

ILLINOIS BAPTIST

ILLINOIS NEEDS YOU NOW

Collect the offering for state missions in your church.
September 9-16 • Missionillinois.org



State missions is everyone's job.

Share this planning guide with your church's leadership team.

- Pastor
- Associate pastor or staff
- Missions leader
- Deacons or elders
- Worship planner
- Student ministry leaders
- Kids ministry leaders

Show your partnership.

This offering for state missions is a vital means of support in the work to reach Illinois with the gospel. The partnership of every IBSA church is urgently needed. Please look for the MIO promotion kit in your church office and be sure it was delivered to the right leader. If you need additional materials, let us know right away.
MIO@IBSA.org

News journal of the
Illinois Baptist State Association
AUGUST 06, 2018



Focus on essentials

'To see the gospel carried through Baptist churches generation after generation'

Sharing the gospel with at least 8 million people is a daunting calling, especially as the cultural opposition churches face continues to grow. But that is our calling here in Illinois. And each year in order to fulfill that calling, Illinois Baptists gather resources to fund ministries for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

How's that working?

Gathered in the chapel of Broadview Missionary Baptist Church following a meeting of pastors, four IBSA leaders discussed the mission field and the future of ministry partnership through the Illinois Baptist State Association. In the discussion were:

- **Nate Adams**, IBSA Executive Director
- **Mark Emerson**, IBSA Associate Executive Director of the Church Resources Team
- **Adron Robinson**, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Country Club Hills, and serving his first term as IBSA President
- **John Yi**, IBSA Church Planting Catalyst focused on second-generation ministry in the Northeast region

▶ Continued next page

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Churches that participated last year received the whole kit, including offering envelopes. Churches that did not participate last year can receive additional materials by contacting MIO@IBSA.org.

There's more online!

Visit missionillinois.org

- ▶ **Worship service ideas**
- ▶ **Mission studies for students and adults**
- ▶ **Bulletin art to cut and paste**
- ▶ **Illinois mission facts**

What's in the kit

A promotion kit for the **Mission Illinois Offering & Week of Prayer** was mailed to churches in late July. Look for it in your church office.



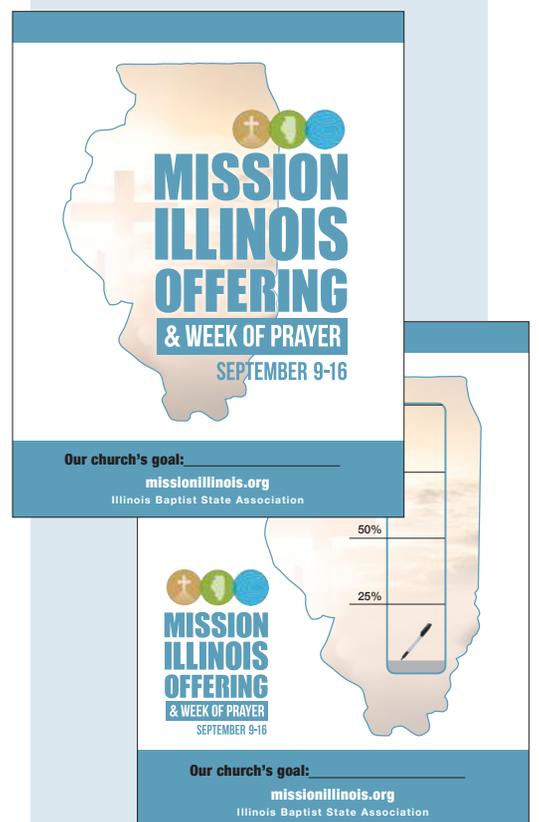
Planning guide with DVD



Offering envelopes and bulletin inserts



Posters



A lot of people have never heard the gospel in a way that they can really understand, even here in Illinois.

— Nate Adams

How does our view of Illinois affect our churches' commitment to partnership in state missions?

Nate Adams: I think a lot of people don't think of Illinois as a mission field, because their community is reasonably church-ed and they're reasonably happy in their church environment. But Illinois has 13 million people. At least 8 million of them don't claim to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And a lot of those who do say they are Christians have just nominal church relationships.

John Yi: And there are many people groups that don't have a single church that serves them. In Chicago we see so much diversity—people from all over the world speaking all kinds of different languages. There are about two million immigrants in Illinois.

And there are at least a half-a-million young people who have come to Illinois to study, and a large portion of them have come from overseas. We really have a unique opportunity to reach people with the gospel—in our cities and all over the state.

Adams: Illinois is very much a mission field. In Acts 1:8 terms, where Jesus said, "You'll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth," Illinois is the "Judea" part of that mission field. In this environment, Illinois Baptists are missionaries, going to places like college campuses and large cities and rural areas, bringing the gospel there as if it had not come there before. Because for a lot of people, they've never heard the gospel in a way that they can really understand, even here in Illinois.

Seeing the needs, some churches have noticeably raised their support for state missions. Yours is one of them, Pastor Robinson. Why?

Adron Robinson: My congregation recently increased its Mission Illinois Offering giving because we saw the work that was going forward because of last year's offering. We were able to see the money that we invested going to reach lost people in Illinois—going to help us reach our Judea, you know. Hillcrest can't reach the entire state, but by giving through the Mission Illinois Offering, we can help other Illinois Baptists reach other lost people in their areas. We can join in our part of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Adams: IBSA is helping churches think about the mission field that is most accessible to them. Even though it's a wildly diverse mission field, it's the one that's near enough where they can go there themselves.

Illinois is a very diverse state, both ethnically and in spiritual need. And John, you serve among people who exemplify both needs.

Yi: Chicago is a landing spot for so many immigrants. And because that's the case, we can't stop planting churches for our first-generation folks. But as soon as they arrive, a cultural gap starts to form between the generations almost immediately. And so the challenge is two-fold—that we reach immigrants in their own language, but also reach their children with the gospel in English, which the parents are unfamiliar with, in a meaningful way that's going to bring them to Christ.

What can our churches do together that they could never accomplish alone?

Robinson: I'm grateful for our partnership with IBSA, because it gives the local church the resources and the connections to do statewide ministry that we can never accomplish as one small local congregation. Through Disaster Relief, evangelism training, equipping of our local church body through IBSA staff, we are able to reach people all around the state.

Mark Emerson: As Pastor Robinson points out, missions is part of our work, along with evangelism and discipleship. And we help churches do this by equipping them for leadership: IBSA develops leaders. I think back to several of the guys who were on the IBSA staff when I was a new pastor and church planter almost 30 years ago, how they took me under their wings and mentored me. Today, I'm thinking how great it would be if every Illinois Baptist pastor had that kind of connection.

Adams: I think the advantage that IBSA has, that allows us to create that kind of opportunity, is proximity to the churches. Southern Baptists have an International Mission Board helping churches go around the world, and a North American Mission Board focusing on some of the great cities in North America. But the Illinois Baptist State Association is the nearby partner. They're the guy nearby to the church who equips the church to reach its own mission field right here in Illinois.

Emerson: As a pastor, I recall how I looked at a lot of different things in our organization and thought, "Well, our church is not growing because we have a community problem. Or an organizational problem. Or a financial problem." What I learned is that our ministry really had a leader-



ADAMS and ROBINSON

ship problem. And if the church was going to grow, I was going to have to grow.

So, we are developing leaders by providing the same kind of experience that I had through the state association—creating cohorts where leaders come together and learn to lead. We have about 40 of these groups all over the state now.

In addition to cohorts, the Church Resources Team equips 6,500 leaders from almost all of our 1,000 IBSA churches and church plants in all aspects of ministry in statewide and regional training events. And we train kids and students in missions and leadership with camps each summer and evangelism events in the fall.

Robinson: Our church has hosted youth events for the northern region. Without our IBSA connections, these things would never happen—praying together and serving faithfully, partnering together—

The key word is partnership.

Adams: I hope our young people won't lose the vision of partnering with others who believe Baptist doctrine to send missionaries into places that no one church could send by themselves. But that working together as Baptist churches we can send reliable missionaries to places that will deliver the gospel and start New Testament churches that are relevant to that community. And I hope that's something that will happen for generation after generation.

Emerson: That our work is handed from one generation to another.

So how do you see state missions in the future?

Adams: For me personally to see the gospel carried through Baptist churches generation after generation is a continuation of what my dad started when he was a pastor and a director of missions in Illinois. I want to see that happen in the generations of my kids and their kids—a stewardship of faithfulness, that we believe the Bible, that we believe the gospel, that we believe the mission of God is the most important thing in our lives.

Day 1: Sunday, Sept. 9

State missions roundtable

State missions is everyone's calling. On the spiritual frontier, with 13 million people and at least 8 million who do not yet know Jesus, there's more than enough mission work for all Illinois Baptists. For more than 100 years, IBSA has helped churches to grow stronger by equipping leaders for ministry. IBSA assists church planters in starting new congregations where they are needed. And IBSA helps pastors spread the gospel. And yet, the need grows. IBSA Executive Director Nate Adams calls it an uphill climb in our postmodern era, but we remain committed to our calling.

Pray for the missionaries and staff of IBSA today, including Associate Executive Director **Mark Emerson** who leads the Church Resources Team.

Watch "Partner for Illinois: A Missions Roundtable"



**NATE
ADAMS**



**MARK
EMERSON**

Day 2: Monday, Sept. 10

Meeting Jesus at camp

Every summer, IBSA's two camp facilities are beehives of activity as hundreds of children and teens converge over multiple weeks. The gospel is shared, young people come to know Jesus, and many grow as disciples and leaders. It's a life-changing experience. Lake Sallateeska celebrated 75 years as IBSA's southern facility. And Streater Baptist Camp, serving the northern churches, has undergone a terrific renovation in the past two years.

Pray for camp managers **Philip Hall** and **Mike Young** and their staffs. And pray for the many people who encounter Christ at camp.

Watch "Lake Sallateeska at 75"



**PHILIP
HALL**



**MIKE
YOUNG**

Day 3: Tuesday, Sept. 11

Women's ministry and missions

Carmen Halsey has a passion for educating and empowering godly women. As IBSA's Director of Women's Ministry, she organizes leadership training cohorts, large equipping events, and mission trips in Illinois and abroad. Her desire is to help women find their God-given gifts, and bring those gifts to build up the local church and carry the gospel to the marketplace. "We're investing in you," she tells women as they grow into leaders, "so you be ready to invest in others."

Pray for **Carmen Halsey** and IBSA's women's ministry. Pray for the women of your church to have new vision for reaching people with the gospel.

Watch "Encouraging Women"



**CARMEN
HALSEY**

Day 4: Wednesday, Sept. 12

Sharing the gospel—together

The Sunday after Easter was a thrilling one in Illinois, as more than 400 people were baptized on a single day. Called "One GRAND Sunday," this statewide evangelism outreach urges Baptist churches to share the gospel with unbelievers, and baptize them once they come to faith in Christ. In our frontier state with its lost millions, churches are finding training and encouragement from the IBSA Evangelism Team as they spread the gospel in all our 102 counties.

Pray for churches and pastors to witness to lost people across Illinois. Pray for IBSA's **Pat Pajak** as he preaches and teaches about evangelism. Pray for your church to train witnesses and grow in its commitment to evangelism.

Watch "One GRAND Sunday"



**PAT
PAJAK**

Day 5: Thursday, Sept. 13

Help especially for pastors

"My guy, nearby" is how the ministry of IBSA's Zone Consultants is described. In 10 regions of the state, these experienced leaders are available to assist churches with today's big ministry questions. Sometimes it's enough just to have someone to listen. Other times special training is needed. In a ministry that's unique among SBC state conventions, IBSA's Zone Consultants bring insight on site. They offer training cohorts for pastors and one-on-one guidance for ministry equipping.

Pray for all IBSA Zone Consultants, including **Larry Rhodes** who serves in the Metro East St. Louis area, and **Rich Cochran**, who manages the team.

Watch "IBSA was There"



**RICH
COCHRAN**



**LARRY
RHODES**

Day 6: Friday, Sept. 14

Turning tragedy to triumph

Spring floods, summer tornadoes, and earthquakes in distant nations all produce opportunity for the gospel. As the nation's third-largest aid organization, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is quickly on the scene of natural disasters. In Illinois, more than 1,600 members of IBSA churches are trained to help with mud-out, mobile shower and laundry facilities, child care for parents as they navigate meetings with federal agencies, and spiritual counsel in their time of loss.

Pray for Disaster Relief workers in Illinois, and **Dwayne Doyle**, the IBSA Director who helps train and mobilize the mighty force of "yellow shirts" in our state.

Watch "Disaster Relief on Mission in Watseka"



**DWAYNE
DOYLE**

Day 7: Saturday, Sept. 15

Churches are needed everywhere

The story of a new church start in Pingree Grove starts with an IBSA-sponsored mission trip to Chicagoland, when two student groups joined two Church Planting Catalysts in prayerwalking a tiny village west of Elgin. The result is a new church starting where there was no church, as the area explodes with new homes. IBSA assists church planters across Illinois in cities and rural cross-roads—everywhere the gospel is needed.

Pray for IBSA's Church Planting Team, including **Tim Bailey** and **Ken Wilson** who saw the potential for a move of God in a place where there was only need.

Watch "Prayerwalking in Pingree Grove"



**TIM
BAILEY**



**KEN
WILSON**

Day 8: Sunday, Sept. 16

Giving day

IBSA depends on faithful giving by Illinois Baptists to support the work we all do together—training leaders, starting new churches, and witnessing to the lost. This annual offering funds the work of IBSA missionaries and staff, such as Sandy Barnard, who has served 33 years, and one of our newest team members, multimedia journalist Andrew Woodrow. Regular giving through the Cooperative Program is the primary channel of missions giving for Southern Baptists. The Mission Illinois Offering also allows us to focus on ministries that are not funded by our national ministry partners.

Pray for generous giving in all IBSA churches today. Pray for your church's giving through the Mission Illinois Offering, and for your own gift.

Watch "IBSA Annual Meeting (Recap)"



**SANDY
BARNARD**



**ANDREW
WOODROW**

Featured missions stories

Visit missionillinois.org to watch these videos, or look for the DVD in your MIO 2018 kit. Share them with your congregation and missions groups.



Encouraging Women

Andrea Cruse credits IBSA's women's ministry for her recent growth as a leader. State missionary **Carmen Halsey** is making a difference in many lives and churches as she leads training in ministry and missions.



IBSA was There

Pastors encourage church members, but who encourages the pastors? Who offers insight for hard ministry questions? Three pastors in Metro East St. Louis tell how one of IBSA's zone consultants, **Larry Rhodes**, helped them in time of need.



Prayerwalking for Church Plants

A team of teenagers from two Southern Illinois churches joined Church Planting Catalysts **Tim Bailey** and **Ken Wilson** on a prayerwalk in far north Pingree Grove, a fast-growing community without a church. What God did next is amazing.



Partners for Illinois

Our state is a big state—in land, population, and spiritual need. At 200 years old, Illinois has more need for the gospel than ever before. But how will we reach so great a state? IBSA's Executive Director **Nate Adams** and others offer some ideas.

Where does your state missions offering go?

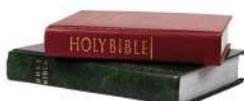
Much of the MIO gifts assist IBSA missionaries and staff. An annual offering of **\$400,000** or more makes it possible for IBSA to send more workers into the field to equip church leaders and help start churches. In addition to personnel, **MIO supplies gospel materials such as these:**

\$1 "Jesus" video in 24 languages

\$50 New Testaments given to a bicycle group as they stop for water



\$350 Bibles for prison ministry



\$6 Evangecube for sharing the gospel with kids

\$300 Evangelism training materials for a church

Countdown to the Week of Prayer

▶ 6 weeks ahead

Open the kit. Visit MissionIllinois.org to see the additional pieces for promotion and missions studies. Meet with the missions and stewardship leaders. Set a goal. Assign responsibilities for promotion for the campaign. Consider how MIO is a teaching opportunity. Plan a mission study.

▶ 5 weeks ahead

Meet with the worship planner.

Consider how to incorporate MIO in worship services. Plan to use the videos in worship, online, or in mission studies. Ask platform leaders to include prayer for state missions in the prayer time. Schedule a special prayer meeting.

▶ 4 weeks ahead

Put up the posters in prominent places.

Place the promo artwork in the church bulletin and newsletter. Promote a special mission study and prayer meeting. Announce the goal.

▶ 3 weeks ahead

Show the short promotion video in worship.

Post it on your website. Announce the goal. Start prayer for state missions.

▶ 2 weeks ahead

Show one mission video in worship.

Ask someone to lead prayer for state missions. Encourage attenders to consider their offering.

▶ 1 week ahead

Show one mission video in worship.

Ask someone to lead prayer for state missions. Make prayer guides and offering envelopes available.

▶ The week of MIO

Show one mission video in worship.

Stuff the prayer guide and offering envelopes in the bulletin. Pray for state missions, encourage daily devotions using the prayer guide. Hold a mission study and special prayer meeting. Collect the offering.

▶ Each week through September

Continue collecting the offering until the goal is met. Pray for state missions. Celebrate God's work in Illinois.

Look for the MIO kit in your church office.

For churches that have not participated in the MIO/Week of Prayer, your help is needed now more than ever. Our shared work of evangelism and missions depends on prayer and faithful giving. Won't you partner with the almost 1,000 IBSA churches in this important work? Order free materials at MIO@IBSA.org.