

HOUSTON 1:8 BEING MISSIONARIES TO OUR OWN CITY



REACHING OUR CITY

Houston 1:8 missionaries have served our city at more than 30 locations over the years — not including the driveways, cul-de-sacs and backyards used on the Neighborhood Track!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Plan on these and other important dates set by Houston 1:8 leaders at your campus or ministry site!

- Sun, May 7** Registration starts
- Sun, June 25** Registration deadline
- Sat, July 8** Kick-Off Rally
- July 10-13** Houston 1:8 (evenings)

REGISTER FOR HOUSTON 1:8

Ready to step up and be a missionary to your city? Here's how to register:

- Option 1**
Visit the Houston 1:8 page at HoustonsFirst.org
- Option 2**
Text "Houston18" to 41411 to receive a link on your mobile device
- Option 3**
Watch for other ways to register at your campus!

NEWS + UPDATES

TWEET OF THE WEEK "It's an amazing experience to be a part of HFBC. There is a place for everyone to serve using their abilities that God has blessed them with." — @DonJr1770

ALL CAMPUSES

HighPoint Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 11:30a – 1010 Lamar (Tunnel Level)
 This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Dr. David Self is teaching this Wednesday at 12:10p. Bring your lunch or purchase one there for \$8. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to learn more.
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

First H.O.P.E.
Sat, May 13 @ 9a-12p – The Loop (Rm 253/254)
 For job seekers and those wanting a career change, First H.O.P.E. job ministry offers a professional consultant, resume/interview tips, career assessment and more. Join guest speakers Doug Campbell, certified Dave Ramsey coach, and Nancy Stroud as they share financial resources.
CONTACT Bob.Stroud@HoustonsFirst.org

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Camp Intersect
June 11-14 – Carolina Creek Christian Camp
 Camp Intersect is the place your child (current 3rd-6th graders) can experience God in fun ways at a "two camps, one location" event! FirstKids and The HUB students each have their own summer camp experience with games, worship, small groups, water activities and so much more! There's no better way to start the summer than with Camp Intersect! Register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Mike.Harvey@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS

Summit Retreat
Fri, May 19-Sun, May 21 – Pineywoods Camp
 Gather with young single adults of Houston's First to spend time in God's Word and develop relationships through fun activities, conversations and shared experiences. Speaker Nabeel Qureshi provides God's message for a retreat that is not a chance to flee from life's challenges, but to run to God with them! Register now at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Angela.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

MEN

Warrior's Heart
Thursdays @ 6:30-7:30a – The Loop (Garden Rm)
 Warrior's Heart is a weekly morning Bible study for men focusing on clear, biblical teaching followed by real conversations. Eric Reed and Steve Diserens will wrap up the series, "Faith@Work," with questions every man must answer about work. Breakfast is available for purchase in the Café. Learn more at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Heather.Kuehler@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP

MidLink Bonus Night
Wed, May 10 @ 6:30-8p – The Loop (Chapel)
 Are you ready to answer questions about your faith? Come learn about "Engaging our Culture with Answers: Having a Confident and Compassionate Faith" with Brian Henson, author of *Grounded*, a DVD series on establishing the truth of the Christian faith and the biblical worldview. Come early for gourmet burgers and hotdogs at MidLink Cafe from 4:45-6:15p.
CONTACT Courtney.Schisler@HoustonsFirst.org

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

1st Grade Bible Presentation
Sun, May 21 @ 2-3:30p – The Loop (Worship Ctr)
 This is a great Milestones event for our new first graders! The FirstKids ministry and Pastor Gregg Matte will welcome all children making the transition to the Children's Ministry with a Bible of their very own! Registration is required by Wed, May 17.
CONTACT Courtney.Harris@HoustonsFirst.org

SINGLE ADULTS

Impact Crawfish Boil
Sun, May 21 @ 1-4p – Hunt Retreat
 Come out to our 3rd annual Impact Crawfish Boil for a great day of fun and relaxation! We'll have live country music, games and plenty of crawfish, shrimp, sausage and more! Find out more and register at HoustonsFirst.org to this adults-only event!
CONTACT Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS WOMEN

Gifted
Tuesdays, June 13-27 @ 9:30-11:30a or 6:30-8:30p
New Cypress Campus
 God has uniquely and perfectly made each one of us and gifted us each with different abilities and talents. Join us as we learn how three women have used their unique gifts for the glory of God! Come join us for a 3-week event, offered in both the morning or the evening, with small group discussions for women of all generations. Childcare, for the morning class only, is available with registration at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Andi.Farrell@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN

Finding Your PLACE in Life & Ministry
Wednesdays, June 7-July 5 @ 7-8:30p
1730 Jefferson (Rm 217)
 This five-week course taught by Peter Lee will help you discover how God has uniquely designed you to be a difference maker among your family, friends, colleagues, and community. We will cover topics such as personality, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions, and life experiences. Following the course, you will be given an opportunity to meet with a PLACE Coach to help you implement what you learn. Register for \$10 at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Peter.Lee@HoustonsFirst.org

ESPAÑOL

Make it Your Church Orientation
Sun, May 21 @ 6:30p – The Loop (Reception Rm)
 Discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First at the Español Campus! Join us after service to meet staff members, hear about our mission, vision, and ministries, and learn how you can make Houston's First your church. Dinner will be provided. Learn more about membership at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Karina.Bazaldua@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA

Baptism Sunday
Sun, May 21 – Sienna Campus
 Celebrate our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being baptized immediately following the 11a worship service on the Sienna Campus patio. If you would like to be baptized, or want more information on baptism, please contact Sienna Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall.
CONTACT Malcolm.Marshall@HoustonsFirst.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Galactic Starveyors
Mon, June 26-Thu, June 29 @ 9a-12:30p – The Loop
 Discover the God of the universe as a Galactic Starveyor! Kids will search the skies and God's Word to uncover His truth etched in His handiwork. VBS is for kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade in Fall 2017, plus Little Dippers (kids born by Dec 31, 2012). Registration is open now at HoustonsFirst.org!
 • Make SPACE in your schedule as a VBS volunteer! Register to serve by Mon, June 5.
 • Women – discover all that God has done for us in a Bible study led by Nancy Taylor during VBS hours.

Family Night at Typhoon Texas
Fri, June 2 @ 7-10p – Typhoon Texas Houston
 Families with preschoolers, children and students (Birth-12th grades) are headed to Typhoon Texas for a fun-filled Friday night to kick-off the summer — and we'll have the park all to ourselves! Limited supply of discounted tickets are \$14 through Mon, May 15, then \$20 after that. Get yours soon at HoustonsFirst.org!
CONTACT Hannah.Bush@HoustonsFirst.org

Orphan Care Intensive
Sat, May 20 @ 8:30a-5p – The Loop (Rm 253)
 Providing effective care for the at-risk and vulnerable child is a long-term endeavor that can be positively and negatively impacted by short-term missions. Class participants will be motivated toward reflection and contextual understanding, and will receive tools to engage marginalized children through short-term missions. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.
CONTACT Ameer.Omar@HoustonsFirst.org

MultiGenerational NIGHT OF WORSHIP
Wed, May 17 @ 6:30-8p
The Loop (Worship Center)
 Gather with the Houston's First family for a night of worship led by First Worship — the Choir & Orchestra, Band & Singers, and our MultiGen Choir — as we give thanks for all God has done this semester. The evening will include the release of the Choir & Orchestra's new album, *If It Brings You Glory*.

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. For information, call 713.681.8000, or visit HoustonsFirst.org.

SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST

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| The Loop Campus
7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024
Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p
Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p | Cypress Campus
10300 Warner Smith Blvd • Cypress, TX 77433
Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a | Downtown Campus
1730 Jefferson St • Houston, TX 77003
Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a | Español Campus
7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024
Worship 5p
Life Bible Studies 6:30p | Sienna Campus
4309 Sienna Pkwy • Missouri City, TX 77459
Worship 9:30a • 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a • 11a |
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HOUSTON 1:8

A ONE-WEEK SERVICE PROJECT THAT BECAME AN ANNUAL MISSION TRIP — AND A YEAR-ROUND WAY OF LIFE



HOUSTON 1:8

The scope of the Great Commission is far-reaching — to be witnesses for Christ, making disciples of all nations in our community, nation and world. With God’s leadership and the power of the Holy Spirit, Houston’s First celebrates 20 years of sowing seeds of faith through the work of Houston 1:8 (formerly The Houston Project), taking Christ’s message and helping hands to people in our city.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8



A CALL TO MISSIONS

Soon after Missions Pastor William Taylor was called to Houston’s First Baptist Church in 1997, God began speaking to his heart about getting members more involved in missions. “I figured most people wouldn’t be going on a mission trip, but maybe they would get involved in our city during the evening after work,” he said. “I tried to think of ways to move people along, to create an on-ramp from home missions to international, or even career missions.”

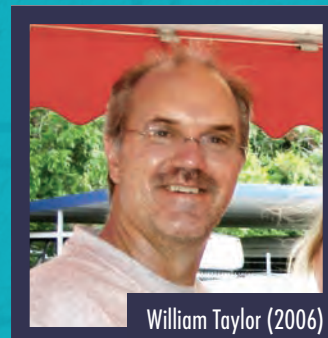
William visited the Marathon class, a young singles’ Life Bible Study taught by Marc Kohler. He had gone on several mission trips sponsored either by the choir or other groups led by Pastor John Bisagno, our pastor from 1970-2000. Marc was about to leave for a mission trip to Africa when he met William.

“William Taylor offered missions opportunities to students who came from Missouri to work at the Faith Center each day during their stay in Houston,” said Marc. “William asked if our class would participate in a mission trip at night to our city. The class members loved the idea.”

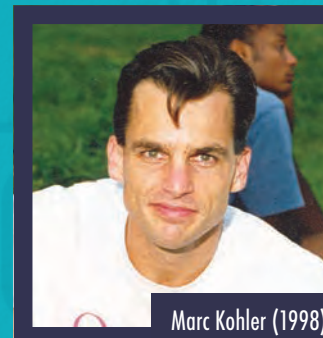
“The Houston Project” was born. Its first official service location was Hogg Middle School in the Heights. “There was an army of young singles from our church and they were fired up,” said Marc. The 70 or so participants had specific duties: some walked the neighborhoods to evangelize and invite children; some drove vans and picked up kids from their homes; some cooked and served meals; some shared Bible stories in VBS-style classes; and some played games. “You can only be fed, or receive, so much at church,” said Marc. “It was time to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.”

The following year, the entire singles department participated in The Houston Project. By 2000, there was churchwide participation in missions to the city. “The ministry target that year was “Reach 1,000 in 2000,” said William. “We extended a hand to transitional churches so we could help them reach out to people in their neighborhoods.”

In 2013, The Houston Project was renamed Houston 1:8 to coincide with MISSION 1:8, the two-year generosity initiative designed to take the Gospel to our city, nation and world. By that time, Houston’s First members were embracing the idea of serving “on mission,” and the number of national and international mission trips increased from fewer than four per year in 1997 to 25-30 yearly mission trips offered today. Many of these trips are being led by laypeople — one of the original goals of Houston 1:8 when it first began.



William Taylor (2006)



Marc Kohler (1998)

The Houston Project first began its outreach to students at Hogg Middle School, but as the service project expanded through the years and across the city, the name changed to Houston 1:8 to reflect its wider focus. Three major groups have emerged as its concentration of ministry: transitional churches, community partnerships, and neighborhood ministry.

TRANSITIONAL CHURCHES

The focus of Houston 1:8 turned to transitional neighborhoods to assist sister churches in reaching their neighbors for Christ. One such church was Park Temple Baptist Church, inside the 610 Loop between Interstate 45 and Hardy Street in Houston. Park Temple Pastor Henry Garza offers a glimpse into their relationship with Houston’s First that has been making a difference in their neighborhood for more than 15 years.

Kids Come Running

“Houston’s First members had been serving here before I got here in 2003,” said Pastor Garza. “They started with a small group of fine young men who continued to come out about every other week for three years.”

Park Temple is located down the street from government housing, and Houston’s First helped to forge relationships with their neighbors. “Now, anytime the church drives a van down the street, kids come running,” said Pastor Garza. “They were trained during Houston 1:8 that when the van appeared there was going to be something fun happening for kids.”

Pastor Garza and Park Temple members appreciate the 80-plus people who have come to serve their neighborhood for more than 15 years, and the church pays it forward by taking mission trips to Eagle Pass, Texas, which borders Mexico. “We take Bibles left over from Houston 1:8 to pass out to border residents,” said the pastor. “Our members also do VBS for the children there.”



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Serving the Inner City

Houston’s First engages with ministries throughout the city such as Star of Hope, Generation One, Open Door Mission and a host of other Christ-centered organizations touching lives and making a difference in the Houston area.

Dr. D.R. Peveto, one of Star of Hope’s founders, was an associate pastor at Houston’s First, and many members have worked tirelessly on its behalf since 1907. In 2016, Star of Hope became a Houston 1:8 ministry site thanks to church members Chris Hawkinson and Adam Robertson.

Chris Hawkinson, a missions leader in his Life Bible Study, began recruiting classmates to go to Star of Hope Mission (SOH) to serve breakfast to the men staying there. “There are men at SOH with severe addiction issues, drug dealers, pimps and murderers,” said Chris. “They are just the kind of people Jesus wanted to spend time with.”

Chris met Adam Robertson, whose heart for ministry to these men was infectious. They and others in the class not only served breakfast to the men, but also began building relationships with them. Beyond Houston 1:8, Adam suggested they begin going weekly to the SOH and begin drawing them out to tell their stories. “We saw a desperate need for discipleship, a way to give them dignity,” said Adam. The volunteers began seeing transformation in the lives of some of the men. “There are far more failures than victories,” said Chris. “But it is worth it to see those that make it to graduation.”

Chris, Adam and their wives and children began serving together at the SOH Transitional Living Center for homeless women and children. “The average age of the homeless is nine years old,” said Adam. “Twenty years ago, women began knocking on the door of the men’s shelter for help, and SOH responded by expanding their services to families.”

One goal of Houston 1:8 is to lay the groundwork for year-round ministry. Chris and Adam realized they weren’t just serving the people at Star of Hope, but their own families as well. “There’s no better way to disciple our own children than to engage with these families. Our kids are developing their own faith — and servants’ hearts.”



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

The basis of neighborhood ministry is sustainability, something William Taylor and the Missions team hoped to accomplish through the development of the Neighborhood Track component of Houston 1:8. “We found that people were not staying connected with the idea of missions throughout the year,” said William.

This emphasis on neighborhood-based lifestyle evangelism is not new to Houston’s First. “Light The Night” on Halloween encourages members to reach out to their neighbors, and multisite campuses were launched so our church family could better engage with their communities. The Neighborhood Track is one more way of “pastoring our streets.”



Go and Teach

Sherry Myers was an early responder to the churchwide call to “step out.” A church member who used to attend and volunteer at The Loop Campus, Sherry got involved at the Cypress Campus and, more specifically, with neighbors at The Mansions at Hastings Green, her own apartment community in Cypress, which became a Houston 1:8 ministry site in 2013.

Having had many unstable relationships in her life, Sherry had experienced emotional healing through the love of Christ and tender care given by members of her Life Bible Study at The Loop. Sherry grew in understanding and closeness to Christ and began volunteering as a care group leader for single women, then at CornerBooks, and eventually with the prayer team. The Cypress Campus opened in 2013, and she accepted the challenge to “step out” and go. There, Sherry became the trainer and a volunteer on the Coffee Team each Sunday. “What a wonderful group of people in Cypress,” she said. “It was an adventure!”

Three years ago, in “fear and trepidation,” she stepped out to lead a Bible study for women during Houston 1:8 in the evening at The Mansions. The following year, class members decided they wanted to have Bible study on a more year-round basis.

“The Holy Spirit pricked my heart to teach,” said Sherry. “I had lived across the street at Mansions at Hastings Green Seniors since 2010, and I found that teaching gave me purpose.”

In 2013, it became necessary to switch the class time from evenings to morning, and the class is still reaching Mansions residents. Ladies ranging from 20s to 70s currently attend Sherry’s class. The study bridges the generation gap and has given them community and a place to belong. Recently, the class gave a baby shower for one of the young members due to give birth in September this year. “I love these ladies,” said Sherry. “They are like family to me.”

Neighborhood Life

Campus Pastor Malcolm Marshall and his staff are creating favorable conditions to grow the spiritual health of the Sienna Campus church body and reach their neighbors for Christ through an initiative called Neighborhood Life. The strategy is to “send out” members into their own streets, backyards and area parks rather than spend valuable resources holding large events to attract people to the church building. It is an ongoing expression of the same heart and intent behind the Houston 1:8 Neighborhood Track.

“We are decentralizing our outreach efforts,” said Pastor Malcolm. “We’re multiplying our outreach by encouraging our members to be the church in their own neighborhoods.”

The advantages are building community among members (many live close to one another, but never cross paths while at the church) and interacting with their neighbors through seasonal events at least four times a year held in multiple locations throughout Sienna Plantation and the surrounding area.

The church also achieves visibility in multiple neighborhoods throughout the community with events held under a common theme. Material and human resources are used more effectively — people aren’t stretched to adhere to a time schedule dictated by the church, and no matter how effective the advertising, some people just won’t show up to a “church” function. Neighbors experience the home court advantage, putting them at ease. And isn’t that what sets the stage for building relationships?

