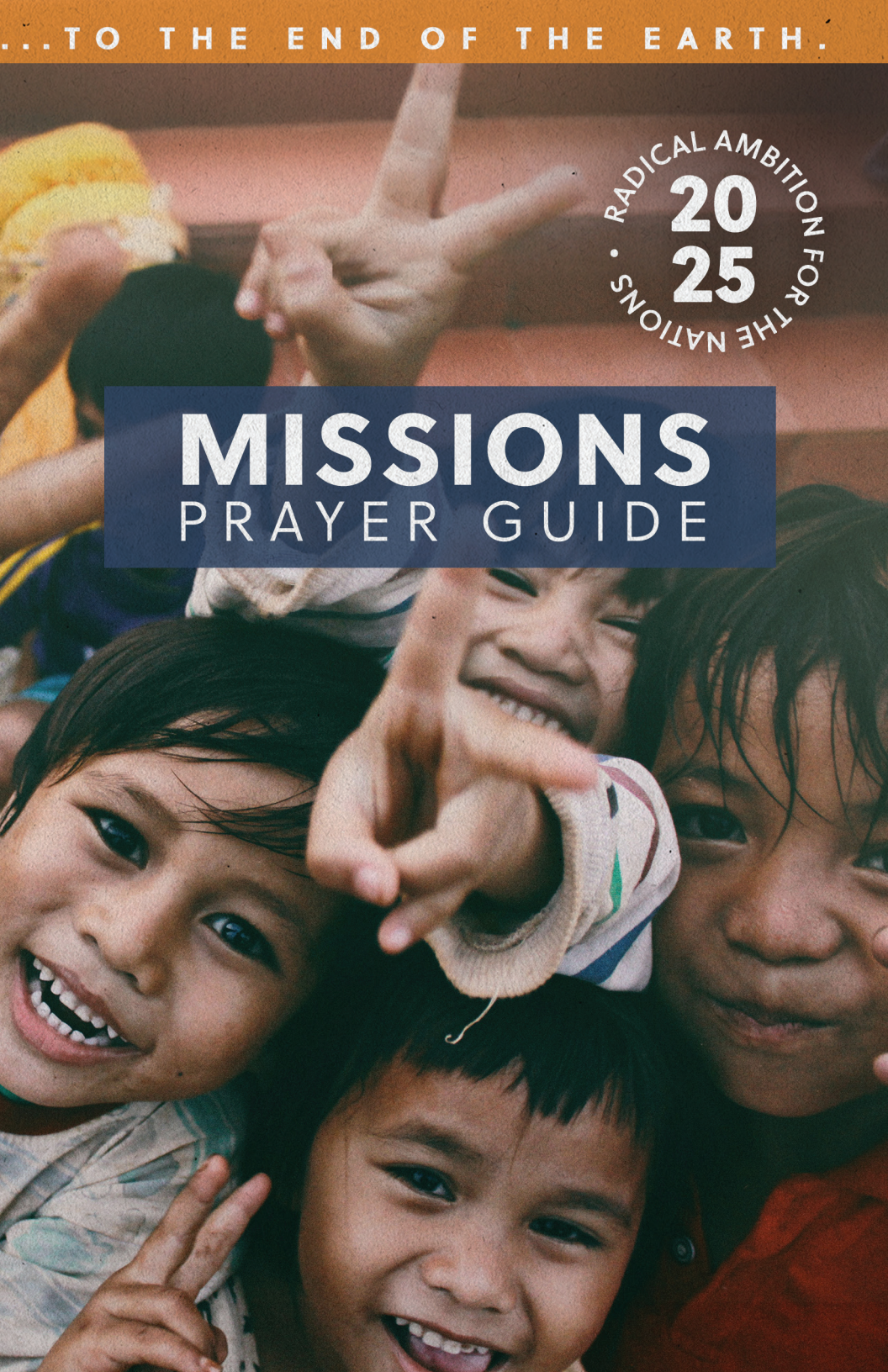


... TO THE END OF THE EARTH.

RADICAL AMBITION FOR THE NATIONS
20
25

MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

ACTS 1:8



MISSIONS

PRAYER GUIDE



FIRST MISSIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

WHY MISSIONS?

One of our core values at First Baptist Church is a **RADICAL AMBITION FOR THE NATIONS.**

This means that we have a radical ambition to reach people from every nation with all of Jesus for all of life.

There are at least three biblical realities that drive our radical ambition for the nations:

1 *Our mission to reach people from every nation* springs from God's mission to redeem people from every nation through faith in Jesus Christ (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:8).

2 *Our mission to reach people from every nation* was given to us by Jesus Christ himself when he commissioned us to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

3 *Our mission to reach people from every nation* is guaranteed by the reality that one day people from every tribe, language, people, and nation will worship Jesus Christ before the throne of God (Rev. 5:9-10).

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

LEARN

From supporting individual overseas missionaries to partnering with local and international ministry partners, First Baptist is engaged in many efforts to reach people from every nation with all of Jesus for all of life. This guide will help you learn about our missionaries, partners, and efforts and how you can get involved.

ENGAGE

This guide represents a wide range of opportunities for you to get involved in the efforts our church is making to reach people from every nation with all of Jesus for all of life. This might look like encouraging an overseas missionary or getting involved with one of our local, denominational, or international partners.

PRAY

The most significant way you can engage in our missional efforts at First Baptist is by praying. *Pray* that the light of the gospel would penetrate even the darkest corners of our globe. *Pray* to the Lord of the Harvest that he would send more workers onto the mission field. *Pray* for the specific requests that our individual, local, denominational, and international partners have shared in this guide. *Don't stop praying. Use this guide to keep praying for Missions at First all year long.*

GIVE

This guide presents you with a unique opportunity to receive blessings from God by sacrificially giving to our church's efforts to reach people from every nation with all of Jesus for all of life.

While your normal offerings already contribute to these efforts, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (taken every December) is a special offering that sends every dollar contributed directly to the mission field through the International Mission Board.

TALK

If you have any questions about Missions at First or would like to get involved, you can reach out to one of the pastoral leaders of our Missions Advocacy Team:

Pastor Richard Lucas

Pastor of Teaching and Reaching

richardl@fbcjax.com

Pastor Andrew Morrell

Nocatee Campus Pastor of Discipleship

andrewm@fbcjax.com

FBC MISSIONS PARTNERS

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS

Emily Arden

International Mission Board | Asia-Pacific Rim

Ernie and Rose Baker

Biblical Counseling Ministries Worldwide | Jacksonville, FL

Kevin & Jennifer Connell

Cross Community Church | Savannah, GA

Kathy Gould

Christians in Alliance | Ukraine

Hunter & Meredith Guthrie

First Baptist Church | Medfield, MA

Josh & Megan Hill

International Mission Board | Spain

Mary Beth Hudson

International Mission Board | East Africa

Taylor and Catherine Karst

International Mission Board | Middle East

Paul Walsh

International Mission Board | Asia-Pacific Rim

LOCAL PARTNERS

CRU Jacksonville

Chris and Becca Schrum

Brooklyn Babcock

First Coast Women's Services

Trinity Rescue Mission

Sidewalk Ministries

DENOMINATIONAL PARTNERS

International Mission Board

North American Mission Board

Florida Baptist Convention

First Coast Churches

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The Gideons International

Operation Christmas Child

UNENGAGED UNREACHED PEOPLE



3,183 people groups - 277 million people

- less than 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- 100,000 - 500,000
- 500,000 - 1 million
- 1 million - 2 million
- 2+ million

for more information, visit peoplegroups.org or email griic@imb.org

LE GROUPS



ple
million - 2 million
million



State of Lostness:

12,030 people groups

7,220 unreached people groups

3,183 unreached unengaged people groups

www.peoplegroups.org



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS



**EMILY
ARDEN***

*International Mission Board
Asia-Pacific Rim*

**Name amended for security purposes.*

Emily served as a staff member at First Baptist Church Nocatee Campus for several years. Through her involvement at First Baptist, she began to sense the Lord's call to the mission field and began serving among the Asia-Pacific Rim peoples in the fall of 2024. Her team works in the Asia-Pacific Rim with one of the largest Muslim populations worldwide and has access to some of the largest unreached people groups in the world. They partner with local believers to share the gospel broadly and desire to see healthy churches planted in every district of their city.

Emily also provides education support for a child on her team with special needs and is enrolled as a language student at a local university to engage with students lost without the hope of the gospel.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that I would always be abiding in Christ, knowing that outside of him this work is impossible. My prayer is Psalm 19:14 - that every word of my mouth and meditation of my heart would be pleasing to the Lord.



ERNIE & ROSE BAKER

*Biblical Counseling Ministries
Worldwide*
Jacksonville, FL

Ernie Baker was a former pastor at our church and is now involved with training leaders internationally through Biblical Counseling Ministries Worldwide (BCMWorldwide). The ministry teaches at seminaries around the world, teaches lay leaders and pastors in churches around the world (now in 35 countries and growing), translates key biblical counseling resources into foreign languages, and provides free counseling for missionaries. In his role as the Director of Training, Ernie teaches in seminaries, recruits qualified professors to teach, maintains the curriculum, recruits new schools and trains national leaders to run academic programs. The work of BCMWorldwide is crucial since most pastors and church leaders around the world have little to no training to prepare them to minister God's word, especially to those with counseling needs.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that through Ernie's ministry more schools around the world will catch a vision for biblical counseling and that he can recruit more qualified professors who can train these global pastors and church leaders. Also pray for more resources for these students through funding translation projects and also regional printing facilities. Lastly, pray for our daughter who is an English professor at a Muslim University in the Middle East.



KEVIN & JENNIFER CONNELL

*Cross Community Church
Savannah, GA*

Kevin and Jennifer have long-time connections to our church and frequently visit for concerts and conferences. They, along with their children Daniel, Emily, and Nathan, are laboring to plant Cross Community Church in the Savannah, Georgia area. They are in partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Georgia Baptist Convention for this strategic work. Savannah is one of the fastest-growing cities in Georgia, and God's new work in this old city will directly advance the gospel as it combats the darkness that weighs in this city.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that we will continue to engage our community with the gospel and that God will give us a strong presence in the 31419 zip code for the purpose of engaging the city, to make disciples, to see God grow this new work in an old city. Pray for new ministries to reach all ages. We are excited about the future of families coming to Cross Community Church so pray that God will provide leaders and that we can develop leaders to start a nursery ministry, pre-school ministry, children's ministry and a student ministry in the next 12 months. These are exciting times, and we can't wait to report what God has done through the prayers of God's people.



**KATHY
GOULD**
*Christians in Alliance
Ukraine*

Kathy has been a missionary to Ukraine since 1993 with a primary focus on ministry to children. She has worked with eight different churches over the years and established her own organization (ABC's of Life) to help equip churches to reach children and their parents.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that I would be able to work with the church in Ukraine to help minister to the people who have been touched by the war so that they can show the light of Christ in the midst of such difficulties and spiritual darkness.



HUNTER & MEREDITH GUTHRIE

*First Baptist Church
Medfield, MA*

Hunter and Meredith both grew up at First Baptist Church and started dating while they interned at our church during college. After seminary they desired to bring the gospel to a spiritually hard area and the Lord called them to New England. They are revitalizing a church in the Greater Boston Region that was established in 1776, but dwindled to only eight members and was on the verge of shutting down when the Guthries arrived in 2019, after forty years of spiritual, theological, and numerical decline. By God's grace FBC Medfield is now a growing church seeking to be a gospel light to an area where they are still the only evangelical church. They desire to eventually be able to send pastors and people to revitalize other historic churches in their region who have lost the gospel.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

We praise God for all that he has done in our church over the last five years. Please pray for wisdom for our church's leadership team, and that new leaders would be developed. Also pray that God would help us make inroads with younger generations in Medfield, and that we would grow in prayerful dependence on the Lord as a church and consequently grow bold in gospel witness to our neighbors.



JOSH & MEGAN HILL

*International Mission Board
Spain*

Josh grew up at First Baptist Church and Megan worked on staff here during their young married years. Now they are living in Spain, along with their two children (Maddie and Wyatt), where their family works alongside local teams to reach the community for Christ. Outside of local ministry, Josh's primary focus is to work with other missionaries to develop secure ways for ministry, discipleship, and engagement across the world, especially in countries which are closed to the gospel.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Josh as he's working to expand a presence for the gospel and missions in emerging digital fields and industries. Pray for our whole family as we get connected more in our local community through sports and English conversations. And pray for our family as we return to the U.S. in the summer of 2025 for a stateside assignment to reconnect and also help Maddie get settled into college.



MARY BETH HUDSON*

*International Mission Board
East Africa*

**Name amended for security purposes.*

Mary Beth is a life-long member of First Baptist Church and a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is joining a missions team in a megacity in the Horn of Africa where she will engage with urban peoples from multiple faiths. She will be learning language full time and meeting with women as a part of her team's overall vision. Her team seeks to partner with the existing church to see new churches planted and many of the unreached people in their city come to know Jesus.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for me as I am moving to my new city where I will be serving as a missionary in the beginning of 2025. Please pray for me as I begin to learn a new language, for endurance and patience with joy in the learning process. Pray for God to provide new friends and for unity with teammates. Pray that I would have a humble, teachable spirit.



**TAYLOR & CATHERINE
KARST***
*International Mission Board
Middle East*

**Name amended for security purposes.*

Taylor grew up at First Baptist Church and began to sense a call to missions in his high school years. He and Catherine met at their missions training with the International Mission Board and were married two years later. They have now been serving together in the Middle East with their two young daughters for several years. They and their team are focused on the core task of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and leadership development in the midst of an unreached city in the heart of the Muslim world.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that we would not lose heart, but rather with confidence trust that our Father is using these "light, momentary afflictions to produce an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Cor 4:17). Pray that the small, yet growing local church in our region would be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor 15:58). Finally, ask that our growing family will be a light and blessing to those around us.



PAUL WALSH*

*International Mission Board
Asia-Pacific Rim*

**Name amended for security purposes.*

Paul grew up at First Baptist Church and began to sense a call to missions in his high school and college years. During college, he had several opportunities to serve in the Asia-Pacific Rim region and to minister to international exchange students on the University of North Florida campus. All this led to a long-term commitment to serve as a missionary in the Asia-Pacific Rim region where he works among a significantly unreached people group with a focus on evangelism, discipleship, and church planting efforts.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for me as I continue to learn a hard language to take the gospel to an unreached people group. Pray that the few believers among this people group would grow in Christ and boldly share the gospel with others. Pray that the believers who are persecuted for following Christ persevere and rely on the Father as their source of strength.

LOCAL PARTNERS



CHRIS & BECCA
SCHRUM
Cru Jacksonville
Jacksonville, FL

Chris and Becca are members at First Baptist Church Nocatee Campus. They joined the church in early 2022 shortly after leaving their ministry in the Middle East when God called them home to Jacksonville to help care for Chris' father who was diagnosed with ALS. They have a one-year-old daughter named Gloria.

They have the joy of cultivating a gospel rich community for college students in Jacksonville so that every student may have a chance to respond to the gospel and grow in their faith in Jesus. They disciple believing students to grow in their love for God and spiritual maturity, such that they are compelled to share the good news of Jesus with the nonbelieving world in the way they live and speak.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that God would save the nonbelievers who are regularly attending our Cru events. Pray that God would provide full funding for our staff team. Pray that God would send students on international mission trips for spring break and the summer!



**BROOKLYN
BABCOCK**
Cru Jacksonville
Jacksonville, FL

Brooklyn is a committed member at First Baptist Church Nocatee Campus, where she participates in the Young Adult Sunday School class and serves in First Kids. By serving with Cru Jacksonville on the University of North Florida campus, she has the enormous privilege of bringing the light of the gospel into a dark and lost generation.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

I believe the Lord has led me and my team to pursue two strategic priorities for this second year of launching Cru at the University of North Florida. First, pray with us that our movement would grow through the addition of committed new believers. Second, pray with us that we would be a missional community that is both welcoming to non-believers and also equips believers to reach their spheres of influence.



First Coast Women's Services is a not-for-profit organization that provides free-of-charge lab-grade pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, options counseling, and medical and community referrals. They are one of the leading ministries on the First Coast striving to end abortion in our community.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that God would give First Coast Women's Services wisdom and favor as they seek to end abortion in Northeast Florida in our lifetime.



The mission of **Trinity Rescue Mission** is to change the lives of the people in the Jacksonville community by reducing homelessness. They accomplish this mission through various programs, including the Lifeline Program, Transitional Housing, the Women & Children Center, and the Freedom Farm.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that the Lord would continue to use Trinity Rescue Mission to care for the homeless community in Jacksonville through providing shelter, meals, connections to employment, and most importantly through ministering the good and life-transforming news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Sidewalk Ministries is a nonprofit outreach ministry aiming to serve children in various low-income, high-crime communities throughout Jacksonville. They use biblical principles to teach children and their parents a better way to live by conducting weekly Bible lessons, activities, games, singing praise and worship songs, and rewarding the children with candy and prizes. This ministry operates in an open outdoor space at each community to maximize its visibility, its impact, and to promote healthy outdoor activity among the children.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that mission-hearted leaders would be added to their team and that the Lord would give them increased wisdom, discernment and opportunity to introduce those they serve to the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

DENOMINATIONAL PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

The **International Mission Board (IMB)** is the international missionary sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptists send IMB missionaries to be steadfastly present and plant churches among those who have never heard the gospel — people in cities, people in hard-to-reach places, and people who are dispersed and displaced around the world.

2025 **PRAYER REQUEST**

Pray that God would use First Baptist Church's partnership with the IMB to accomplish his mission to reach the nations. Pray for the 3,500+ IMB missionaries and their families as they work among the nations to bring the good news of the gospel and the witness of the local church to people and places where it does not exist.



The **North American Mission Board (NAMB)** is the domestic missionary sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The purpose of NAMB is to work with churches, associations, and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

2025 **PRAYER REQUEST**

Pray for the thousands of missionary church planters and chaplains across North America working with NAMB to reach new people even in the most challenging circumstances.



**Florida Baptist
Convention**

Right Beside You.

The **Florida Baptist Convention** is made up of 2,873 churches all over Florida that network together to impact the communities where they live and work. It allows churches to do things better because they are together and not just trying to make an impact by themselves. This network focuses on evangelism, church planting, doing missions locally and around the world, making disciples and revitalizing churches.

2025 **PRAYER REQUEST**

Pray that the Florida Baptist Convention can push back the darkness of places where people need to know Jesus. We seek to do this by helping churches plant churches, reaching out to communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ, helping to train leaders, and assisting churches to make disciples.

FIRST COAST CHURCHES

DON'T
PASTOR
ALONE.

First Coast Churches (formerly the Jacksonville Baptist Association) is a Southern Baptist network of 211 churches in Northeast Florida that exists to advance the gospel through church-to-church partnership. Their mission is cultivating partnerships that connect the mission force to the mission field every day. Their vision is that gospel ministry in the First Coast region of Florida would be easier to do together.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that God might bring spiritual awakening to the First Coast through the faithful praying and partnering of His body across Northeast Florida.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



The Gideons
International

The Gideons International is an association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through associating together for service, sharing personal testimony, and providing Bibles and New Testaments. While they are often recognized for their work with hotels, they also place and distribute Scriptures in strategic locations so they are available to those who want them, as well as to those who may not know they need them.

2025 PRAYER REQUEST

Pray that the work of The Gideons International in taking the Bible across the world would result in thousands and thousands of people knowing God through the perfect testimony of his Word.



This mission of **Operation Christmas Child** is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the good news of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Millions of shoebox gifts are collected each year. This project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. Volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

2025 **PRAYER REQUEST**

Pray that the gifts that children across the world receive through Operation Christmas Child would lead to these children receiving the best gift of all, eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayer requests directly from the mission field.

With the IMB Pray app,
you're just a tap away from
knowing how to pray for
unreached peoples and
places around the world.

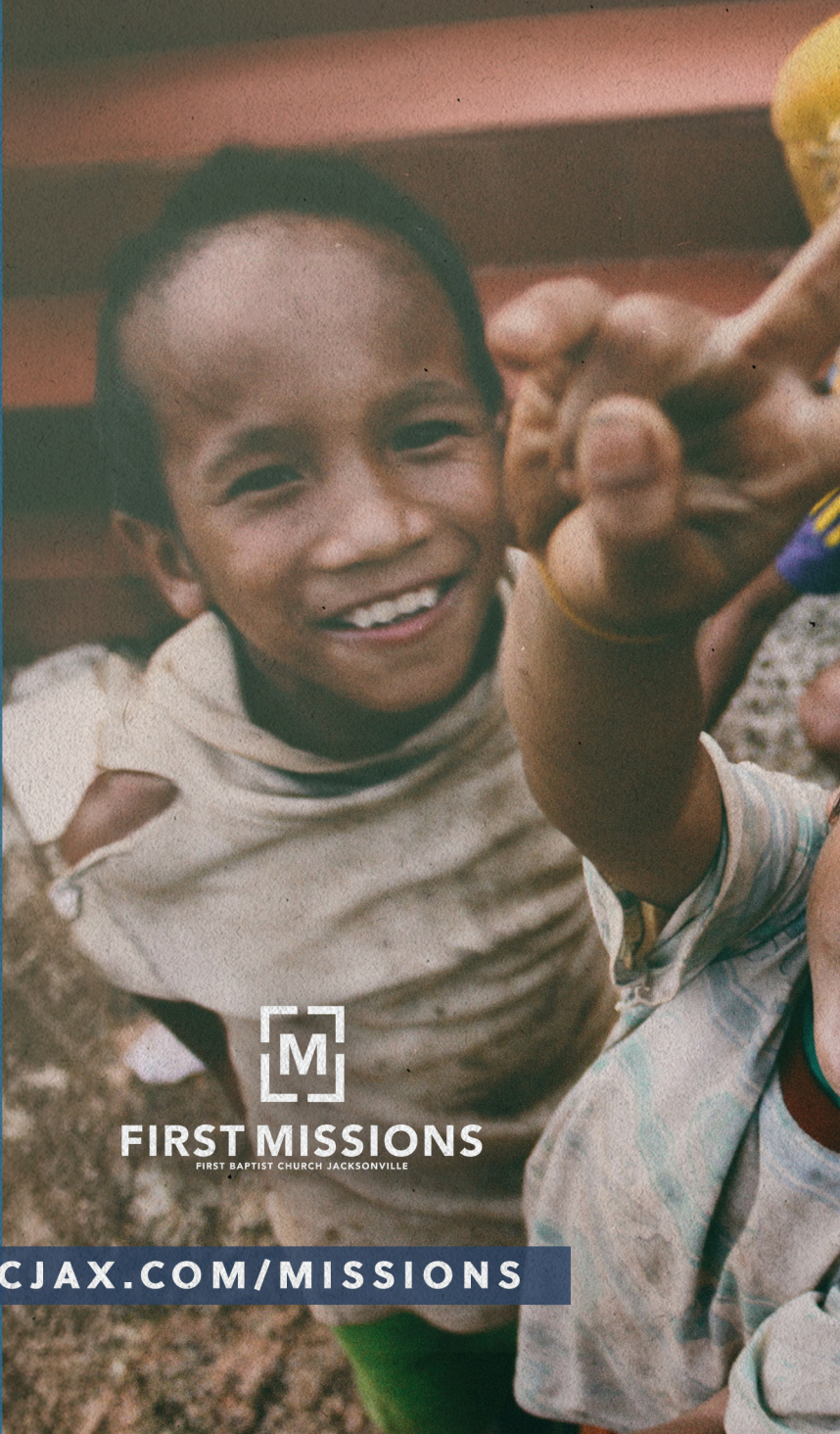


Available in your favorite app store.



AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

ACTS 1:8



FIRST MISSIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

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