

31 Days of Prayer for Illinois WMU

By Dawn Phillips

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Using Proverbs 20:15, ask God to give IWMU His wisdom in all things.	In 1817, (190 years ago!) John Mason Peck was the first Baptist missionary to Illinois. Thank God for the long line of witnesses He has sent us.	Illinois Baptists supported their first international missionary in 1904-to Syria. Ask God to bless those old, old seeds with fruit today in the Middle East.	In 1907, Julia Scott, a missions leader, reported three blessings from missions giving. Salvation of the heathen was first. Thank God for using our gifts to save the lost.	The second blessing of missions giving: revival for the home church. Ask God to send revival to Illinois churches who are obeying His missions call.	The third blessing of missions giving: great spiritual uplift to those who contribute. Pray for IWMU members to be generous givers, greatly uplifted.	Thank God for raising through IWMU's ranks leaders such as Cindy Bradley and Melanie Yearack. Ask Him to continue doing that.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
In 1910, members gave money from egg sales to pay IWMU employees. Thank God for providing always for the expenses, salaries, and opportunities IWMU has.	Ten IWMU women attended the first Congress of the North American Baptist Women's in 1953. Praise God for our sisters!	Thank God that He continues to use Illinois women, especially Evelyn Tully, to call us to unity and ministry with Baptist women all over the world.	Read Isaiah 42:1-7. Recall IWMU members and leaders who have reflected those descriptions, whose quiet speech and manner carried dynamic Christian influence.	IWMU women in 1917 gave money from their hens' Sunday eggs to missions. One husband complained that was the best laying day! Praise God for providing!	Inquire of God how He might give you creative ways to give to missions from the income options you have. Seek His face. Pray Malachi 3:10 to Him. Obey Him.	In 1921, Miss Lay was so eager to attend a missions event she rode on seed sacks in a wagon cross country. Celebrate servant leaders.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A 1933, IWMU leader urged pastors to devote one Wednesday prayer meeting a month to missions. Ask God to call Illinois pastors to increasing missions zeal.	A 1934 mission group on campus in Carbondale boasted male and female members! Pray for today's coed missions organizations to flourish and excel.	Helen Sinclair, beloved former IWMU Executive, broke off her engagement to answer God's call. Pray for today's teens to seek and do God's will.	Mary Kelly, a member of the organizing committee, spent 25 years caring for her mother. Beseech God for continued blessing on Sandy Wisdom-Martin as she balances work and family responsibilities.	In 1936, IWMU hired a missionary to work among her own people, Jews, in East St. Louis. Thank God for the beautiful ethnic blend in Illinois Baptist life!	To develop mission awareness in the young takes many years, endless dollars and limitless energy. Intercede for Mission Friend, GA and Acteens leaders.	In 1927 Mrs. Hathaway was the first IWMU President to become a Vice-President of WMU/SBC. Pray for Kaye Shipley as she serves on the national board.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
In 1915, an Illinois pastor described WMU as a pastor's right arm, saying women are unselfish and serviceable. Ask God to make His words true in your church.	Early stories of mission travels include swollen streams, dismantled buggies, ice-covered roads. Ask mercy for Illinois Baptists traveling the world for Jesus' sake.	Only two IWMU Conventions have been canceled: 1918 (flu epidemic) and 1945 (WWII gas rations.) Praise God for His countless blessings over the decades.	As missionaries and missions leaders from Illinois ranks testify, camps and mission events influenced their devotion to God. Ask Him to keep growing youth.	The fields of the world are hearing stories of Jesus from the mouths of Illinois missionaries. Pray God to bless and protect them and bring fruit from their labors.	Repeatedly the history of IWMU names churches with strong mission hearts which inspired the whole convention. Ask God to use your church that way.	Read Psalm 101:6, asking God to keep IWMU faithfully walking with Him and ministering to others in His name.
29	30	31				
Study Psalm 33:11-22, pondering how it might instruct IWMU members and the organization as a whole. Pray that we will keep covenant with God in all things.	Speak Philippians 1:3-6 in terms of IWMU, thanking God for her with joy, gratitude and confident hope of her finishing the tasks God assigns her.	Make Psalm 61:1-5 your prayer for all your Illinois WMU sisters, wherever they are serving, thanking God for our heritage, requesting His continued care.				