

# Generosity

## AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

MISSION 1:8 was about more than raising funds for a project at church. The two-year initiative encouraged the Houston's First family to prayerfully take a step up on the generosity ladder to support the advancement of God's kingdom to make an impact on our city, our nation, and our world and among the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners.

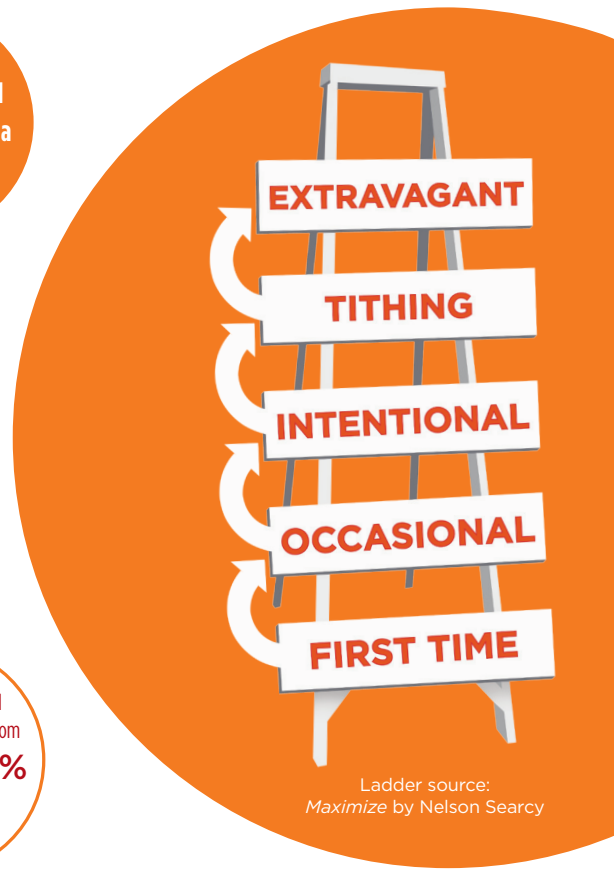
Going forward, we ask God to continue the generosity movement He began. There's no denying it, hearts and lives have changed within our church as we have seen that generosity isn't something God wants from us, but something He wants for us. And beyond our church, only God knows the number of lives that have been changed by your generosity. We've reached an incredible mile marker, but we haven't yet finished the race. There's still more to come...

"I felt God taking my stingy heart and transforming it into a heart of faith."  
— Lauren

"I decided that I had to just let go and trust God."  
— Cody

"Giving has become a joy!"  
— Sheila

Funding for missional endeavors increasing from **22% to 51%** of Houston's First's budget!



The Projected and MISSION 1:8 Operating Budgets do not include contributions to special giving opportunities, such as the World Mission Offering, local missions, and mission trips. The 2-year time frame for these budgets was from Mar 2013-Feb 2015.

## 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: "Lord let all my actions be pleasing to you and bring unity to my friends and family @HoustonFirst" — @aaronbunker

### ALL CAMPUSES

**The Mingling of Souls**  
Fri, Apr 17 @ 7p — The Loop (Worship Center)  
At this live event, author and pastor Matt Chandler will explore God's design for love, marriage, sex, and redemption. The event is for single and married adults, regardless of age or stage of life. \$20 per person thru Mar 26. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events).  
CONTACT Kristin.Hawkinson@HoustonFirst.org

### SENIOR ADULTS

**Senior Adult Revival**  
Mar 16-18 @ 10:30-11:45a — The Loop (Chapel)  
Senior Adults (60+) will gather to hear the Word preached by Dr. Jimmy Draper, former President of LifeWay, with worship led by our own John Bolin and the Revival Choir.  
CONTACT Tracie.Bowman@HoustonFirst.org

### WOMEN

**From Good to Grace**  
Tue, Mar 3 @ 6:30-8p — The Loop (Fellowship Center)  
What if there were another way to live where the responsibility for our spiritual growth rested on someone else? Christine Hoover, author of *From Good to Grace: Letting Go of the Goodness Gospel*, will illustrate how we confuse being good and trying hard — the "goodness gospel" — with the true gospel. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Events](http://HoustonFirst.org/Events).  
CONTACT Haylee.Nelson@HoustonFirst.org

### THE LOOP

**Witness to Wonder: The Life and Work of C. S. Lewis**  
Wed, Mar 11 @ 6:30-8p — Fellowship Center  
Andrew Lazo, a teacher at Houston Christian High School and an expert on the life and writings of C. S. Lewis, presents insights about the beloved author. Come early for MidLink Cafe from 4:45-6:15p, and take your children and students to special programming just for them at 6:30p.  
CONTACT Courtney.Schisler@HoustonFirst.org

**Night of Worship**  
Wed, Mar 18 @ 6:30-8p — Worship Center  
The California Baptist University Choir and Orchestra returns to Houston's First to lead a night of worship. Featuring over 150 students, this premiere performance group is known for their musical excellence and engaging style. Admission is free!  
CONTACT Dora.Pop@HoustonFirst.org

### CYPRESS HUB STUDENTS

**SURGE**  
Every Sun @ 6-7:30p — Cypress Ministry Center  
Students in Grades 6-12 are invited to SURGE on Sunday evenings as we look at the life of Joseph and learn what it means to be pure in a culture of compromise.  
CONTACT Kaylyn.Sinclair@HoustonFirst.org

### MEN

**Fight the Good Fight**  
Every Tue @ 6:30-7:30a — Cypress Ministry Center  
How do I become the man God has called me to be? What are the attributes and practices of a godly man? Through exegetical study and discussion of the life of David in 2 Samuel, facilitator Ian Brou guides this weekly Bible study as you explore these questions and more.  
CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonFirst.org

### DOWNTOWN

**PLACE Downtown**  
Wed, Mar 4-Apr 8 @ 6:30-8p  
Vine St. Studios — 1113 Vine St., Ste 117  
Want to explore how you've been created and the ways you can make an impact? PLACE is a 5-week class that will help you discover how you process the world around you, your spiritual gifts, and how you can better serve God with those gifts. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Downtown](http://HoustonFirst.org/Downtown). (No meeting on Apr 1.)  
CONTACT Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

**Greater Expectations**  
Sun, Mar 22 & 29 @ 1-2:30p  
Vine St. Studios — 1113 Vine St., Ste 117  
Dodge burnout and set yourself up for success! In this world, it's easy to feel like your life is small, that you aren't doing enough, that other lives, careers, and even cities are more exciting than yours. The challenge today is, with unlimited public pressure on how your life measures up against everyone else's, how do you find contentment?  
Taught by Lee Hsia. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Downtown](http://HoustonFirst.org/Downtown).  
CONTACT Peter.Lee@HoustonFirst.org

### SIENNA

**Closet/Cupboard Clean**  
Sat, Mar 28 @ 9a-1p — 4309 Sienna Parkway  
Look through your closets and cupboards for clothes and non-perishable foods! The Second Mile truck will be in the Sienna Campus parking lot to receive your donations. Invite your neighbors to participate, too!  
CONTACT Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org

**2nd Annual Helicopter Easter Egg Drop**  
Sat, Apr 4 @ 9a — 4309 Sienna Parkway  
One helicopter. Lots of eggs. Endless fun! Preschoolers through 5th graders will have a blast as eggs drop from the sky over the Sienna Campus lawn. Registration starts at 9a, along with food trucks and carnival games. The egg drop will take place at 10a. Invite your neighbors to this free event!  
CONTACT Kelli.Boylan@HoustonFirst.org

### SPANISH

**Soccer Tournament of Champions**  
Sat, Mar 14 @ 9a-5p — Warrior Field  
The Spanish Campus is hosting a soccer tournament for the Spanish-speaking community in Spring Branch at Warrior Field! The day will include Steve Johng's Project Delta and Tre9's Hip Hop Hope. Register at [HoustonFirst.org/Espanol](http://HoustonFirst.org/Espanol).  
Warrior Field is located at 6711 Long Point Road.  
CONTACT Cynthia.Carranza@HoustonFirst.org

### MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH

Houston's First encourages believers in Jesus Christ to commit to a local body of fellow Christians. If interested in making us your church, 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.

**PRAY FOR SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS**  
Ask God to prepare the way for teams heading out to share the Good News!

- Costa Rica - Cypress Campus (Mar 7-14)
- New York City - HUB Students (Mar 7-12, 14-19)
- Honduras (Mar 13-17)
- Costa Rica (Mar 14-21)
- Guatemala (Mar 14-21)
- Canada (Mar 14-21)

**LIFE BIBLE STUDIES**  
Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others and growing together at Houston's First. Visit [HoustonFirst.org](http://HoustonFirst.org) to find one that's right for you, or ask the Welcome Team at your campus for assistance.

**Wednesday evenings — The Loop**  
There's more to Houston's First than Sundays! Gather at The Loop on Wednesday evenings for MidLink featuring MidLink Cafe, Milestones classes, worship rehearsals, NextGen programs, and more. Visit [HoustonFirst.org/MidLink](http://HoustonFirst.org/MidLink) for the full schedule.

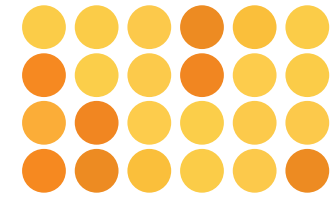
**SHUTTLE PARKING**  
Do you attend The Loop on Sunday mornings? Use shuttle parking to make room for others! It's a simple way to expand the ministry of our church. Get details on the five garages at [HoustonFirst.org/ShuttleParking](http://HoustonFirst.org/ShuttleParking).

### SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

<b>The Loop Campus</b> 7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024 Worship 9:15a-11a-5p Life Bible Studies 8a-9:15a-10:45a-6:30p	<b>Cypress Campus</b> 10300 Warner Smith Blvd • Cypress, TX 77433 Worship 11a Life Bible Studies 9:30a	<b>Downtown Campus</b> 1300 Lamar St • Houston, TX 77002 Worship 11a Life Bible Studies 9:30a	<b>Sienna Campus</b> 4309 Sienna Pkwy • Missouri City, TX 77459 Worship 9:30a-11a Life Bible Studies 9:30a-11a
---	---	--	---



# TELLING THE STORY



How can we explain MISSION 1:8? The Bible tells us to share stories of God's faithfulness with those around us today and with future generations. Doing so provides others with real-life examples of God moving in our lives — and, it reminds us of what we have experienced, too.

So, what will we say about MISSION 1:8? Yes, it was a two-year generosity initiative designed to grow us in the discipline of giving so we could multiply our missional endeavors at home and around the world. That is the official description, but how do we tell the God-story behind MISSION 1:8?

The words listed below capture the essence and scope of this unprecedented season in the life of Houston's First. Along with your personal MISSION 1:8 story, use this vocabulary as you remember and share what God has done.

As our church family continues to grow in its generosity and to spread the message of Jesus Christ, may what we witnessed during MISSION 1:8 inspire us to trust God to do more than we could ask or imagine!

## 8 WORD THESAURUS FOR MISSION 1:8

### 1 WE ARE ON A \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE WORLD. *Matthew 28:19-20*

- A church plant started in the South Zone of Rio de Janeiro
- Twelve churches were planted among the T-people in East Asia
- The first Valencian-speaking Christian school opened in Xàtiva, Spain
- And there is still more to come ...

### 2 WE ARE MAKING AN \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR NATION. *Psalms 33:12*

- Since opening in 2014, The Journey Church - Staten Island has seen 67 salvations
- Over 60 people were baptized at Epic Church in San Francisco in the past two years
- City On A Hill Church hired a church planter to reach 80,000 unreached Indian people in Boston area
- And there is still more to come ...

### 3 WE ARE STEPPING OUT IN \_\_\_\_\_ TO MINISTER TO HOUSTON. *Jeremiah 29:7*

- Nearly 1,000 people gather at the Cypress, Downtown, and Sienna Campuses each Sunday
- Campuses sent mission teams to serve with partners in NYC, Boston, and San Francisco/Oakland
- 112 people have been baptized at the campuses since they launched
- And there is still more to come ...

### 4 WE ARE BRINGING \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE PRISONER AND POOR. *Isaiah 61:1*

- C.H.A.R.M. Prison Ministry opened three additional transition homes to disciple recently released men
- Houston Habitat for Humanity provided homes for two single mothers and their children
- Hope for Youth sent over 75 inner city youth to Christian camps during the summer
- And there is still more to come ...

### 5 WE ARE SHOWING \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE ORPHAN AND WIDOW. *James 1:27*

- The Source for Women in Houston rescued 580 babies from being aborted
- The Harbor opened in Nizhny, Russia, to serve orphans who age out of state institutions
- Mission:Dignity provided funds for a pastor's widow to remain in her home
- And there is still more to come ...

### 6 WE ARE A PART OF AN INCREDIBLE \_\_\_\_\_ . *1 Corinthians 12:12*

- Over 50 ministry partners received MISSION 1:8 funds (not including our campuses)
- Of those, 18 are located in the greater Houston area
- \_\_\_\_\_ givers generously contributed to MISSION 1:8!
- And there is still more to come ...

### 7 WE ARE GROWING THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_ . *Acts 2:44-27*

- \_\_\_\_\_ first-time givers!
- Total amount given for missional impact over two years: \$ \_\_\_\_\_!
- And there is still more to come ...

### 8 WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ FOREVER. *Romans 12:2*

- How has God changed me during MISSION 1:8?
- How can I continue to grow?
- And there is still more to come ...

## THE #1 WORD, THOUGH, IS ...

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

