

## Kingsland "Goes Beyond" ...Moving From Routine to Radical

By Natanael Estrada

Few would think, in passing through the quiet street of Kingsland in Katy, Texas, that a church, much like many others in architectural style and form would have such a vast reach around the world. From a boarding school in India, to Houston's notorious Montrose area, Kingsland Baptist Church has both a local and international impact when it comes to missions.

Omar Garcia, Pastor of Missions and Evangelism at Kingsland Baptist Church, is a man with no small vision. During his tenure as Missions Pastor, Omar has led Kingsland Baptist from being a church that gives to missions to a church that executes mission projects locally and internationally. And like many great leaders, Garcia has helped coin the adage that has driven this missions movement at Kingsland Baptist – "Go Beyond."



For Omar Garcia, the Gospel is more than just mere words; the Gospel is action and discomfort from our routines and familiarity. As a church, Garcia states, we must have "more than proclamation," we must have "incarnation." In order for this "incarnation" to occur, according to Garcia, we must "not only go to church, we must BE THE CHURCH." The church must emulate both the proclaiming power of Billy Graham and the "putting love into action" power of Mother Theresa.

Since the dawn of the year 2008, members of Kingsland have acquired the fire of this most challenging dictum – "Go Beyond." Kingsland Baptist, under the leadership of Omar Garcia has sent out nearly 3,000 of its members to do both local and international mission projects. Operating from an "Acts 1:8 Model" to be witnesses in "Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth," Kingsland has been involved in supporting and founding local and international ministries.

Ninety percent of Kingsland's international efforts are done in the "10/40 Window," focusing specifically on the unreached people groups of nations that have a 5% or less exposure to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Currently, Kingsland Baptist has international excursions planned to four areas of the globe few people ever step foot in, especially our churches. Beginning this summer, Kingsland will be going to Mongolia in June, Tanzania in August, Kurdistan in October and East Asia in December.

Kingsland Baptist has also equipped many of its members on how to share the Gospel with Muslims. Since a large portion of Houston's population is Muslim and 90% of Kingsland's international efforts are in highly populated Muslim countries, this kind of training is essential.

A large part of Kingsland's mission projects are also local and domestic. As Kingsland Baptist Church focuses on their "Jerusalem" (Katy, TX), this church does not forget the local impact that they can be in their own community. On March 9, 2008, Kingsland did the unthinkable - they literally closed the doors to their church building and went out "to love on their community." For 2008, Kingsland also has a plan to send free copies of the *Jesus* film to every tenant in every apartment complex in the Katy area. Kingsland Baptist Church is also going beyond Katy city limits and into the urban

jungles of Houston. They have assisted ministries such as Alpha House in the Montrose area and helped to rebuild dilapidated houses in Houston's poverty stricken areas, just to mention a couple.

Garcia states that one of his goals is to "get people off our campus" and for them to "go beyond," serving God and being God's love made flesh in our communities and around the world. Kingsland Baptist Church has proven that a church from quiet suburban streets can make a loud impact in our world.

If you would like to know more about Kingsland Baptist Church please visit their website at <http://www.kingsland.org>. To contact Pastor Omar Garcia, you can email him at [omar@kingsland.org](mailto:omar@kingsland.org) or call him at (281)492-0785.