

Announcements for bulletins, newsletters and websites

Use the announcements below in your church communications and in making announcements about the Illinois Missions Offering and Week of Prayer by adding your own information, specific dates, times and goals.

Reaching Illinois – Missions isn't just across the country or overseas. It's right here in Illinois where more than 8 million people are lost. The Illinois Missions Offering supports nearly 100 missionaries here in our state as they start new churches, strengthen existing churches and go to their mission fields. Please give sacrificially toward our church goal of \$_____.

Praying for Illinois Missionaries – Did you know nearly 100 Southern Baptist missionaries serve right here in Illinois, and they need and depend on our prayer and giving support? Use the Week of Prayer Guide bulletin insert this week to pray for Illinois missionaries, and give to their support through the Illinois Missions Offering.

How much will you give – You've heard us talk about the Illinois Missions Offering, but have you prayed about how much you and your family will give? Please consider giving the best gift you have ever given to state missions to help reach lost people here in Illinois.

Investing in Illinois Missions – Your gifts to the Illinois Mission Offering this year will help start 45 new churches in Illinois next year, train 22,500 church leaders in ways that will strengthen our churches, and provide support for a dozen associational directors of missions to lead their member churches. Please give toward our church goal of \$_____.

More Resources Available at IBSA.org

Pastors and mission leaders can find additional resources for the Week of Prayer and Illinois Missions Offering at www.IBSA.org including:

- Age Graded Mission Studies
- Clip Art
- A Children's Sermon
- Illinois Missionary Stories
- Fill-in-the-blank Video Listening Guides

Using the Offering Videos

This Planning Guide includes a DVD with four mission videos that can inform and inspire your church to pray for Illinois missions and missionaries and give to the IMO.

Each video is 3 to 4 minutes long and can be easily shown during the announcement time or offertory time of a worship service. You could also schedule them during a special prayer meeting or study, or show them to individual Sunday School classes or mission groups. The videos are also available for preview and download at IBSA.org.

Following is a brief description of each video which could also be used to introduce the video to the congregation, class or study group.

Starting Hispanic Churches in Illinois (2:52)



Bob Evaul served as a missionary in Bolivia for 18 years.

When he moved back to the U.S., he found Southern Illinois a mission field wide open for reaching Hispanics with the gospel. Listen to how three associations and IBSA work together to start churches

among a people group hungry for a relationship with the Savior.

Reaching Illinois College Students (2:51)



Zach Wehrach isn't reaching thousands of students at Blackburn College in Carlinville, but he is sharing Christ

and ministering to the 500 students on this central Illinois campus. Hear Zach's heart for reaching "the next generation" in this video about the importance of this unreached people group throughout Illinois.

Overwhelming Need in North Illinois (3:16)



Many areas of Illinois with the largest populations of lost people have the smallest number of SBC churches

to share the gospel. That's why the Illinois Missions Offering is used to support associational directors of missions like

J. Hail in Rockford. See and hear how he helps the churches in North Central Association witness and minister among overwhelming need.

Missions in Illinois (3:43)

IBSA executive director **Nate Adams** expresses appreciation for gifts to the IMO, explains the four main ways IBSA uses the Offering, and suggests a simple way to pray for missions in Illinois.

Video listening guides that can be used to focus your viewers' attention are available at IBSA.org. Click on the IMO logo.



If you need additional copies of the DVD call (217) 391-3116 or email IllinoisMissionsOffering@IBSA.org. The videos can also be downloaded from the IBSA website at IBSA.org.

2009 Illinois Missions Offering and Season of Prayer



Planning Guide For Pastors and Mission Leaders

14 Simple Steps to a Successful Offering and Season of Prayer

Pray

- Pray for a vision of how to lead your church in supporting the Illinois Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.
- Pray for greater awareness of and commitment to missions in Illinois among your church members.
- Pray that members will give sacrificially to the Offering in order that more churches will be strengthened and started and more Illinois Baptists will go to the mission fields.

Plan

- Schedule dates when your church will observe the week of prayer and promote the Offering. The suggested dates are Sept. 13-20, however, your church can observe it at any time. Consider a Sunday kick-off, a Wednesday night prayer emphasis, and, the second Sunday to receive the Offering.
- Plan a time of prayer and mission study. Age-graded mission study materials are available at IBSA.org.
- Set a challenging offering goal. Consider \$10 per resident member or 10% more than was given last year which is included in the 2008 IBSA Annual Section I or by calling the Business Team at (217) 391-3113.
- Review the free promotion materials sent to your church and make sure you have enough:
 - Posters
 - Prayer Guides
 - Offering Envelopes, and,
 - DVDs with four promotional videos.

Order more materials by calling (217) 391-3116 or send an email to IllinoisMissionsOffering@IBSA.org. Go online to IBSA.org and click on "Illinois Missions Offering," for additional materials.

Promote

- Display the Week of Prayer posters in highly visible areas including near entrances, lobbies, bulletin boards and classrooms.
- Distribute the Offering envelopes either through the bulletins, in pews, through Sunday School classes or in a special mailing to members.
- Distribute the IMO Prayer Guide to every member as a bulletin insert, through Sunday School, at a special prayer meeting or a missions study time.
- Set up a visual display to keep your church aware of the progress toward the goal. Perhaps use a large map of Illinois and color in one of the 102 counties for each \$5, \$10 or \$20 given.
- Give the announcements in this Guide to those who prepare the church newsletter, the bulletin, and make announcements during worship services and prayer meetings.
- Show the four mission videos during worship and prayer services. Be sure to preview them first.



Why Promote the Illinois Missions Offering?

Because more than **8 million** people in Illinois are lost, and every penny of the IMO stays in Illinois to help strengthen our churches and reach lost people.

Q&A about the Illinois Mission Offering (IMO) and Week of Prayer

- Q:** What's the purpose of the Offering and Week of Prayer?
A: 1. To pray for our nearly 100 Illinois Missionaries; and,
 2. To give specifically to support Southern Baptist missions in Illinois.
- Q:** When should churches observe the IMO and Week of Prayer?
A: The suggested dates this year are September 13-20, but churches can conduct a week of prayer and take-up an offering whenever is best for their church. If your church conducts one offering a year for all special missions efforts and then divides it between state, national and international SBC mission causes, use these materials, especially the videos, that emphasize Illinois missions.
- Q:** What was given last year and what is this year's goal?
A: Last year Illinois Baptists gave \$380,824 to the IMO, which was \$2,000 less than the year before and \$9,000 short of the goal. So, the 2009 goal is the same as last year and we are praying that, even in today's economy, we can exceed the \$390,000 goal.
- Q:** What will this year's Offering be used for?
A: The 2009 Offering will be used in 2010 to help:
 - Support nearly 100 Illinois missionaries
 - Start 45 new Southern Baptist churches and support several dozen new churches started the previous two years;
 - Initiate ministries on additional Illinois college campuses while supporting current ministries on 30 campuses;
 - Train 22,500 leaders of existing IBSA churches in priority church ministries
 - Provide salary support for 12 Associational Directors of Missions and partner with all 34 Illinois Baptist Associations as they assist their churches in reaching their communities; and,
 - Mobilize mission volunteers in at least 200 IBSA churches.
- Q:** How are gifts to the Illinois Missions Offering used differently than gifts sent through the Cooperative Program?
A: Regular church gifts through the Cooperative Program provide the foundation for everything Illinois Baptist churches are able to do together - in Illinois, across the United States and around the world. In fact, 43.25% of all CP gifts are sent to the Southern Baptist Convention - the third largest percentage of all state Baptist Conventions! However, every penny of the Illinois Missions Offering stays in Illinois to help us strengthen our existing churches, start new churches, and reach out to the estimated 8 million people who do not know Jesus as Savior.

What Your IMO Dollars Buy

Much of the Illinois Missions Offering provides salary support for church planters, directors of missions, and campus and other missionaries throughout Illinois, but some is used for ministry supplies such as the following:

- \$.50** will buy a New Testament for a block party or door-to-door canvassing
- \$1** helps buy evangelistic tracts for Mississippi River Ministry projects.
- \$3** buys a box of Pop Tarts to hand out on a college campus
- \$7** will buy a Bible study workbook for a prison inmate
- \$10** provides a 'Bible story cloth' for teaching boys and girls about missions
- \$20** provides literacy materials for English as a Second Language training
- \$50** buys water bottles imprinted with the plan of salvation for a county fair
- \$175** underwrites the expenses of a Camp Staffer for a full week of Missions Camps
- \$300** helps pay the cost of a church block party
- \$500** helps cover the expenses of the Regional VBS Clinic
- \$1000** pays for the sound system for a new church start
- \$2000** provides utilities at the Christian Activity Center in E. St. Louis for one month
- \$6,000** helps subsidize rent for a new church for a year



How IMO Gifts are Used in Illinois Missions

- Faithful support of the Cooperative Program provides the foundational support for IBSA's services to its churches and associations, but the Illinois Missions Offering will help us do more next year than we have done this year - more new churches, more training conferences for our churches, and more support for evangelism plans.
- Nearly 100 Illinois missionaries receive salary support from the Illinois Missions Offering. Those missionaries are starting new churches, ministering on college campuses, serving as directors of missions in a dozen Illinois Baptist associations, and helping strengthen our existing churches.
- IBSA has nearly 1,000 churches, but needs hundreds more different kinds of churches to reach the different kinds of people in our cities, towns and rural areas. Next year IBSA plans to start 45 new churches while supporting several dozen churches started the previous two years.
- Illinois Baptists help support one-third of the state's associational directors of missions as they serve and support their churches in reaching some of the most unchurched areas of Illinois.
- Illinois Baptists have ministries on about 30 of the 172 college campuses to reach the 800,000 students in our state. We need to increase our effective outreach to the next generation.
- The Illinois Missions Offering helps churches develop a plan to reach all of their Acts 1:8 mission fields. Some mission volunteers are more effective in their home church after returning from a mission trip, while others minister at home first, and then reach out nationally or internationally.