



## See what a team can do

A woman came to a new church in Chicago. She had never heard the Gospel.

“Six months later, she’s weeping during her baptism service,” says **David Choi**, the church planter who started Church of the Beloved. “I can’t even begin to explain the joy as a church planter, to know that somebody went all the way from never hearing about Jesus, to being excited about the Gospel and being converted, and knowing that her eternal destiny has been changed.

“There’s nothing like it.”

In two years, Church of the Beloved has grown from a core group of 20 to 400 weekly attenders meeting in three worship services. There are 25 nationalities represented in the congregation that reaches out to students and young professionals in the Chicago’s university district and downtown.

The church’s story is one of partnership. Choi felt called to start a church in his hometown of Chicago. Soon he



**UNITED** – Church of the Beloved planter **David Choi** was surrounded by prayer partners at a city-wide prayer meeting for new churches.

found ministry partners in IBSA and the North American Mission Board. He found in Chicago a group of church leaders eager to encourage his work. Among them was **Nathan Carter**, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church. Carter offered Choi the use of their building on Saturday nights to start his core team meetings.

And an Arkansas church seeking to share the Gospel in America’s big cities offered prayer, mission teams, and financial resources. “We find ourselves grateful, impressed and challenged” by the partnership, said FBC Fort Smith’s missions pastor, **Greg Ford**. “We are grateful for how Dave initially poured into lay leaders and for their continued leadership and influence. We are impressed with their focus on evangelism and the favor they have seen with internationals.

“We are challenged by their commitment to prayer, and praise the Lord for how He has answered.”

### **Part’ner** – [noun]

1. an alliance, often in business;
2. what a cowboy calls his friend;
3. people working together for a common goal. The New Testament word *koinonia* can be translated “fellowship” or “partnership” (See Acts 2:42).

Use it in a sentence, please:

“Through the Cooperative Program, our church is a partner with a thousand other IBSA churches in Illinois!”

## ~~6~~<sup>7</sup> cool reasons to give to missions through the **Cooperative Program**

**1. Retro is in.** And CP is nearly 100 years old. It’s cool – not because it sounds cool – but because it works. If it ain’t broke, you know?

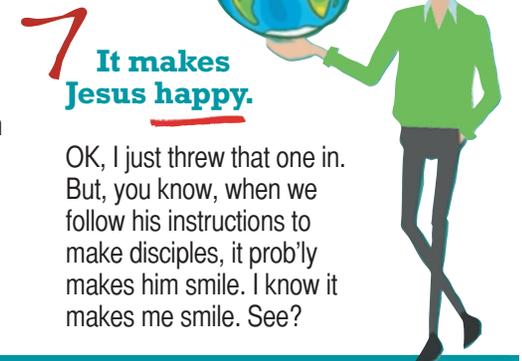
**2. CP helps our churches stay mission-focused.** Instead of giving to one thing this year and another thing next year, we keep at the larger task of systematically sharing the Gospel with 5 billion people on the planet who don’t know Jesus. That doesn’t happen with a haphazard plan. Or no plan at all.

**3. It starts with Mission Illinois.** IBSA churches give more than \$6 million through CP each year. Some stays in Illinois to help our churches grow strong, start new churches where they are needed, and tell people in our cities and towns about Jesus – 13 million of them.

**4. Missionaries spend more time on the job.** They don’t go from church to church asking for money like in the old days. (Seems to me it was mostly about showing slides, eating pie, and spending a lot of money on gas.)

**5. We can do more together.** Almost 1,000 churches in Illinois, and 45,000 in the U.S., each give a percentage of their offerings to missions. It’s that whole drop in the bucket thing. 100 missionaries in Illinois. 2,500 missionaries in North America. 5,000 international missionaries. And scads of volunteers. Do the math. The drops add up. They really add up.

**6. CP just makes sense.** I mean, really. What better way to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, like Jesus said. It’s totally about “the uttermost.”



**Confused about CP?**  
Let this guy straighten it out.

Watch this short new video and learn more at [www.IBSA.org/CP](http://www.IBSA.org/CP)



**Mission Illinois** is a free insert published bi-monthly and designed to help IBSA churches together to reach our state and the world for Christ. Call Illinois Baptist State Association at (217) 391-3119 or e-mail [MissionIllinois@IBSA.org](mailto:MissionIllinois@IBSA.org) for a free subscription.

