonsFirst.org/HolyWeek for additional information.

BLESSED: HOLY WEEK ART SHOW
Apr 6-20 — The Loop (Main Foyer)
Professional and amateur artists from IMAGO present works inspired by the Beatitudes. The show is open for viewing when the church building is open. Come meet the artists at a reception on Wed, Apr 9 @ 6-9p.

BROKEN FOR YOU
Thu, Apr 17 @ 7p — The Loop
The Houston's First family from all four campuses will gather to observe the Lord's Supper as we remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Robert J. Morgan, author of Red Sea Rules, will deliver the message.

EASTER SUNDAY
Sun, Apr 20 — All Campuses
He is risen! Celebrate Christ's resurrection with Pastor Gregg and the Houston's First family and our guests at one of our four campuses:
The Loop @ 8a, 9:30a, 11a, & 5:30p
Cypress @ 9:30 & 11a
Downtown @ 11a
Sienna @ 9:30a & 11a

FITNESS & REC CENTER
No fooling! No enrollment fee for the first week of April! From April 1-7, take advantage of this great deal and start enjoying the many recreational and athletic outlets the Fitness & Recreation Center at The Loop provides each day.
CONTACT Debbie.Brown@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 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

MISSION 1:8

Apr 6, 2014

The Bay Area

Lifting the fog to show Christ's love



TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE BAY AREA

A team of 13 from Houston's First traveled to the Bay Area over Spring Break (Mar 15-22) to serve alongside members of theMOVEMENT in Oakland. Here, some members of the team share insights from their experience — what they saw God do, what they learned, and what it was like being on the mission field in their own country. Pray that what the Lord did through them will lift the fog and enable people to see clearly the great love He has for them!

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 HoustonFirst.org/MISSION18.



Joyful and Honored

By Malcolm Marshall, Minister of Assimilation

This was Houston's First's initial mission trip to the Bay Area since MISSION 1:8 began, and it was theMOVEMENT's first time to host a team. Excitement permeated everything! Hopelessness abounds in many parts of the Bay, so for this group of men and women to step forward with a message of hope is very bold. In that part of the country, most anything Christ-centered is often met with resistance or ambivalence. In spite of this, words cannot clearly express the joy we encountered as we locked arms with theMOVEMENT in their first annual "Serve Our City" week.

One of theMOVEMENT's mottos is that they want to Overwhelm Oakland With Love. We came alongside them to love on the city by serving at a food bank, remodeling three teachers' lounges at a middle school, organizing several storage areas at an elementary school, and participating in a "trash bash" sponsored by a local city council representative where we walked the streets and did our best to beautify the city. God's fingerprints were all over this trip from the way He assembled our team to the synergy and cohesiveness we experienced as we packaged pinto beans, painted walls, lifted furniture and hauled off trash together!



theMOVEMENT recently celebrated their 6 month anniversary. They started with 20 people and now have 120 people regularly attending. They're a healthy community with a group of vibrant young leaders who love Jesus, are passionate about His name being exalted, and are discipling men and women to live lives sold-out to God. The church family of Houston's First should be extremely honored at how God's allowed us to be a part of advancing His Kingdom in a place where the realities about our Lord are not widely embraced.



Inspired To Do More

By Martha Rees, Sienna Campus

Other than serving at the Houston Food Bank and doing outreach to the homeless in Houston, I have only done mission work outside of the United States. In fact, because we were doing community outreach with theMOVEMENT in Oakland and the work was similar to things I have done in Houston, my mind kept bringing me back to Houston and how I should be doing more of this type of work in my own community. I think when our mission work is outside of our own country, and the needs such as digging wells and working with orphans seem so removed from our daily lives, it's easy to compartmentalize our ministry. Being on a mission trip in my own country inspires me to do more community outreach in my own city.



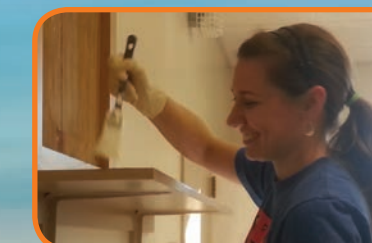
Unity Of The Church On Display

By Edward Paz, Lead Pastor at theMOVEMENT

Houston's First's support has been a huge encouragement to our young church plant. The financial support has allowed us to do ministry in the city of Oakland without the additional burden of adequate funding. But more importantly, the prayer support and affirmation of our mission to Overwhelm Oakland with Love has given our team confidence in our calling!

During Houston's First's visit, it was so beautiful to see the unity of the Church on display. Though our churches minister in two completely different contexts, your team was able to join ours and serve the city of Oakland as one Church! The unity and love that was shared between our teams had a positive impact on our city's food bank, our city's schools, and our city's residents!

Please join us in praying that God would draw many people, especially the unchurched, to hear the gospel proclaimed at theMOVEMENT's very first Easter service. Also, that God would continue to move on the hearts of other churches across the nation to partner with us in accomplishing the work that God has called us to in our city.



Single Dad Serves With Son

By Ben Kaplan, The Loop Campus

Last year, I was blessed to go on the Boston trip through MISSION 1:8. It was a moving experience to serve my hometown and see God's plan for making it a Christian city. When I shared by experience with my two young boys, ages 12 and 10, they became inspired to go on a mission trip! We started praying about going on a trip together and God led us to the San Francisco mission trip. Being a single dad, I felt called to show them how a Christian man has to live his faith. We have done Men: Serve and the family mission trip to Galveston, and we felt God calling us to spend Spring Break together serving the people of San Francisco/Oakland. (Sadly, my youngest got an ear infection one week before the trip and couldn't go, so just my oldest son and I went.) It was a blessing to do all of these projects with my son by my side. I've never seen him work so hard, and I felt God was moving his heart throughout this week. It's always been my prayer that I could lead my boys to grow up to be strong Christian men of faith, and I felt God has planted that seed in my oldest during this mission trip!