



mission illinois

Churches Together Advancing the Gospel

A tale of two couples



The Martins and the Joneses graduated from seminary with the same dream: To serve overseas as missionaries.

The Martins contacted a well-known mission agency with workers already in West Africa. They passed their assessment with flying colors, and started making preparations to leave their American life behind.

Meanwhile, the Joneses felt drawn to a country in Southeast Asia. They applied through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, were invited to a conference where they researched potential jobs, and eventually were matched with an assignment.

The couples flew off in different directions. The Joneses went to the International Learning Center for orientation, and then on to their mission field. The Martins embarked on a year-long tour of churches in their state, raising

the funds that would provide their food, rent, insurance, transportation, and other living expenses.

The couples crossed paths when they were both back in the U.S. for a year-long stateside assignment. The Joneses spent the year recruiting volunteer teams to serve alongside them. The Martins did some of that too, but they mostly had to focus on raising the money they needed to live.

Both couples lived with cross-cultural challenges, and saw people come to Christ only after years of building trust and relationships. But the Martins also had constant pressure to raise money, while their friends were able to stay on the mission field, focused on their work, because of support they received through cooperative missions giving.

Without that network of support, the Martins never could really keep up with the Joneses.



Cooperative Program Works!

Illinois Baptists gave **\$6.4 million** to missions through CP last year.

Your local church sends a percentage of tithes and offerings to the Illinois Baptist State Association. IBSA sends **43.25%** on to support missions and theological education; **56.75%** stays in Illinois to help start new churches, train leaders and mobilize volunteers for missions.



\$188,000,000 in CP giving is budgeted for the 2014-15 SBC fiscal year.



90 church planters are serving in Illinois, including **Jarvis James** at The Body of Christ in East St. Louis.

322 new churches are needed in Illinois



Baptist leaders in Illinois were trained more than **23,000** times in worship, discipleship, missions and evangelism.

The North American Mission Board has more than **2,300 career** missionaries and church planters, plus **1,250 student** missionaries on the field sharing the gospel with people here who don't know Christ.



901 people groups are engaged with the gospel through the International Mission Board. The IMB is a missionary force of **4,842**, including former Illinois pastor **Jimmy Bledsoe** (above right). More than **3,000** people groups are still unengaged with the gospel.



Who is the face of the Cooperative Program?

The answer might surprise you. Turn over the page to learn how you are part of the process.



Jonathan de la O
Church Planter
Chicago



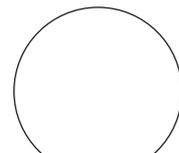
Heather McAfee
Missionary
Ivory Coast



Chase Abner
IBSA Collegiate
Evangelism Strategist



Ara Torosian
Church Planter
Los Angeles



draw yourself here



Mission Illinois is a free Sunday bulletin insert published bi-monthly reporting how Illinois Baptist churches reach the world through Cooperative Program giving to missions. Call Illinois Baptist State Association at (217) 391-3119 or e-mail MissionIllinois@IBSA.org for a free subscription.