

feb 2020

welcome.

A MONTHLY SNAPSHOT • HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • PASTOR GREGG MATTE

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welcome to houston's first



What comes to mind when you hear people talk about missionaries? If you picture someone living in unimaginable conditions among people who do not speak their language and who might even be hostile toward the missionary's efforts—you might be right. But, with missionaries serving around the globe, this stereotypical image of life as a missionary fails to capture the story of all that God is doing through thousands of men and women on the field.

From cosmopolitan megacities to "middle of nowhere" locales, among the wealthy and the poorest of the poor, reaching educated professionals and manual laborers—the scope of missionary work is broad. For generations, Houston's First has partnered with missionaries across the spectrum as we support their calling to reach all of God's people. Along the way, countless people have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation, putting their faith in Him and being raised to walk in a new life. (Romans 6:4)

This edition of the *Welcome Guide* highlights different ways you can personally come alongside these global workers, too. God calls us to play a role in the advancement of the Gospel. We often say that when it comes to

missions, we can either pray, give, go—or disobey. You can adopt a missionary (pray), contribute to the World Mission Offering (give), or join one of our short-term mission teams (go). Which will you do in 2020?

As we focus on sharing the Gospel around the world, we must also share it right here at our own church. So, what about you? Where are you in your relationship with Jesus? If you are not sure, we want to talk with you, hear your story, and answer your questions. Come forward at the end of a worship service, or talk with staff members or volunteers at your campus. Our church longs to see people connect with Jesus—on the other side of the globe and in the seat right next to us.

In Him,

Pastor Gregg Matte

TEAM FIRST

Staff members from every campus plus our two Faith Centers gathered at the Downtown Campus on Thu, Jan 23, for TEAM FIRST—a full day of vision from Pastor Gregg, worship led by leaders from each campus, breakout sessions by fellow staff members, and connection with friends and colleagues. In the day's last session, Pastor Gregg had groups around each table look at different verses from

Proverbs 16 and discuss the applications to their roles as staff members and leaders in the church.

Continue to pray for wisdom, endurance, and protection for our staff members as they faithfully serve the Houston's First family!

TEAM FIRST BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Resolving Conflict (Malcolm Marshall & Andi Farrell)

Working as a Family - Loving the Team Around You

(John LaCarter & Maria Estrella)

Creativity at Work: Exploring a Framework to Think Bigly

(Stephen Smith)

How to Promote Your Event

(Mark Nasso & Nguyen Nguyen)

What You Need to Know About Financial Services

(Anne Kemp & Chad Hamm)

Ministering to the Abused (Adam Mason & Barry Walcheck)

Developing a Culture of Prayer

(Gabriel Ianculovici & Ameer Omar)

Keeping Your Body in 'Temple' Shape (Adam Dunlap)



WORLD MISSION OFFERING SUN, FEB 23



Each year, the Houston's First family gives to a special offering that directly supports the heartbeat of our church — the World Mission Offering. Our annual church budget sets aside millions of dollars for missional efforts thanks to your ongoing generosity. However, the World Mission Offering is a specific expression of our church's whole-hearted support for what the Lord is doing through missionaries serving in our state, across the nation, and around the world. It is an opportunity for Houston's First to send a united message that we long for people to hear the Good News of Jesus and know Him as their Savior.

Giving to the World Mission Offering has increased dramatically in recent years — from about 700 donors in 2017 to more than 2,600 in 2019. Among those givers last year were 398 people who gave for the very first time! Of course, as the number of givers has increased, so has our impact as a church on missional efforts. Historically, we have been among the top-giving churches. Last year, Houston's First was recognized by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for giving more than any other church in Texas to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program to support missions.

LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2020!

Our goal for this year's World Mission Offering is **\$1,400,000**, to be distributed as follows:

- International Mission Board **\$1,000,000**
- North American Mission Board **\$300,000**
- Southern Baptists of Texas Convention **\$100,000**

WHAT IF WE RAISE MORE THAN OUR GOAL?

If more than **\$1,400,000** is contributed, the additional funds will go to these projects and organizations:

- Faith Center – Spring Branch Remodeling **\$150,000**
- Local Pro-Life Causes **\$100,000**
- Scripture Translation **\$100,000**
- Church Planting in India **\$90,000**
- Houston Welcomes Refugees **\$50,000**
- Legacy 685 Adoption, Foster & Orphan Care **\$50,000**

HOW CAN I GIVE?

On Sun, Feb 23, we'll bring our contributions forward in each worship service at every campus. If you're unable to be at church that day or prefer to give in other ways, you can submit your contribution:

- Online at **HoustonsFirst.org**
- On mobile by texting **HFBCGIVE to 41411**
- On mobile using the church's app

Pray about how God would have you support missionaries and the furthering of the Gospel — and what He might have you sacrifice to make that possible.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SUPPORT A MISSIONARY?

Global averages for an individual long-term IMB missionary:

- **\$61,930** a year
- **\$5,161** a month
- **\$1,191** a week
- **\$170** a day

Our goal of **\$1,000,000** for the IMB would provide financial support for **16 missionaries!**

BEYOND GIVING: CARING FOR MISSIONARIES

Financial support is vital for missionaries, and so is prayer, connection, and encouragement. Our Missionary Care staff members and volunteers seek to provide just that for men, women, and families serving on the field and when they return, too. Houston's First members can also play a role by participating in our Adopt-A-Missionary program.

Our church supports over 200 missionaries serving in more than 35 countries. Currently, around 50 of them have been adopted by Life Bible Studies, families, or individuals. Once you attend a Missionary Care Contact Lunch & Learn offered each quarter, you can choose a missionary that you'll commit to pray for, contact regularly, and get to know well. After a year of relationship building, Care Contacts are encouraged to visit their missionaries on the field if possible—and our Missions office can help make that happen.

In addition to the Adopt-A-Missionary program, our Missionary Care ministry also supports these global workers through:

- International and local retreats
- Housing and transportation needs for returned workers
- Counseling and debriefing
- Home Group (a Bible study for returned workers in a small setting)



Home Group for returned global works hosted by Jeff & Shirley Ralston



Playing with kids during a Missionary Care Trip



Gathered in prayer at a Missionary Care Retreat

MISSIONARY CARE CONTACT LUNCH & LEARN
Sun, Mar 1 @ 12:30–2:30p – The Loop Campus (Rm 262)
Open to all church members. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

HAVE QUESTIONS?
Get in touch with these Missionary Care ministry leaders:

Skyler Womack (Skyler.Womack@HoustonsFirst.org)
Kelsey Engel (Kelsey.Engel@HoustonsFirst.org)
Jeff & Shirley Ralston (jsralst@gmail.com)

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

Where is God calling you to go in 2020? Mission teams are forming now — and some trips are filling up — as the Houston's First family prepares to share the Gospel and Jesus' love and truth around the globe this year. Trips vary by campus, and some are for specific ministries. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **HFBCMISSIONS** to **41411** to discover where we are going and to take the first step toward joining a team!

Brazil • Cambodia • Costa Rica • Denver • Dominican Republic • Guatemala • Haiti • India • Kenya • Malawi • Mexico • Montana New York City • Panama City, FL • Paris • San Diego • South Asia • South Sudan • Spain

save these summer dates

Put these summer opportunities on your calendars now, and look for details at HoustonsFirst.org, on social media, in the Welcome Guide, and through other channels in the months to come.

- Summer Kickoff (NextGen Families) | Fri, May 29 – Typhoon Texas
- Camp Rush, formerly Camp Intersect (6th-8th grades) | June 1-5 – Camp Eagle
- Pine Cove: Camp in the City | June 1-5 – Sienna Campus
- Preteen Camp, formerly Camp Intersect (4th-5th grades) | June 9-12 – Trinity Pines
- Rushmore (Cypress) | June 12-17 – Denver
- Vacation Bible School | June 22-25 – The Loop Campus
- Vacation Bible School | June 22-25 – Cypress Campus
- Houston 1:8 | July 13-16 – Locations around Houston
- Rush Week (8th grade-Graduates) | July 21-27 – Panama City, FL
- T Bar M: Discover Day Camp | July 27-31 – Cypress Campus
- Super Place Camp (special needs) | July 27-31 – Chapelwood United Methodist



january moments



Cypress students partner with a Men: Serve team during HUB Weekend



Downtown college students hit the ice for an evening of broomball



The Loop students take over a Whataburger during LIFT WKND



Sienna children learn Bible stories using emojis during Kids' Worship



Hundreds attend the Fitness & Recreation ministry's Fitness Expo at The Loop

MINISTRY IMPACT OF HOUSTON'S FIRST YEAR-TO-DATE • JULY 1, 2019–JAN 26, 2020

DECISIONS

545 New Church Members
107 Joined by Baptism



of New Members were Baptized

ATTENDANCE

147,894 in Life Bible Studies
(5,100 weekly average)
160,878 in Worship Services
(5,363 weekly average)
34,761 on Webcast
(1,159 weekly average)

MISSIONS

12 Mission Trips with
1,652 Team Members



GENEROSITY

4,336 Givers to
Great Commission Fund
499 First-Time Givers



of Givers gave for the first time

what's happening at houston's first

make it your church ORIENTATION



Looking to get connected with a church? Whether you've just recently visited or recently joined Houston's First, we invite you to discover what it means to be a member here at *Make It Your Church Orientation*. At these free events, learn about our mission, vision, ministries, and more while you meet staff members, find answers to your questions, and enjoy some complimentary food, too.

Our next *Make It Your Church Orientation* sessions are on Sun, Feb 16.

Register soon at HoustonsFirst.org.

THE LOOP @ 12:30P & 6:15P (EN ESPAÑOL @ 12:30P)
CYPRESS @ 12:30P • DOWNTOWN @ 12:30P • SIENNA @ 12:30P

Can't make one of these sessions?

We'll offer *Make It Your Church Orientation* again on Sun, Apr 26.

all campuses

HIGHPOINT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 11:30a-12:40p—1010 Lamar (Suite 1250)

This weekly downtown Bible study is open to everyone! Speaking in the weeks ahead are Minister of Missionary Care Skyler Womack (Feb 5, 26) and Executive Pastor Dr. David Self (Feb 12, 19, Mar 4). Lunch is available for purchase for \$5, or feel free to bring yours with you.

CONTACT: Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

MOMS OF THE HEART

Various dates and locations

MOTH is a part of the ministry of Legacy 685, seeking to equip, empower, and encourage foster and adoptive moms on their unique parenting journey. Join with other moms from your campus each month for teaching, fellowship, and connection!

- The Loop: Thu, Feb 20 @ 7p—Dolce & Cafe, 7670 Katy Fwy
- Cypress: Thu, Feb 6 @ 7p—Cypress Campus (Connection Ctr)
- Sienna: Sun, Feb 16 @ 7p—Bean Here Coffee, 4340 Sienna Pkwy

SUPERSTART WEEKEND

Feb 14-15—The Loop Campus

Preteens (4th and 5th grade) from every campus will encounter Christ through worship, interactive teaching, and small groups—all designed with their unique needs and maturity in mind. They'll leave with a great experience, plus the teachings and foundation to further amplify Christ's call on their lives to become Kingdom workers. Register at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Mike.Harvey@HoustonsFirst.org

IMPACT BARN DANCE

Sat, Feb 15 @ 5-9p—Liedertafel Hall, Sealy, TX

Single adults (late 30s, 40s, 50s)—saddle up, put on your boots, and mosey on over to Impact's 3rd Annual Barn Dance! Put on your best western wear and enjoy square dancing and two-stepping to live music by the band Peterbilt, a BBQ dinner, games, and more. Register at HoustonsFirst.org for \$25 thru Feb 9, \$35 after Feb 9, or \$45 at the door.

CONTACT: Chris.Heitman@HoustonsFirst.org

STEPS OF PAUL: ITALY TOUR INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thu, Feb 20 @ 7-8p—The Loop Campus (Connection Ctr)

The Houston's First family is invited on a tour of Italy Sep 21-29, 2020, hosted by church members Peggy Bain and Drew Walters. Visit places Paul went to on his journey to Rome, and see other sights that have come to define the so-called "Eternal City" and beyond. Learn more at this optional informational meeting, or visit HoustonsFirst.org for trip details.

CONTACT: Drew.Walters@me.com

SUMMIT RETREAT

Feb 28-Mar 1—Pineywoods Camp, Woodlake, TX

Young singles—this weekend experience incorporates faith, friendship, and fun. We'll welcome Timothy Ateek from Breakaway Ministries as our speaker, and you'll enjoy great teaching, worship, meals, lodging, loads of activities, and quiet time to sit back and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Register at HoustonsFirst.org or text SUMMITHFB to 41411.

CONTACT: Kristy.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org

the loop campus

SUMMIT DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Sun, Feb 9 @ 1-5p—The Loop Campus (Fitness & Rec Ctr)

Get ready to duck, dip, dive, and dodge! Invite co-workers, neighbors, and friends for a fun day of dodgeball and fellowship. The cost is just \$5 and you can register online at HoustonsFirst.org or text SUMMITSPORTS to 41411.

CONTACT: Kristy.Nguyen@HoustonsFirst.org

CANHOPE

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6-9p—The Loop Campus (Reception Rm)

Ministering to families and friends touched by cancer, CanHope gathers on the second Monday of each month for dinner and prayer. Bring a salad, vegetable, or fruit to share and we'll provide the entree. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to 713.957.6764.

CONTACT: Debbie.Parilla@HoustonsFirst.org

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Mon, Feb 17 @ 6-8p—The Loop Campus (Chapel)

On every third Monday of the month, gather with others for this time of worship and prayer. We believe revival starts with prayer, so the aim of the night is to simply give a space for God to move. All are welcome, so bring your family and your kids! Childcare is available for birth through kindergarten.

CONTACT: Gabriel.lanculovici@HoustonsFirst.org

THE CROSSING

Sun, Feb 23 @ 12:30-2:30p—The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

Legacy 685 is launching the second semester of The Crossing! This is a great time for foster and adoptive families, volunteers, and those interested in adoption and foster care to connect over food, games, and fun. We will have lunch provided after the 11a service with games and more to follow!

Registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Jolie.Garcia@HoustonsFirst.org

FIRST TEXAS ROUND-UP

Sat, Feb 29 @ 11a-2p—The Loop Campus (Oasis Rm)

Springtime in Texas is round-up time! Adults ages 76+ are coming together for the "Texas Round Up Band" with "2 Ps no Pod" as our emcee and prizes for the best-dressed cowpoke and cowgirl—and the all-time favorite baking contest! Find details and register for \$10 at HoustonsFirst.org, or contact Tracie Bowman at 713.957.7661.

CONTACT: Tracie.Bowman@HoustonsFirst.org

cypress campus

REFRESH: WELCOME WORKSHOP

Wed, Feb 12 @ 9:30-11:30a—Cypress Campus

Ladies—connect with other women and enjoy a creative outlet while painting a welcome mat for your front door. We will provide all the supplies needed for this fun and welcoming craft. Bring your creativity and a friend! Cost is \$20 and childcare is provided with registration. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to register.

CONTACT: Teal.Moran@HoustonsFirst.org

GROW@HOME

Sun, Mar 1 @ 4-6p—Cypress Campus

Grow@Home is a churchwide commitment to encourage spiritual growth at home. Spiritual training at home and regular attendance at Life Bible Study and Milestones lay the foundation for a deep and lasting faith. Our goal is to aid families in being the primary disciple-makers of their children. Come learn how to serve as a family at home, at church, in your community, and globally. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to register.

CONTACT: Cindy.Wineman@HoustonsFirst.org

downtown campus

MIDLINK

Wednesdays @ 5:30p—Downtown Campus

Ever wonder what happens on Wednesday nights at the Downtown Campus? MidLink is what we call it—our overall name for Wednesday night community. We start the night with FREE dinner for all at 5:30p and then we break out into Bible and topical studies and activities for all ages at 6:15p. Visit HoustonsFirst.org for more information.

CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonsFirst.org

COLLEGE MINISTRY: THE GATHERING

Wednesdays @ 7:30p

Downtown Campus (Worship Center)

The College Ministry offers this weekly night of worship and teaching as we desire to gather college students to grow and go with Jesus. This is a great way to stay connected to community throughout the week so be sure to invite a friend!

CONTACT: Jarret.Garber@HoustonsFirst.org

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning week of Feb 9

The HUB, our student ministry for 6th-12th grades, is kicking off at the Downtown Campus on Sun, Feb 9! Come join other students on Sunday mornings at 9:30a for Life Bible Study, and then on Wednesday nights @ 6:15p for our mid-week community. For more information, visit HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Leon.Brooks@HoustonsFirst.org

sienna campus

FIRST FRIENDS PRESCHOOL PROM

Fri, Feb 7 @ 6-8p

Sienna Campus (Worship Center)

Bring your preschoolers (birth-Kindergarten) for a time of fun, music, and dance at this energetic Winter Wonderland! Feel free to wear formal attire and plan to smile for a keepsake photo. Come prepared to enjoy dinner, dancing, and a special performance you won't want to miss. Details and registration at HoustonsFirst.org.

CONTACT: Fraisy.George@HoustonsFirst.org

3-DAY MARRIAGE CLINIC

Feb 7-9—Sienna Campus (Loft)

Though couples experience different symptoms such as anger, resentment, and withdrawal, the root problem is usually the same: violating one or more of 25 Essential Marriage Skills found in the Bible. Led by Karl Elkins, you will learn these skills and more during this marriage intensive taking place on Fri (1-7p), Sat, (8:30a-2:30p), and Sun (1-7p). Register at HoustonsFirst.org for \$75 per couple.

CONTACT: Denise.Munton@HoustonsFirst.org

PARENT COMMITMENT

Sun, Feb 9—Sienna Campus

The Parent Commitment ceremony takes place during each worship service. This is a moment for parents who are church members to publicly express their desire to raise their child in a Christian home, to bring their child to church, and to teach their child about Jesus. It's also a time for friends and family to join in corporate prayer for these families. Online registration at HoustonsFirst.org is required to participate.

CONTACT: Fraisy.George@HoustonsFirst.org

Visit HoustonsFirst.org or the *Houston's First Baptist Church* app for details about these and other upcoming opportunities!



**Text HFBCCAPP
to 41411**

for links to download the
Houston's First Baptist Church
app for iOS or Android

where you'll find us

Houston's First Baptist Church has numerous locations around town. But with members from all across the greater Houston area living out their faith and making a difference in their homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools, the church's ministry extends far beyond the addresses listed below!

the loop campus 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024



Gregg Matte, Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirst [t](#) @HoustonsFirst [i](#) @HoustonsFirst

cypress campus 11011 Mason Rd, Cypress, TX 77433 (Next to Bridgeland High School)



Jason Swiggart, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstCypress [t](#) @HFBCcypress [i](#) @HFBCcypress

downtown campus 1730 Jefferson, Houston, TX 77003



Lee Hsia, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HFBCDowntown [t](#) @HFBCDowntown [i](#) @HFBCDowntown

sienna campus 4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459



Malcolm Marshall, Campus Pastor

[f](#) HoustonsFirstSienna [t](#) @HFBCSienna [i](#) @HFBCSienna

OUR SIGNATURE STATEMENT

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant biblical community where people gather their hearts, grow their souls and give their lives as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

RELEVANT

Having the passion, desire and ability to build necessary bridges to move people from culture to Christ.

BIBLICAL

Fully embracing the beliefs and values revealed in the Bible as true, eternal and life-changing.

COMMUNITY

Providing a place to be authentic, involved, impacted, and impactful.

JOINING HOUSTON'S FIRST

Membership at Houston's First is open to anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins, has been baptized by immersion at our church or by a body of believers of like faith and practice, and agrees with the church's statements of faith and bylaws. If you have not already done so, we can assist you with these decisions. At the end of the worship service, come forward to speak with a minister or volunteer, or make your way to the Connection Center at your campus. They will walk you through the process of making Houston's First your church!

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others in smaller settings and growing together at Houston's First. Visit HoustonsFirst.org or text **LIFEBIBLESTUDY** to **41411** to explore the many options, or ask a Guest Experience Team member at your campus for assistance in finding one that's right for you.

For more information about Houston's First, call 713.681.8000 or visit HoustonsFirst.org.

sundays at houston's first

the loop campus

Worship 9:15a • 11a • 5p | en Español 11a

Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:15a • 10:45a • 6:30p | en Español 9:15a

cypress campus

Worship 9:30a • 11a

Life Bible Studies 8a • 9:30a • 11a

downtown campus

Worship 11a

Life Bible Studies 9:30a

sienna campus

Worship 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a

Life Bible Studies 8:30a • 9:45a • 11:15a