

# ILLINOIS MISSIONS

Our Cooperative Program at Work | IBSA.org



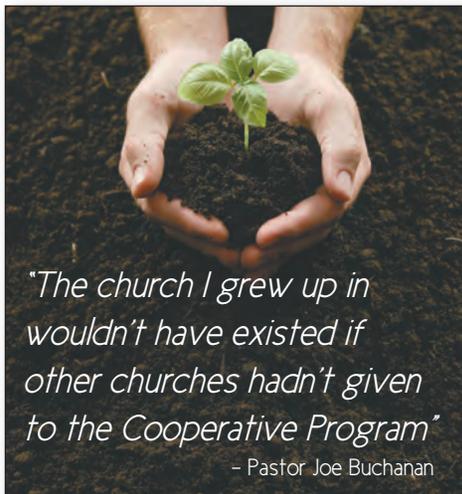
## Your CP giving helps people come to Christ

A few decades ago a Southern Baptist church planter traveled to northeastern Ohio where he started a church. The Buchanans began attending and one Sunday, son Joe accepted Christ as his Savior. Today Joe is pastor of First Baptist Church in Metropolis, Ill.

"I kind of owe my salvation in part to the Cooperative Program," he said. "The church I grew up in wouldn't have existed if other churches hadn't given to the Cooperative Program so the church planter could start that church."

As a result, Buchanan stresses the importance of giving through the Cooperative Program to assist in missions efforts like starting churches. "Acts 1:8 lays out the Biblical pattern for missions. We're responsible for our communities, our state, our nation and the world," he said. "The Cooperative Program is a one-vehicle package. It lets us reach all of those areas. It is one of the main ways to support the work of our denomination and churches."

He encourages members of First Baptist to support CP through giving to and participating in missions. In the past few years, First Baptist's members have participated in seven international mission trips to places like Haiti, Romania and



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- Pastor Joe Buchanan

Africa. In Illinois, they support the new church plant, The Church at DeKalb.

"I think the Cooperative Program is a great tool that allows every church to commit what they can," said Buchanan. "By pooling our funds we can do more. Many churches would not have been started without Cooperative Program giving from other churches. It's the best tool we have to fund the advancement of the Gospel around the world. It's by no means perfect, but it gets money to the folks that need it to go share the Gospel."



## Pray for church planters in Illinois

Illinois Baptist church planters are active in all areas of our state starting churches in cities, suburbs and rural areas for people of many ethnicities, cultures and economic backgrounds. **Please pray that:**

- God will give them strength and wisdom.
- Relationships they develop in their communities will bear fruit.
- God opens doors of opportunity.

## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM When I give to my church



# Every Dollar touches the World

### Reaching Illinois for Christ

Right now, the population of Illinois is nearly **13 million**, making it the fifth most populated state in the nation. An estimated **8.2 million** or **two-thirds** of all Illinoisans do not know Christ as their Savior. There are nearly **221,000** Southern Baptists with one Southern Baptist church for every **13,684** Illinoisans.

8.2

28,862

### Leaders trained

At events for VBS workers, Sunday School/small group leaders, pastors, worship ministers, missions teachers and many more.

## How you can be involved in the Cooperative Program

**Pray.** Pray regularly for your Southern Baptist missionaries in Illinois and around the globe. "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers." - Matthew 9:38 (HCSB)

**Go.** Be involved in some sort of missions endeavor. You are God's missionary right where you live. "Go...and make disciples of all nations." - Matthew 28:19 (HCSB)

**Give.** Out of love for the Lord, encourage your church to give regularly through the CP. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse." - Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)



Partners in the Cooperative Program

\$6.2 mil.

### Given by IL Baptists

IBSA sends **43.25** percent of CP gifts to the SBC for world missions, the fifth largest percentage of all state Baptist conventions, and retains **56.75** percent to start and strengthen churches in Illinois.

10,000

### Missionaries

Because you give to CP, NAMB has **5,009 missionaries** serving in North America, and the IMB has **5,013 missionaries** in the world.



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