



mission illinois
Churches Together Advancing the Gospel

Chicago...Thailand...the World

Shirley Mackin started preparing for life as an international missionary long before she moved overseas. In college, she sensed God's call on her life and went to a missions conference to learn more. She committed to follow his leading wherever, joining a Bible study with others who felt the same.

When she went to graduate school for social work, "I remember telling people that I would eventually go overseas. I knew the Lord was calling me to go."

God had also called her husband, Ross, who knew he would serve overseas even before he met Shirley. The couple started preparing for their life in parts unknown, first by planting a Laotian church in Chicago to learn more about working with Asian people. Missionaries weren't allowed in Laos, a South Asian nation, at that time, so the Mackins requested that the Southern Baptist International Mission Board appoint them to neighboring Thailand.

"We thought we might be able to go to Laos later, but we have been in Thailand almost 28 years now," Shirley said. The nation of nearly 70 million people is largely Buddhist. While Christians don't face physical persecution, there is overwhelming pressure to follow Buddhism.

"Thai believers are often in situations where they are the only Christian and are pressured to follow the Buddhist traditions and culture of the country. Pray for continued boldness for these Thai believers."



Ross and Shirley Mackin have served in Thailand since 1987.

Most of the Mackins' ministry has focused on church planting and evangelism. But they've used many methods to share the Gospel over the years – door-to-door evangelism, Gospel tracts, English lessons, medical and dental clinics, Christmas outreaches, radio broadcasts, and evangelistic outreaches in local schools.

Visiting volunteer teams have also served alongside the Mackins in these ministries, and the couple currently is working with existing churches to plant new congregations.

"Pray for us to be faithful to God's call on our lives in penetrating the darkness that is all around us," Shirley said. "Pray for the blinders to be taken away and for Thai people to see the saving truth of the Gospel."

– Meredith Flynn

This *Mission Illinois* bulletin insert provides missions news for churches in the Illinois Baptist State Association. See how your offering through the Cooperative Program touches the world.



Cooperative Program works!

When you give to your church, part of your offering supports missions across the globe through Southern Baptists' **Cooperative Program**.

IBSA churches gave \$6.1 million to missions through CP.

But, what does my offering support?
How much stays here in Illinois and how much impacts other parts of the world?

Great question!



56.25%

goes to church planting, evangelism, missions, and church strengthening in our own state.

43.75%

goes to the national Southern Baptist Convention.

- 2014 statistics

The national SBC Cooperative Program budget for 2015-2016 is: **\$186,500,000**, which will support:



73.20% World Missions Ministries (IMB & NAMB)

22.16% Theological Education (Seminaries/Libraries/Archives)

2.99% SBC Operating Budget

1.65% Christian Ethics and Religious Liberties Ministries

- SBC.net



See "Our Big Mission Field" at vimeo.com/ibsa/bigmission. IBSA Executive Director **Nate Adams** talks about CP giving in this video.



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 the Illinois Baptist State Association at (217) 391-3119 or e-mail MissionIllinois@IBSA.org for a free subscription.