



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

SEVEN MILE ROAD HOUSTON

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A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTOR

Seven Mile Road,

We have had another beautiful year together and have many reasons to be grateful to God. As you will remember, at the start of 2021 we had just come inside for worship in our new auditorium and were finding our footing together in the wake of all that had gone on over the previous year. As I have met with leaders of churches around the city and country, I have been amazed and grateful for the unique ways that 7MR has operated in health and unity despite the many challenges that the past couple of years have presented. We have not earned this outcome with our wisdom or godliness, but we have certainly received a flood of mercies from our God in heaven. Some tangible evidence of those mercies are as follows:

- Our house churches multiplied from 26 to 40 through the season of COVID. New leaders emerged as our community continued to participate in the rhythms of the early church, loving and tending to one another and the community around them. This has been the central component of our ministry from the start and was strengthened in stunning ways through the pandemic.
- Local outreach has been strengthened significantly as our house churches have been outfitted with Local Outreach Coordinators. 7MR is pushing back darkness and brokenness as we are tending to the hurting throughout the city.
- Our global mission impact has been strengthened significantly this year as a result of our deepening relationship with City to City. After having helped plant 2 churches in West Africa over the last 5 years, our community leaned in this year to help create Hub Cities in West Africa and Northern India. The advent giving was about \$400,000 (still being tallied at the writing of this letter) and will be given to these strategic global endeavors!
- We have settled into our Together For the City campus and are actively building a kingdom hub in the heart of Houston. The collaboration and ministry happening pleases the heart of God as we are longing for the church to be one and the city to be whole. It is invigorating to have 4 congregations, Hall Counseling, Sharpen Recovery, and the Houston Church Planting Network all laboring alongside each other. Furthermore, there will be some exciting new connections made as Fostering Family and Bloom Concierge Physical Therapy move in at the start of the new year!

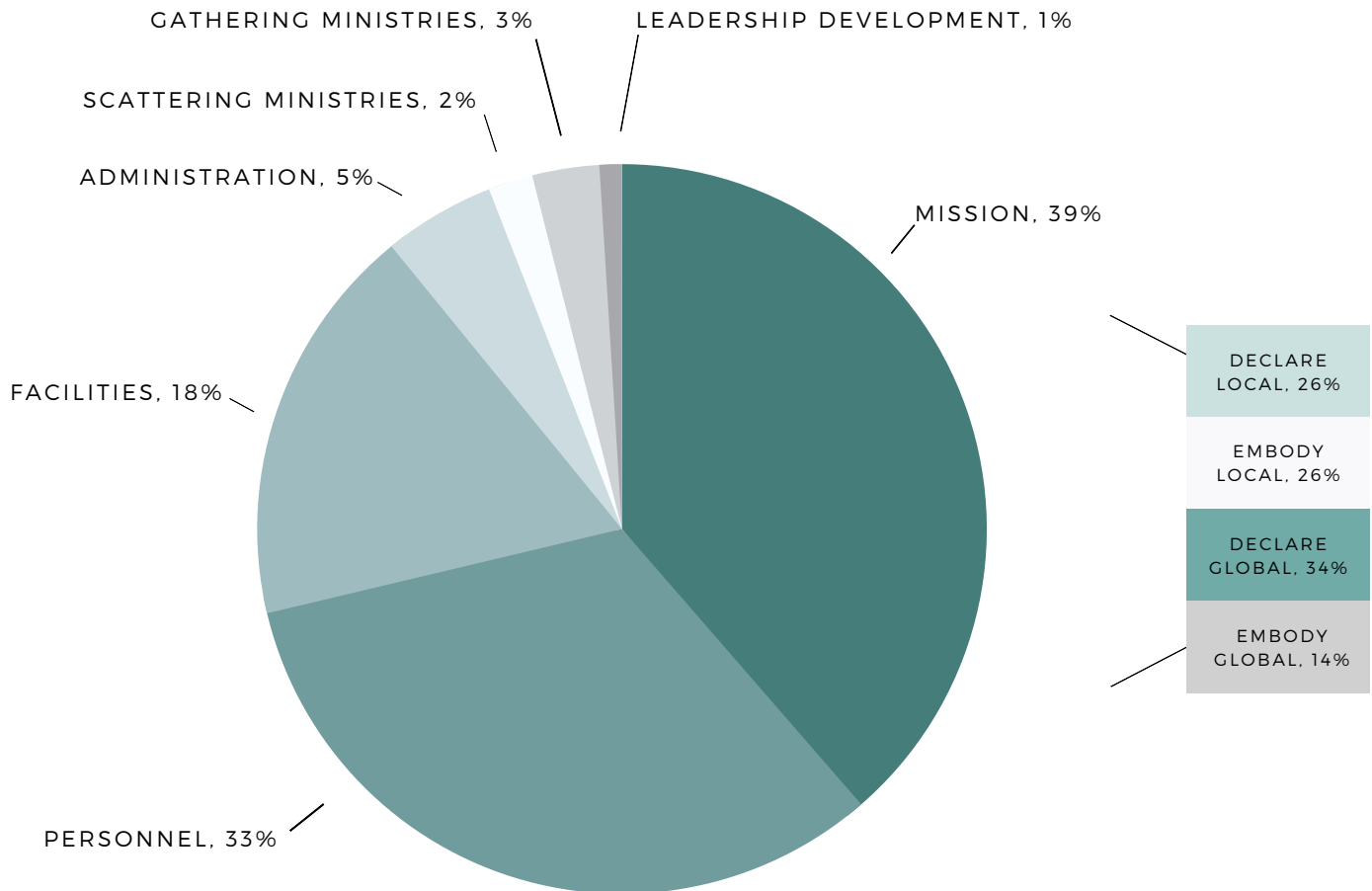
There is more to celebrate, but suffice it to say that God is on the move and it is our immense joy to be instruments in his hands. In and through it all your elders and staff are convinced that we have only scratched the surface and are poised and ready for a significant movement of God's presence and power in 2022. We want to be a community that doesn't merely celebrate the gifts of God but hungers for the heart of God. Lean in with us. Be affectionately with God. Wait with anticipation for his joy-inducing nearness. As we do, we will take significant strides towards our mission to embody and declare God's redemptive story to every Houstonian!

With affection and anticipation,
Jeremiah

FINANCIAL UPDATE

**2020-2021
OPERATING
EXPENSES**
\$1,817,436

DECLARE LOCAL: \$238,000
EMBODY LOCAL: \$246,000
DECLARE GLOBAL: \$318,000
EMBODY GLOBAL: \$129,000



GROWTH IN NUMBERS

CELEBRATIONS

8

BAPTISMS:
8 IN 2021
57 SINCE 2016

22

CHILD DEDICATIONS:
22 IN 2021
78 SINCE 2016

STAFF + GOSPEL PARTNERS

4

STAFF MEMBERS
JOINED THE
TEAM IN 2021

186

GOSPEL PARTNERS
AFFIRMED
AS OF 2021

HOUSE CHURCHES

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023



7



15



21



26



36



40



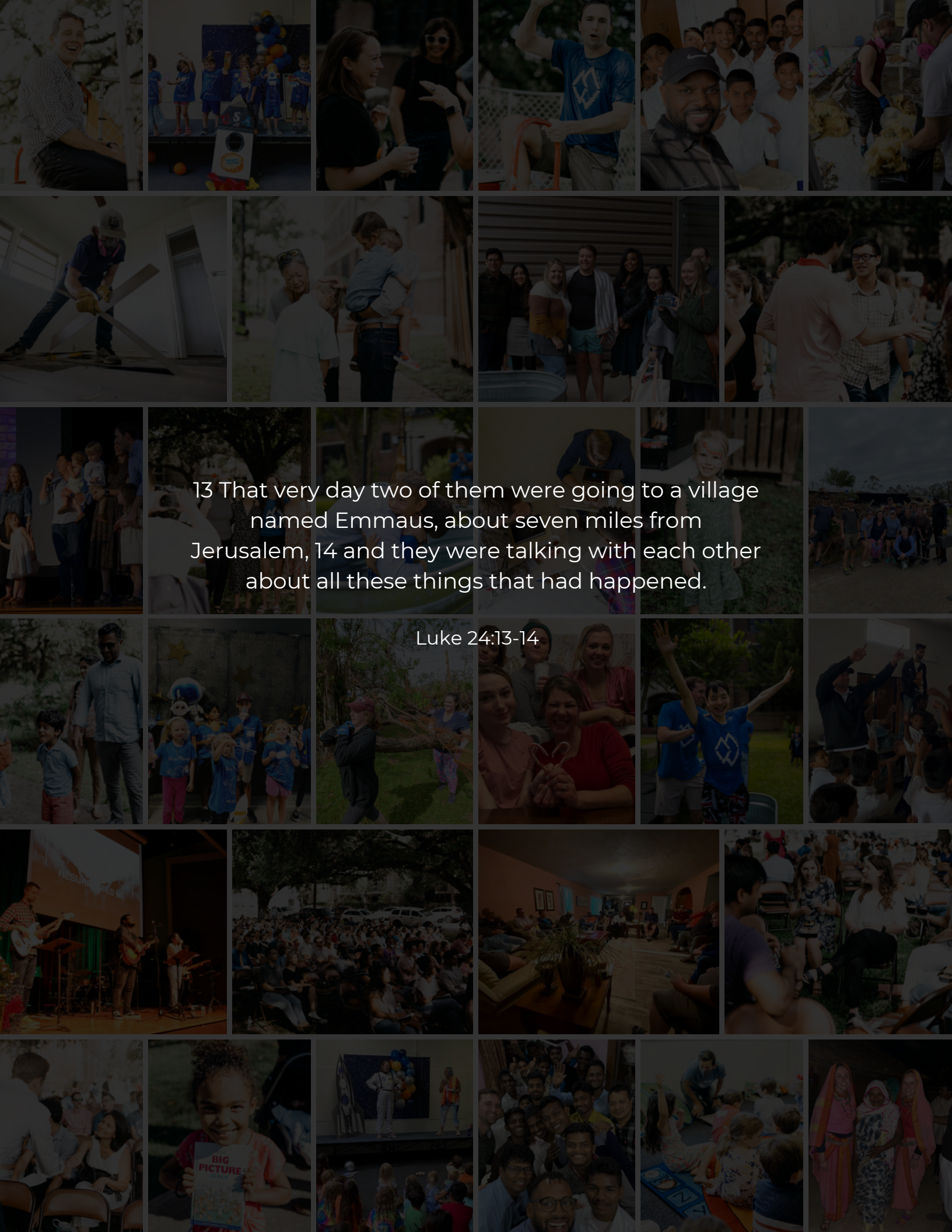
46



50

70 LEADERS TRAINED
IN 2021

308 LEADERS TRAINED
SINCE 2016



13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

Luke 24:13-14

A photograph of a group of people laughing together outdoors. The image is dimmed with a dark overlay. In the foreground, a woman with long brown hair is laughing heartily, her head tilted back. Behind her, another woman with dark hair and sunglasses is also laughing. To the right, a hand is visible, wearing a watch and a ring, gesturing towards the group. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees and a brick wall.

JOURNEY TOGETHER

CREATING SPACE AT A HEALTHY PACE



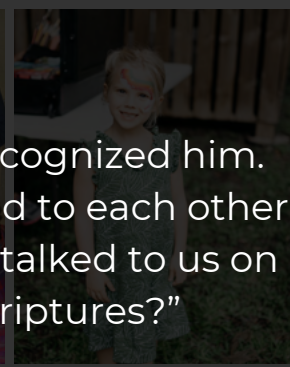
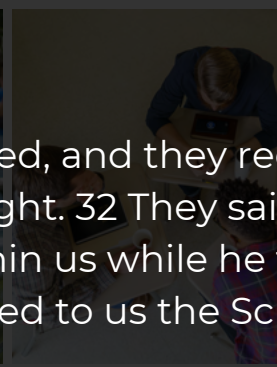
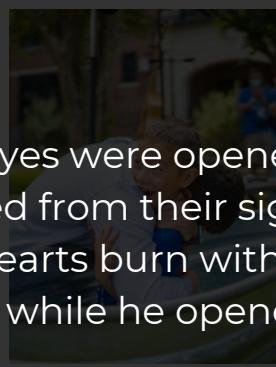
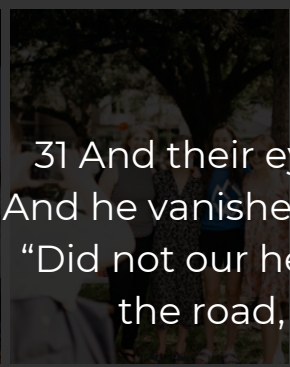
Over two years ago, the shepherds of the Central Heights House Church met with our staff team to dream of the path forward for their growing group. Melissa Buce and Brock Hedgecok were faithfully tending to 27 individuals and recognized the tension of desiring two seemingly opposing pursuits. Their group had already multiplied just a few months prior and hoped for a lengthier stretch of stability. Yet, they longed for greater degrees of intentionality, which required the reproduction of the safe space they stewarded. Slowing down long enough to pray and discern together, we spent the next several months training up several leaders and casting the vision repeatedly for "those who were not yet in the room". The Spirit granted us the wisdom to move at a slower yet healthier pace then. Now, God is tending to and growing 3 House Churches within blocks from one another. In and through this pandemic, these groups have fostered hope and wholeness for those who now belong in the room.



FRISBEE & EVANGELISM

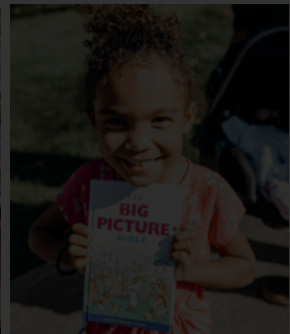
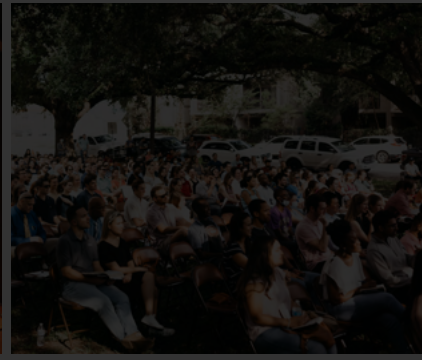
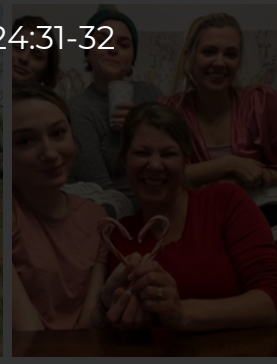
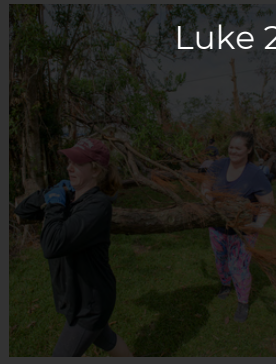
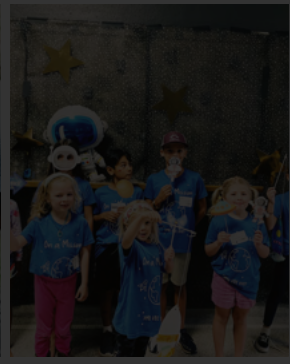
WASHINGTON CORRIDOR HC

An exciting development for the Washington Corridor House Church in 2021 has been the addition of the weekend rhythm of spending time at a park together with the aim of meeting people who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. These “evangelism Saturdays” have organically emerged from a desire in the hearts of several men and women in this House Church to share the gospel as a regular part of their lives as followers of Jesus. They simply meet at the park to play frisbee or some other game, start conversations with people, and as they have opportunities, they invite the people they meet to read a story about Jesus from the Gospel of John. This leads to gospel conversations about who God is, the reality that all people are sinners, the truth that Jesus came to save sinners, and what it means to respond to him in faith. The result is that a large group of their friends who don’t know Jesus have gladly attended a frisbee outing, game night, or movie night, all of which have been followed by a Bible study in which they heard the gospel. There is a buzz around this House Church as they continue to grow in their love for one another and for the city of Houston. We pray that their story of growing as disciple-makers, which continues to be written, will inspire and encourage other House Churches to take similar steps of faith in their neighborhoods.



31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Luke 24:31-32





BEHOLD JESUS

7MR VBS 2021



ON A MISSION

This summer we spent three days, with 34 kiddos from 7MR, learning about how we can live on mission in our homes, city, and world. We worked through John 13, Luke 10 and Matthew 28, as we thought about loving our families, neighbors and beyond. Not only did these days include singing and dancing, but they were filled with lots of playing, mission projects and even a few videos of our partners around the world. It was one fun-filled week at Seven Mile Road Kids Ministry!

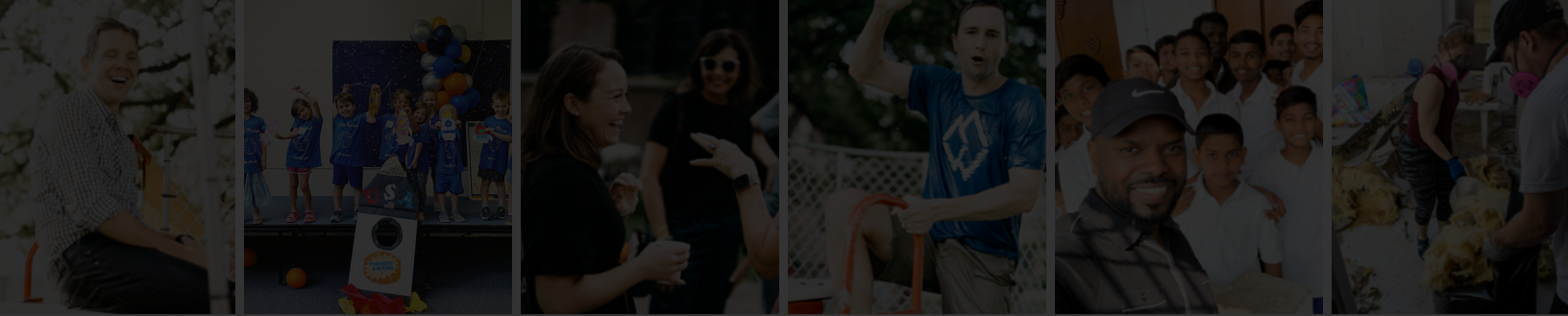




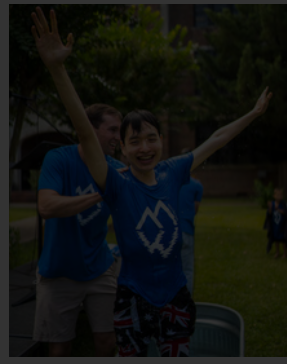
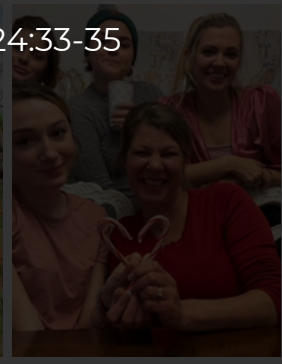
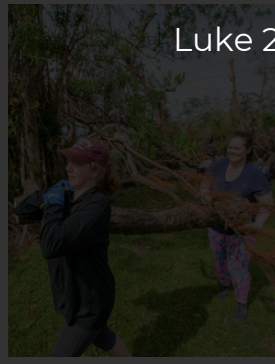
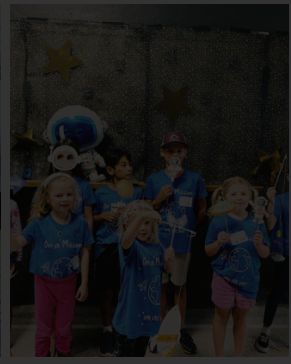
RACE & JUSTICE BOOK CLUBS

POSTURE BEFORE PURSUIT

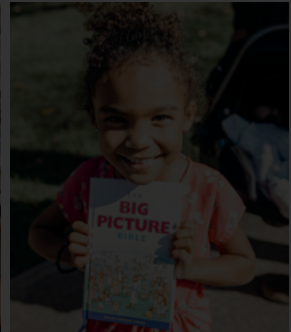
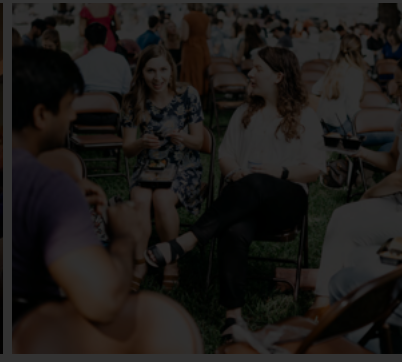
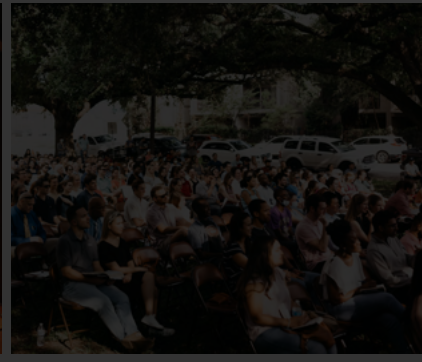
On the evening of July 21st, 34 Seven Mile Roaders gathered in the Training Center to share a meal and take on a posture of learning together. Each individual had spent multiple weeks reading a resource on the topic of racial injustice and investing the time to expose personal blind spots within the context of a smaller group. The night was sacred, not because 34 individuals were seamlessly aligned nor because the path forward for our community became crystal clear. That evening was holy and set apart because we were unified in our posture to listen and in our pursuit of biblical justice for all. We're still a work in progress as a church body, regarding acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God. Though the world would demand we divide over our differing views and starting points, our commitment to be the people of God on the mission of God remains intact. Unity amidst diversity must continue to be a reality for us, if it is ever to be one for our city, nation, and world.



33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Luke 24:33-35



An aerial photograph of a city skyline at dusk. The sky is a deep blue, and the buildings are silhouetted against the fading light. A prominent skyscraper with a dark facade is on the left. In the center, a building with a unique, rounded top is visible. The foreground shows a mix of lower-rise buildings, parking lots, and green spaces. The text "SPREAD HOPE" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

SPREAD HOPE

LAKE CHARLES, LA TRIP



On August 20, 2020, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Lake Charles, Louisiana as the strongest hurricane on record in the state. Miles of destruction caused power outages, food shortages, and irreparable damage to many in the Lake Charles community. After hearing of a need for short-term workers in Lake Charles, a group of 13 individuals from Seven Mile Road traveled to Louisiana for the weekend to serve alongside local church leaders. During this three-day weekend, the group served in various capacities, with assignments ranging from delivering groceries, tree removal and lawn cleanup, and gutting a flooded church building. The weekend was not only an encouragement to those that were directly impacted, but also served as a unifying experience to the 7MR team. We long for everyone who calls Seven Mile Road home to engage with those in need. We pray that as we look ahead to 2022, all will heed the call to serve the least and lost by joining a short-term trip!



ADVENT

NEVER TOO FAR

Last Advent season was a beautiful outworking of God's kingdom work pressing forward amidst a season of potential challenge. As has been our tradition, we made it our aim to give away every dollar that came in the month of December with the chief focus of pursuing local organizations that serve women who have been marginalized by society but are deeply loved by God. We walked through an Advent sermon series that paralleled these efforts titled, "Never Too Far" as we journeyed through women in Jesus' genealogy whose seemingly hopeless circumstances generated immense hope in our redeemer King.

As we all know, 2020 was a year that brought financial difficulty to many. It was a commitment of faith to lean in with the Lord to continue to dream big with big goals. God, in his kindness, reminded us yet again of his unbounded mission. Through the mercy of God's people, we as a church were able to update single mothers' residential homes through Project Row Houses, provide baby bags for refugee women at PLI, fix windows at the restoration campus for Elijah Rising, create a beautiful outdoor space at LifeHouse, and start a scholarship training project at Jericho Road Renewal. Additionally, we were able to strengthen single mothers through gifts to CPS and church plants in Houston. Praise God for his mercy through generous hearts that are only stirred by the work of his Holy Spirit in each of us!



TOGETHER FOR THE CITY

THAT THE CHURCH WOULD BE ONE AND THE CITY WHOLE

FROM OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS

When we started Common Bond Church, we wanted it to be a collaborative church. And we still do, where we support other churches, ministries, and businesses, and are supported by others for the mission of God. The collaborative vision of Together for the City allows us to fulfill that mission without tribalism. It is a good fit for us because many of the partners are our friends in the ministry. So, while we all share the gospel and proclaim the kingdom of God in different ways, we are on the same page to do good for the city for the glory of God. I'm looking forward to the working of God's plan that brings together the unique ministries and churches on campus. #BetterTogether #John13:35

-JOSEPH INGRAM

As a part of Together for the City, we are able to take our statement that we believe in collaboration and put it into action. It is alive, it is growing, it is encouraging. For this season, God is using this campus set up to bring us into interaction with brothers and sisters in ministry on a routine basis. It gets us (me) out of my hole and seeing others with wisdom face to face. They are able to speak into what we are doing and vice versa. Beyond that, they raise my sights above the routine, pushing me to lean into city-reaching efforts. Together for the City is so needed in Houston.

-ANDREW JOHNSON

The Houston Church Planting Network (HCPN) is excited to be part of Together for the City. We only moved in on campus a few weeks ago, but it has been our dream for a while to be part of a collaborative kingdom vision. Collaboration is a value for HCPN and we look forward to living this out as kingdom partners here in Houston.

-HCPN

I am grateful for the opportunity for Neartown Church to continue leaning into collaboration. And, working weekly on the same campus with multiple Christ-centered non-profit and for-profit organizations is great. I am reminded daily that God is revealing his kingdom in a new way through these partnerships.

-NEARTOWN CHURCH

It's a breath of fresh air stepping onto campus to work throughout the week, getting to bump into like-minded people on a similar mission. God is bringing greater organizational clarity and structure to Sharpen Recovery as we're utilizing white boards, the conference room and wisdom from others here in the collaborative space. Our investment to be a part of TFC has a greater impact than I can measure.

-NICK LONG



**TO EMBODY AND DECLARE
GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY TO
EVERY HOUSTONIAN**

JOURNEY TOGETHER BEHOLD JESUS SPREAD HOPE