

The ²Second Century Challenge Prayer Guide

This Fall, Illinois Baptist churches will celebrate 100 years of cooperating together through the Illinois Baptist State Association to take the gospel of Christ throughout our state and to the ends of the earth. This historic milestone is a rare opportunity for us to renew our focus and to declare that God's mission to the world is our mission as His churches.



The Second Century Challenge is an opportunity for IBSA churches to consider joining other churches in setting annual goals for one or more of the following missional activities that express our cooperative mission:

- **Sharing Christ**
- **Starting Churches**
- **Sending Christians**
- **Sacrificing Cooperatively**

Many churches already have plans in some if not all of these areas, but the Second Century Challenge provides an opportunity for each church to look at past and current missions involvement and prayerfully consider what God would have them do next year.

Participating churches are making the four commitments a matter of corporate and individual prayer, asking the

Lord to lead them and their church in deciding if setting goals in one or more of the four areas would help the church reach its Acts 1:8 mission fields in the coming year. The inside of this prayer guide can help you pray for God's direction for your church's commitments.

As a demonstration of our cooperative Baptist mission in Illinois, participating IBSA churches will be recognized and join together to present commitments at their local associational annual meeting this fall. Church and associational commitments will then be joined together during IBSA's 100th Anniversary Celebration November 6, 2007 as an expression of our collective desire to reach Illinois and the world for Christ.



Illinois Baptist State Association
Celebrating 100 Years of Cooperative Missions
SecondCentury@IBSA.org

Praying Through Your Church's Commitment

God-sized spiritual results come from Spirit-led spiritual power. And a unified commitment that comes from church-wide prayer will lead your church to seek the Lord in a way that will invite spiritual renewal as well as missional obedience.

With that in mind, use the four commitments in bold as a focus for your personal prayer time, asking the Lord how you and your church should respond to each area next year.

1. Sharing Christ

We will train _____ believers to share their Christian testimony with at least _____ people, praying that God will use us to baptize _____ new believers.

This commitment tests our heart for the Lord by testing our heart for the lost. Before we baptize, before we testify, before we train in evangelism, we must ask the Lord to give us a compassion for the lost.

Pray God will newly stir you and your church with compassion for the lost and your church will embrace this commitment and personalize it to your congregation.



2. Starting Churches

We will actively engage in support or cooperation with at least _____ church planter(s) or church planting project(s) in Illinois.

Would your church consider the lost people who will not attend, for a variety of reasons, an existing evangelical church? It may seem like there are “plenty” of churches already, but people stay away from those churches every week who might respond to a new church.

Ask the Lord how your church, no matter how small or inexperienced, might help another church get started either in your community or elsewhere in the state through prayer support, mission teams or sponsorship.



3. Sending Christians

We will send at least _____ Christians on mission to each of our Acts 1:8 mission fields:

- _____ to the Jerusalem of our local community/association
- _____ to our Judea of Illinois
- _____ to our Samaria of North America
- _____ to our Ends of the Earth, internationally

Where in the world is God calling you and your church to go on mission this next year? Many churches are already active in sending their members on mission trips or even long-term missionary assignments. What's sometimes missing is balance in sending Christians to all the Acts 1:8 mission fields outlined above, or sometimes it's the same people who go over and over.

Pray about the number of Christians from your church involved in missions and the variety of places God may be calling you and your church to serve.



4. Sacrificing Cooperatively

We will increase our missions giving from _____ to _____ through the Cooperative Program, and from _____ to _____ through our local Association, and set higher goals for our special missions offerings.

This fourth commitment focuses not only on your church's own missional activity, but on how churches cooperate together to fulfill the Great Commission. When you give through your local association, your “Jerusalem” mission efforts with other churches are advanced. And, when you give through the Cooperative Program, you help send missionaries all over the world, including in Illinois.

Pray about your church's commitment to cooperative missions giving. Whatever your church's current giving through these channels, would you prayerfully consider an increased percentage or amount? How might you and your family increase your stewardship commitment to your church as well?