

The

Cooperative Program

When I give to my church



Illinois Baptist State Association

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What's inside:

- My Cooperative Program
- How it works
- Where your money goes
- Every dollar touches the world
- Weekly offerings help bring people to Christ
- International missions
- North American missions
- State missions
- Give with confidence
- and more!



When you place
your offering in
the plate, you
touch the world.
Every Sunday.

That's an amazing thought, that every week, church goers across the nation are supporting missions. And what at first may seem to be "a drop in the bucket" becomes a strong and steady stream for funding missions, missionaries, and ministry worldwide. Starting with that offering plate (or basket, bag, box, or bucket) at your church in Illinois.

The world's most effective system for missions giving is the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through offerings from all our churches, the Cooperative Program produces about \$190 million for missions work every year. Each time you give to your church, a small portion (whatever percentage your church chooses) goes through the Cooperative Program to the mission field, starting in Illinois and then to the whole world.

The Cooperative Program helps church planters in North America start new congregations to share the gospel with people who don't know Christ.

The Cooperative Program helps support Southern Baptist seminaries that train the next generation of pastors, leaders, and missionaries.

The Cooperative Program funds church starting here in Illinois, plus training for leaders to grow stronger churches, and evangelism to lead more of Illinois' 8.2 million lost people to Christ.

For every dollar you give to your church, someone somewhere in the world is touched by the Gospel.

USE THIS E-BOOK TO...

TEACH NEW MEMBERS and students how their weekly offerings support missions in Illinois and around the world.

DOWNLOAD HANDOUTS for classes and self-study at www.IBSA.org/extra

ORDER NEW BULLETIN INSERTS on this topic by contacting IllinoisMissions@IBSA.org.

WATCH VIDEO and share "Every Dollar Touches the World" in class or worship service.

Our weekly offerings help people come to Jesus 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.

The church where I grew up wouldn't have existed if other churches hadn't given to the Cooperative Program.

"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 Africa. In Illinois, they support The Church at DeKalb, a new SBC church plant.

"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."

\$6.2 million

was given through the Cooperative Program by Southern Baptists in Illinois last year.

\$190 million

is expected from all SBC churches in the U.S. this year.

4.7 billion

of the world's 6.9 billion people do not know Jesus Christ.

10,000+

missionaries are sent by Southern Baptists. The International Mission Board has **5,009** serving worldwide and **5,013** serving here with the North American Mission Board.

838

SBC congregations in Illinois contribute a percentage of their undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program.

More than 80

Illinois church planters have started churches in the past few years, from rural crossroads and suburban communities, to the urban centers of St. Louis and Chicago.

809

people groups engaged by IMB missionaries.

8.2 million

of Illinois' 13 million people do know Christ.

6,000

people groups in the world still live with little or no access to the Gospel.

28,862

times last year leaders from Illinois churches were trained for effective ministry in preaching and teaching, worship leadership, evangelism and discipleship and compassion ministries.

Giving and going for world missions

The Cooperative Program supports 10,000 missionaries who carry the gospel worldwide. When we partner with those missionaries, our own concern for lost people grows, and we become goers as well as givers.

Early in 2012 people from two Illinois churches spent two weeks in Uganda. Pastors Sammy Simmons of Immanuel Baptist Church, Benton, and Derek Downs of First Baptist Church, Woodlawn, led their churches in partnership with a ministry co-founded by an IMB missionary.

The team served in prisons and in some of the country's poorest slums in the largely-unreached nation. In addition, team members distributed 100-pound bags of food, while engaging gospel conversations with people who were deeply religious but didn't know Christ.

As a result, the team saw more than 700 professions of faith, including 350-400 in the prisons. As they shared, volunteers stuck to a simple Gospel message, Simmons said. "Poverty is not a barrier, but a good thing for the Gospel. In their poverty, they see their need for God. In our wealth, we think we don't need God."

Any Illinois Baptist church can partner with IMB missionaries in the field said Mark Emerson, IBSA Missions Involvement director. "This summer a team is going to work with the Herrons in Uganda. Last year, Illinois Baptists connected through Capital City Baptist Association with Sam and Delores York to work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic."

Giving and participating in missions is an important part of the Cooperative Program experience. "Working alongside our IMB missionaries helps Illinois Baptists understand we are part of the largest evangelical mission force on our planet," he said. "Doing this allows our CP giving to come alive as we add going to our giving."

My Cooperative Program

- The Cooperative Program was created in 1925 to give Southern Baptists a unified system for funding missions, seminaries, and ministry initiatives, replacing an endless series of financial appeals to local churches.
- For every dollar that goes into the offering plate, an amount chosen by the local church (usually a percentage) is sent to the state convention. In Illinois, that's the Illinois Baptist State Association.
- IBSA retains 56.75% of CP gifts for missions work in Illinois, strengthening and starting churches, and sends 43.25% to the SBC Executive Committee.
- Within five days of receipt, the SBC Executive Committee distributes CP funds to the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, SBC seminaries and agencies.
- More than 50% of that amount always goes to world missions.
- Compared to other organizations, the SBC uses a small fraction for administration and overhead, sending as many dollars and people as possible to our many mission fields.

So the world will know

People from Illinois who are part of 10,000+ SBC missionaries worldwide supported through CP.

The Carruthers - Botswana



Ann Carruthers, wife of **Kelly Carruthers**, former pastor of Hoosier Prairie Baptist Church in Louisville, has been teaching the people in Botswana to handwrite the books of the Bible onto paper as a tool for memorizing Scripture. "Get a notebook and pen and start seeing the Lord speak to you," she said the IMB missionary

The Herrons - Uganda



James Herron served as a church planting strategist in Illinois before he and his wife Sonya moved to Uganda to help plant churches on and around the island of Buvuma. While visiting a smaller island nearby, a woman told them of a dream she had. "I saw the boat coming and I knew you were the one who was going to share the good news," she said.

Debbie Wohler - California



Debbie Wohler is a NAMB resort missionary in Lake Tahoe, Calif. Her parents and home church, First Baptist Church, Fairfield, Ill., were vital in preparing her for a life in missions. "They were just ordinary people who loved me with the love of Christ in their hearts," Wohler said of her church. "First Baptist Church wrote on my heart, 'You too can be a missionary.'"

The Crinos - Mexico



K.C. Crino describes Mexico City and most of the urban centers in Mexico as historic "headquarters of pagan worship." Crino and his wife, **Gail**, former Illinois church planters, focus on building relationships to share Christ with those who have been inundated with religious ritual. "We preach a Gospel; we don't preach a religion," Crino says.

Bonita* - The Pacific Rim



Bonita was born in Metropolis, Ill., and served as a WMU associate in Illinois for eight years. In Asia, she said, "darkness reigns ... Our enemy does what he can to distract us." Women in her region meet in secret to learn more about God's design for them. "The Master Designer has a plan for all of us."

When I give to my church I support ...

New churches, new believers

Scott and Ashley Venable, college ministry leaders from Texas, knew God was calling them to a new work—but where? They visited Chicago.

"We both were feeling really broken over the people there," Ashley said, "but we wanted to know for sure that it was where God wanted us to be." Within a few months, they had moved to the eclectic Wicker Park neighborhood to plant a church among urban intellectuals and young professionals. They began by reaching out to school and community leaders, offering help wherever it was needed. Today their multi-ethnic congregation is called Mosaic Church.

This is one of more than 80 Southern Baptist church plants at various stages of the growth process, from the population-dense urban centers in the north, to suburban communities, college towns, and rural countryside downstate. In addition to those, IBSA has identified 72 locations and people groups that are ready for a new church when the funding, planter and partnering churches become available. These new churches reach Illinois' unreached people groups: immigrants, people just learning English, people who have drifted away from church, and those who simply haven't met Christ yet.

With mentoring and strategy from IBSA specialists funded in part through the Cooperative Program, many more church planters like Scott will be investing their lives in Illinois: "We knew God was calling us, so we decided to just go."



When I give to my church I support ...

Sharing the Gospel in new ways

Giving through the Cooperative Program helps support creative new evangelistic outreach in Illinois – like Choose 2.

“What could God do with nearly 150,000 Illinois Baptists who love their unbelieving neighbors enough to choose to pray for them?” asked Tim Sadler, IBSA Evangelism director and creator of Choose2, a statewide prayer evangelism strategy.



“What could God do with thousands of passionate Illinois Baptist school children praying for their classmates and teachers?”

Many churches have taken the Choose2 challenge to pray twice a day for lost family members or friends, and to look for ways to build relationships that lead to gospel-centered conversations.

Participating churches are already seeing lives changed. Pastor Randy Hayes of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Iuka, reported, “I started promoting Choose 2 a couple of weeks ago with commitment Sunday yesterday. I had some [people] come to me the very first day and tell me the Lord already gave them their names. One of those was saved yesterday! She is a young mother with a five-week-old-baby boy. Our church is excited about what God is doing.”

Help in crises

When skies grow dark and tornado sirens sound, trained volunteers from Illinois Baptist churches go on alert. They are ready, too, when floodwaters rise or fire trucks roll. Whatever the disaster, 37 Disaster Relief teams comprising 1,421 trained workers are ready to help.

The teams include kitchen, childcare, chaplaincy, chainsaw, flood recovery, laundry and shower units, along with a disaster relief command and communications trailer, and a search and rescue unit. Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists operate the nation's third largest disaster relief organization behind only the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Their yellow T-shirts and jackets are as welcome as the sounds of their chainsaws.

Since it was formed in 1980, Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief has responded in the wake of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City. Most recently units have responded to tornado recovery efforts in Harrisburg.

“Disaster Relief ministry is one of the best tools we have as Southern Baptists to demonstrate the love of Christ and share the gospel with people who are struggling through times of difficulty and crisis,” said Rex Alexander, state disaster relief director. “A lost and hurting world often doesn't care what we know until they know that we care. Disaster Relief allows us to demonstrate that we care enough to meet their needs during a crisis.”



When I give to my church I support ...

Student outreach

When Chase Abner arrived as a graduate student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, he was dismayed to learn his new roommate was a Southern Baptist minister. "I had a perception in my mind of what it was going to be like living with a Baptist minister and it wasn't very good," said Abner.

It was the only place he could find to live, and his roommate was an IBSA campus minister, Dominic Menard. Abner was soon surprised. "Dominic and I hit it off as musicians. Then, I learned a Christian was who he was, not what he did."

His journey to Christ had begun, even though Abner was unaware of it at the time. "I was raised in church, but didn't have a real relationship with the Lord. "

He knew how to act like a Christian, but didn't know how to live as one who had given his heart to Christ. "I prayed before meals in public, but my heart hadn't changed. God's grace preserved me, protected me. I had a fear of God, I just didn't understand Christ. I even the read Bible frequently before being saved."

Abner joined Menard and others from the SIU campus for a student conference sponsored by IBSA. "I realized why I didn't have a relationship with Christ like they did."

He was soon baptized and, just a few months later, married a Christian named Alisha. Two weeks after their 2004 wedding, Abner was serving at Super Summer, a week-long IBSA camp for high school students held in Greenville. "At some point I started thinking that I liked what Dominic did," Abner shared. "I thought it was cool to hang out with students, tell them about Christ, and go on mission trips."

Today Abner leads student ministry at SIU as an IBSA missionary. "My relationship with Christ is really due to investment in the Cooperative Program. Both the campus minister who led me to Christ and the campus ministry that disciplined me in the gospel are due to CP giving," Abner said.

His work on campus and as a church planter is just part of the Cooperative Program-funded ministries reaching students and young adults in Illinois. "Whenever I speak in churches, I always thank them for giving to the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program allows me to continue to live, work and share my faith and to hopefully be replicate for others what God did in my life."

The Cooperative Program and people you know

"[Our church] has a vision to be on mission across the street and around the world. The Cooperative Program is a means for us to do that as go and to do that corporately as body as we give."



Odis Weaver, Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church
Plainfield

"The beauty of the Cooperative Program is that we have our 44,000 churches [nationwide] all working to fulfill the Great Commission ... For every dollar we give to the CP, it's literally going around the world."



Wes Hahn, Pastor
Shiloh Baptist Church, Bridgeport

"I'm so thankful for the Cooperative Program. Our missionaries don't have to come home to the United States and ask for money. So much more can be accomplished for Christ as we combine our resources with other churches. I'm totally sold on the Cooperative Program."



Carol Stewart, member
Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church
Jacksonville

"I'm grateful that we can be part of doing missions together with other IBSA and SBC churches doing the tasks God asks us to do. Churches are in danger of only caring about what they do directly. I want to be part of something greater to help fulfill the Great Commission."



Doug Munton, Pastor
First Baptist Church, O'Fallon

"I feel it's the best way of giving of all the various ways denominations give. It gets more accomplished and we are able to see more souls reached when churches cooperate in giving."



Dwight McDaniel, Pastor
Highland Avenue Baptist Church
Robinson

What is the 'Southern Baptist Convention'?

The term "Southern Baptist Convention" refers to both the denomination and its annual meeting. For two days each June, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meets for a time of inspiration, fellowship and business. Technically, the SBC exists for only those two days. The rest of the year, denominational agencies carry out the instructions of the messengers. The authority resides with the messengers elected by churches participating in the two-day meeting.

A church becomes Southern Baptist by contributing to the mission causes of the SBC through the Cooperative Program. Churches contributing during the preceding fiscal year are entitled to send as many as 10 representatives to the annual meeting.

Each Southern Baptist church is self-governing. The SBC recognizes in the New Testament there was no centralized ecclesiastical authority over the churches forcing them into any form of compliance. Each church is responsible before God for the policies it sets and decisions it makes including licensing and ordaining pastors.

There are nearly 45,000 Southern Baptist churches with more than 16 million members in 1,200 local associations and 42 state conventions including the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Individuals do not join the SBC. They become Southern Baptists by joining a Southern Baptist Church. Southern Baptists share a common bond of basic Biblical beliefs and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

The fact that Jesus died for our sin, was buried, and then rose from the grave is foundational for Southern Baptists. He lives today and stands ready to give abundant and eternal life to all those who repent of sin and place their faith in Him. Southern Baptists invite everyone to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Why I give with confidence



In most every church I attend, I find especially new Baptists and younger givers who don't yet realize that every dollar they give touches the world. If they did, I think they would give with even greater confidence and generosity, and their commitment to tithing would be even more likely.

When you support Cooperative Program missions you have the same assurance I do. No matter how hard it was to tithe this week, I know every dollar touches the world. Even if my church didn't receive a special offering for missions this week, every dollar I give today still touches the world. Even though I don't feel I've done all I could in the Lord's service this week, at least I know every dollar I'm giving touches the world.

And whether your church normally makes a big deal of the Cooperative Program or not, we would be well served to remember that whenever we give through a cooperating Baptist church, every dollar touches the world.

- Nate Adams, IBSA Executive Director

HOW it WORKS

The Cooperative Program is an old-fashioned name for a very contemporary concept: teamwork.

For the first 200 years of the modern missions movement, missionaries were responsible for raising their own funding. That often meant years away from their mission field, trying to encourage churches and individuals to make pledges and then fulfill their pledges. Unless the missionaries had a good friend back home to fund-raise for them, as Annie Armstrong did for Lottie Moon and others, much time that could have been spent sharing the Gospel was lost. Until the Cooperative Program was created.

Where your money goes

72.79%

World Missions Ministries

International Mission Board (50%)
North American Mission Board (22.79%)

22.16%

Theological Education Ministries

Seminaries (21.92%)
Library and Archives (.24%)

3.40%

SBC Operating Budget

1.65%

Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission



\$191,878,645.16

Amount received in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

A Heritage of Sacrificial Giving

By Nate Adams

Sitting at my Grandmother's kitchen table didn't seem the same without the smell of fried chicken and hot biscuits in the air. But I knew I wouldn't enjoy that inviting fragrance and warm feeling again, at least not there. We had attended Grandmother's funeral that morning, and now sat at her kitchen table going through an old trunk that had rested in her bedroom for years.

Mom slid a small piece of paper across the table to me. "Thought you might be interested in this," she said softly. "It was in Grandmother's trunk."

I picked it up and read the faded ink, aged onto a yellowed paper card. Across the top it read "The Baptist 75 Million Campaign." It was a pledge card dated June 23, 1923. In even more faded, hand-written ink the amount of \$25 was filled in, payable over a 5-year-period. It was signed by Effie Hooks — my Great-Grandmother.

"I don't know if you can fully grasp the sacrifice that card represented for my Grandmother," my Mom said. "That pledge probably came from her 'egg money.'" She went on to explain that the only real spending money that rural women like her Grandmother had in those days was the pennies they'd receive each week from the extra eggs they would gather and sell.

"What did this 'Baptist 75 Million Campaign' have to do with the Cooperative Program?" I asked.

"Well, this campaign was really the foundation for the Cooperative Program," she said. "It came right after World War I, when thousands of Baptist soldiers were returning from Europe and the Near East. It was as if the war bond drives and the mission to Europe had given everyone a glimpse of what was possible when shared convictions focused shared resources on a shared mission. It became a time when faithful people were motivated to do their part, often at great sacrifice, for the greater good of spreading the gospel."

She explained the campaign lasted from 1919-1924. "The Cooperative Program began the next year, in 1925. Remember the marker out in front of your Grandma's church?" she asked.

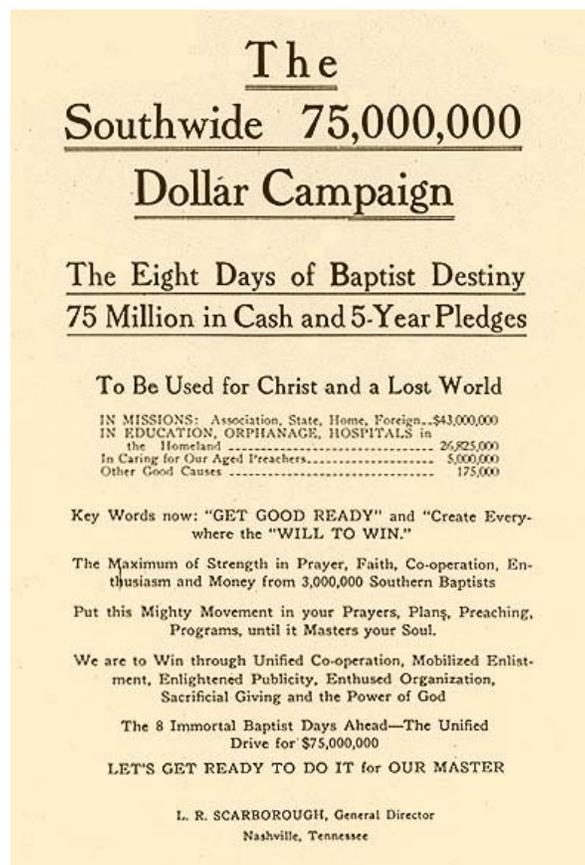
I recalled then that the First Baptist Church in Murray, KY where my *other* grandmother — on my Dad's side — attended for over 60 years had a historical marker in front of it commemorating the beginning of the Cooperative Program — in 1925.

"Mom, this pledge says 'paid in full June 23, 1923,' more than a year before the end of the campaign. I wonder why she paid off her pledge early — maybe times got better for them?"

"No, I don't think so." My Mom's tone was serious, almost reverent. "You see, in March of that same year, their house burned to the ground. This trunk we're going through now, her dowry trunk, was one of the few things they rescued from the fire."

I pictured my Great-Grandmother's hard-working hands collecting eggs, milking a cow, and setting the pennies from her labor aside in a special place. I pictured her tear-filled eyes and strong but trembling chin as she stood watching her home burn. And I pictured a very proud moment — for her, and now for me — as she wrote "paid in full" across her pledge card.

Nate Adams, IBSA Executive Director, originally wrote this article for SBC Life in Spring 1999.



How well do you know the Cooperative Program?

1. The Cooperative Program funds church plants here in Illinois, plus training for leaders to grow stronger churches, and evangelism to lead more of Illinois' _____ lost people to Christ.
A. 1 million B. 8.2 million C. 13 million
2. Southern Baptists have more than _____ missionaries on the missions field.
A. 5,000 B. 7,000 C. 10,000
3. _____ people groups still live with little or no access to the Gospel.
A. 900 B. 6,000 C. 20,000
4. The Cooperative Program was created in _____ to give Southern Baptists a unified system for funding missions, seminaries, and ministry initiatives, replacing an endless series of financial appeals to local churches.
A. 1912 B. 1925 C. 1933
5. Of the \$190 million received by the SBC, just over _____% always goes to international missions.
A. 25 B. 45 C. 50
6. A church becomes Southern Baptist by contributing to the mission causes of the SBC through the _____.
7. There are over 45,000 Southern Baptist churches and 42 state conventions in the U.S. Our state convention is called the _____.
8. There are more than _____ Southern Baptist church plants at various stages of the growth process in Illinois.
A. 12 B. 40 C. 80
9. About _____ billion of the world's 6.9 billion people do not know Jesus Christ.
A. 1 billion B. 4.7 billion C. 6 billion
10. My church gives _____% of its undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program.

How well do you know the Cooperative Program? Answer Key: 1. B, 2. C, 3. B, 4. A, 5. B, 6. Cooperative Program, 7. Illinois Baptist State Association, 8. C, 9. B, 10. Contact your pastor, church treasurer or other church staff for this information.

Visit IBSA.org for additional resources from the Illinois Baptist State Association.

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