



BIG EXPECTATIONS. BIGGER GOD.

When a big group from a big church goes across a big ocean to a big city on a big continent – well, it makes for a big trip. With it comes big expectations about what our even bigger God has in store. That's the story of our Choir & Orchestra as they journeyed to Nairobi, Kenya, this summer (Jul 22-Aug 2) to share the love of Christ through music. They provided concerts at four churches and ministered to children and staff at Little Eden Children's Home and Yaanga Primary School. As the list here illustrates, it was certainly a big trip – and God did big things, indeed!

- 150 people
- 12 days
- 300+ bags
- 8 international flights
- 8 Kenyan domestic flights
- 15 busses, 3 vans, 2 trucks, 25 Jeeps
- 200+ hotel rooms
- 5,000+ meals served
- 10 concerts
- 1 conference
- 3 safaris
- 1,500 CDs sold
- 24,000+ people attending concerts
- 1,000+ orphans ministered to
- 125+ salvation decisions
- 100s of other decisions for Christ
- Countless lives changed forever... and we ALL came home safely!



“Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us – to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
– Ephesians 3:20-21

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: "Thankful for my amazing church! @HoustonsFirst today, @GreggMatte presented the gospel as clearly as its ever been explained. #ButGod" — Richard Vaughan, @RAVaughan59

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 Oct 8, Executive Pastor David Self talks on "Living With Integrity."
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

Habitat for Humanity
October
We're partnering with Houston Habitat for Humanity to build a home funded by your MISSION 1:8 contributions. Groups or individuals (ages 16 and older) can sign up to serve on Oct 10-11 or 17-18 at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Elise.Price@HoustonsFirst.org

FirstFest & Light The Night
Fri, Oct 31
Whether you invite people to The Loop for FirstFest or stay in your neighborhood to Light The Night, the Houston's First family is asked to choose how you'll reach out to people on October 31. Explore the options and start making your plans at HoustonsFirst.org/October31.

STUDENTS
Middle School Retreat
Oct 24-26 — Lake Tomahawk
Middle School students (Grades 6-8) from The Loop and Sienna will leave homework and technology behind! The theme is Ignite and we're praying the weekend will spark a fire for following the Lord more deeply. We'll mix worship, games, teaching, and small groups at our annual retreat! Register at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Tony.Bianco@HoustonsFirst.org

YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS
Under The Texas Sky Hoedown
Sat, Oct 25 @ 6-11p — Hunt Retreat
Young single adults are roundin' up for their 17th annual hoedown! Dance the night away with live music and enjoy hayrides, western games, and more. Tickets are on sale now, so round up yours at HoustonsFirst.org/Events!
CONTACT Kelly.Leffingwell@HoustonsFirst.org

MEN
Men: Serve
Sat, Oct 25 @ 8a-1p — The Loop
Men will go out in teams to serve the widows of our church family through yard work, home repairs, and other projects. Advance registration is required, so sign up to serve by Oct 17 at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Elise.Price@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP
Voter Registration
Main Foyer & FRC Lobby
Stop by the voter registration tables to verify your status. The deadline to do so for the November elections is tomorrow, October 6!

One-Night Classes for Parents
Wed, Oct 8 @ 6:30-8p — The Loop
Get equipped to be the primary disciplers in your child's life. Classes are free and open to anybody! Learn more about these and other Milestones classes at HoustonsFirst.org/Milestones.
• The HUB 101 — Justin Holcomb (Rm 333)
• Praying the Scriptures Over Your Child — Tania Overton (Rm 334B)
• Understanding Gender Confusion In Males (for foster and adoptive families) — Ricky Chelette (Harbor Rm)
• You Gotta Give 'em Grace: Parenting with Grace — Marty Scholars (Rm 336A)
CONTACT Courtney.Schisler@HoustonsFirst.org

STUDENTS
Girl Meets World
Sat, Oct 11 @ 4-9p — Fellowship Ctr
Girls in Grades 6-12 are invited to hear Leigh Kohler share about how to navigate as a girl in this crazy world. Jourdan Johnson from Breakaway at Texas A&M will lead worship and share, too. Bring a friend and register at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT Linda.Sproule@HoustonsFirst.org

MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS
Big Night Out: Nightmarriage
Fri, Oct 24 — The Loop
Married young adults are invited to go to dinner then gather with other couples for dessert and laughs as we look at why marriage doesn't have to be a nightmare! Sign up at HoustonsFirst.org, including for childcare if you need it!
CONTACT Melanie.Russell@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS
Marriage Ministry Dinner Series - Help Wanted
Fri, Nov 7
Save the date for the third in a four-part marriage series! Through our marriage dinner series, we identify tools and explore keys to a godly, fulfilling marriage. All experience levels are welcome! Watch for details here and at HoustonsFirst.org/Cypress.
CONTACT Rebecca.Dinkins@HoustonsFirst.org

DOWNTOWN
Downtown 3 Year Anniversary Celebration
Sat, Oct 11 @ 2-6p — Vine Street Studios
Celebrate all that God has done over the past 3 years at the Downtown Campus! Come ready to eat, play, and celebrate together! Guests are welcome, so bring your friends! Contact Tiffany if you want to be a scavenger hunt driver, bake-off participant — or both!
CONTACT Tiffany.Butterfras@HoustonsFirst.org

WOMEN
Downtown Women's Bible Study
Every Mon, Oct 6-27 @ 7-8:30p
Gather with women of the Downtown Campus for a 4-week study of contentment looking at different women of the Bible. Register online at HoustonsFirst.org/Downtown. Contact Tiffany with any questions you might have, and for directions to the meeting place.
CONTACT Tiffany.Butterfras@HoustonsFirst.org

SIENNA
Creative Writing Class
Sat, Oct 11 @ 9a-Noon — Sienna Campus
Learn from award-winning author and Houston's First member Toni Teepell about how to create 3-dimensional characters and more. Registration is required at HoustonsFirst.org/Sienna.
CONTACT toniteepell@yahoo.com

GIVING LIFE AWAY
MISSION TRIP REVEAL LUNCH
Sun, Nov 9 @ 12:30-2p — The Loop
Where is Houston's First headed in 2015? Our Missions team will reveal the locations and dates at this special lunch at The Loop. RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org/Events!

MIDLINK
Every Wed thru Nov 19 — The Loop
There is more to Houston's First than what happens on Sundays! Gather at The Loop on Wednesday evenings for MidLink — an evening of food and activities for all ages! MidLink: connecting the body from Sunday to Sunday! Find the full schedule at HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink.

LIFE BIBLE STUDIES
Life Bible Studies are the primary method for connecting with others and growing together at Houston's First. Go deeper into God's Word, find community, and experience the Bible as relevant to your life. Visit HoustonsFirst.org to find one that's right for you, or ask the Welcome Team at your campus for assistance.

MAKE IT YOUR CHURCH ORIENTATION
On Sun, Nov 16, discover what it means to be a member of Houston's First! Over lunch or dinner, pastors and staff members from your campus will share our vision, mission, and strategy — and you can learn how to find your place to gather, grow, and give. The class is not required to join the church, but we highly encourage you to attend! RSVP at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
• The Loop @ 12:15-1:45p — Fellowship Center
• Cypress @ 4:30-6p — Heritage Lodge at Towne Lake
• Downtown @ 12:45-1:45p — Worship Center
• Sienna @ 12:30-2p — Worship Center

FOR THIS WE HAVE JESUS
New CD from John Bolin, Minister of Worship & Arts at Houston's First. Featuring 11 songs & available now at Corner Books

- SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST**
- 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 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 9:30a-11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a-11a

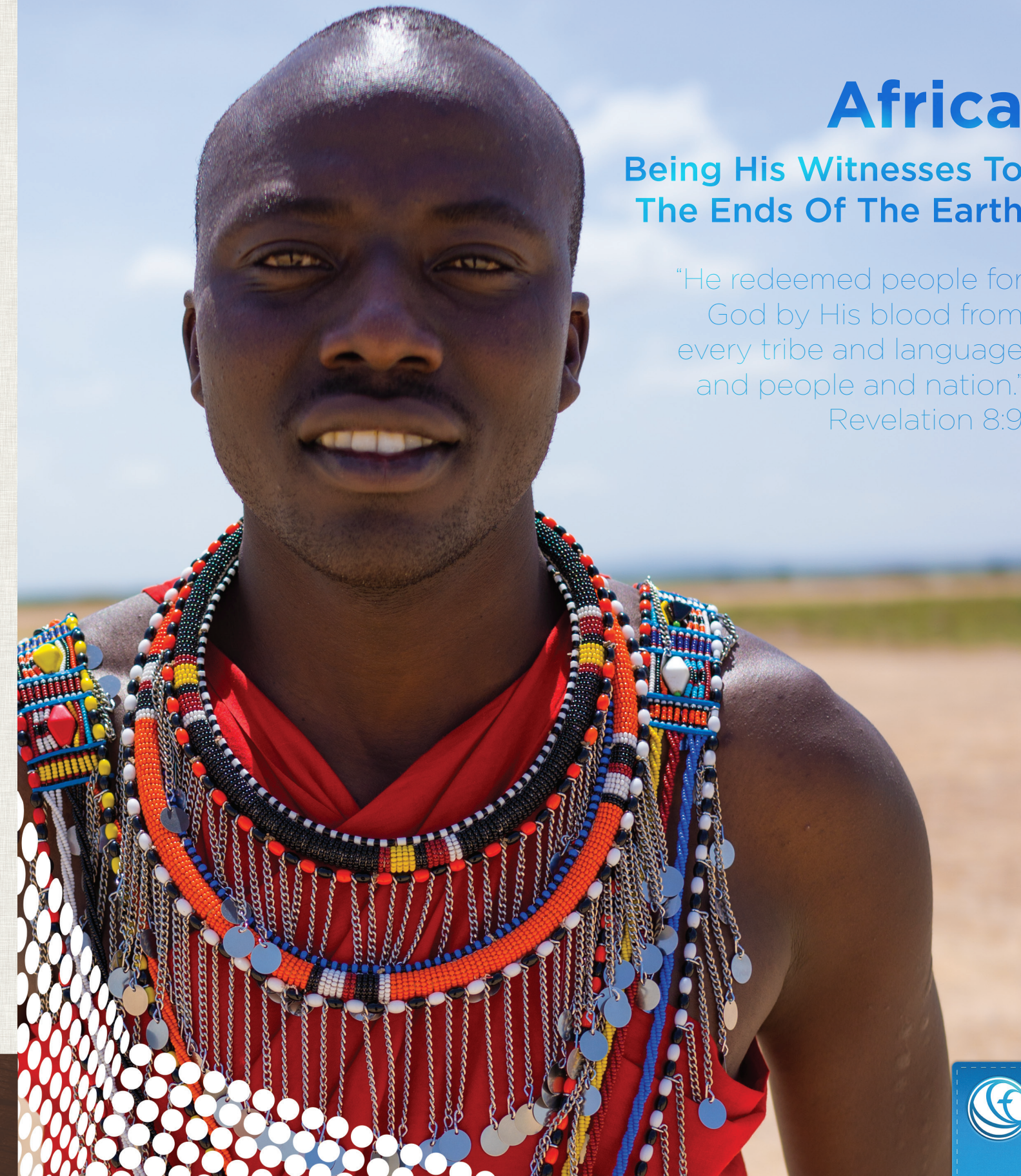
MISSION 1:8

Oct 5, 2014

Africa

Being His Witnesses To The Ends Of The Earth

“He redeemed people for God by His blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.”
Revelation 8:9



Everything may be bigger in Texas – but then there's Africa. The continent covers 11.7 million square miles and has 1.1 billion people living in 54 fully recognized sovereign states. Houston's First has supported missional endeavors in Africa for decades – short-term trips, long-term missionaries, special projects, and more. Now, your contributions to MISSION 1:8 enable us to increase our impact for God's Kingdom in Africa by giving to ministries serving the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners.



Maasai Tribe

Kenya | Maasai-Association.org

Mission teams from Houston's First have visited the Maasai in Kenya multiple times. Over the years, the church has provided funding for a church building, lodging for teachers serving the tribe, a water well through Living Water International, a pastor attending Kenyan Baptist Theological College, and school uniforms and Bibles for Maasai children.



Living Water International

Global | Water.cc

Houston's First provides funding for Living Water's water well projects around the world, including Africa. In honor of Pastor Gregg Matte's 10th anniversary at Houston's First, the church donated funds for a well to be drilled in Kenya in honor of him and Kelly, his wife.



His Cherished Ones

Kenya | HisCherishedOnes.org

This orphanage in Kenya was founded in 2009 by Houston's First member Trena Ivy, a young single adult who moved to Kenya in 2007. The church sends mission teams to work with Trena and her staff, and has provided funds for a water well and a Land Rover. "With the support of Houston's First, we are able to expand our ministry reach and work closer towards our goal of local sustainability," says Trena.



Cana Family Life

Kenya

Located near the slums of Nairobi, this ministry provides a medical clinic for pregnant women who are near delivery. They are able to administer a drug at the last minute that prevents HIV/AIDS from being passed to the child. The ministry also includes a rescue home and a church. Houston's First is providing funds for a school building as Cana Family Life seeks to increase their impact for Christ.

Every Village

South Sudan | EveryVillage.org

Founded by Houston's First member Frank Blackwood, Every Village seeks to glorify God through the transformation of every village in South Sudan by the spread of the Gospel and community development. They do so through short-term mission trips, long-term missionaries, water projects, and solar-powered, hand-held radios that enable South Sudanese people to hear the Gospel.

Your giving to MISSION 1:8 enables Houston's First to support this multi-faceted ministry.

Little Eden Children's Home

Kenya | MikeEdenMinistries.org

Little Eden in Kenya cares for nearly 70 children ages 4 to 16. The facility includes a clinic to care for the children's physical needs and a farm capable of feeding them and making the home self-sufficient. The children attend local schools, local Christian pastors address their spiritual needs, and Christian values are taught within the home. In addition to mission team visits, Houston's First recently provided funding for a boys' dorm.



Into Abba's Arms

Kenya | IntoAbbasArms.org

This Kenyan orphanage provides spiritual training and discipleship for their children in a loving home environment, and is committed to developing the next generation of leaders for Christ. Mission teams from Houston's First have partnered with Into Abba's Arms, and the church has provided funding for projects along the way. "We are grateful for the continuing support of Houston's First which has helped to establish Into Abba's Arms as a light shining in the darkness," says founder Jane Gravis.



Family Legacy Missions International

Zambia | FamilyLegacy.com

Family Legacy sponsors various types of ministries serving orphans in Zambia. One of them is Tree of Life Children's Village. Tree of Life rescues children from severe cases of abuse and poverty by placing them in the Children's Village to provide a safe haven for hope and healing. Houston's First is blessed to support their ministry through financial contributions and by connecting church families with mission opportunities.



Health Outreach to the Middle East

Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan
HomeForHim.org

Originally focused on the Middle East, H.O.M.E. is a Christian, interdenominational organization that brings physical, psychological, and spiritual healing to poor and suffering people in the name of Christ. Now expanded to Africa, H.O.M.E. supports three medical clinics, one charity hospital, a home care medical service, and a mobile clinic that provides medical care for people in Egypt. In addition to a highly-trained dentist traveling throughout Sudan, H.O.M.E. currently supports one medical clinic in Sudan and another clinic in South Sudan. Houston's First has provided mission teams and financial contributions to support H.O.M.E.'s diverse ministry.

Northrise University

Zambia | Northrise.org

Northrise University is a Christ-centered educational institution dedicated to equipping men and women to work in ministry and business to contribute to the spiritual and economic transformation of Zambia. Houston's First provides funds for local pastors and leaders to attend.

Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center

South Africa

The Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center at Houston's First has had a partnership with the owners of a homeless shelter in Bloemfontein, South Africa, for the last several years. Last year, they invited a team to come and speak at their conference. Adam Mason and Huston McComb from the Counseling Center and Eric Reed from the Men's Ministry went and spoke on topics related to addiction, father absence, and men's ministry. While there, the team made them aware of Celebrate Recovery and the shelter is asking them to come start groups in their men's and women's shelters where hurts, habits, and hang-ups are a big issue. The Counseling Center also has counseling relationships with counselors in Cape Town, South Africa. Mary Ring does training for the South African counselors, and Adam has taken a team from the USA and partnered with a South African team to lead a men's hike in their country.