

Day 7: Saturday

Southern campuses ministry

Illinois Baptists have strategic partnerships that fund college ministries on two campuses in southern Illinois. McKendree University, with about 2,500 students, is located on the eastern edge of the St. Louis Metro East area, in the small town of Lebanon. The sprawling SIU-Carbondale campus, with almost 12,000 students, is situated in the Shawnee hills. College ministry in Carbondale has a long history, and multiple strategic ministry partners reach students through the Baptist Student Ministry Center on campus.

Pray for God to provide opportunities for campus ministry leaders and returning students to make positive connections with new students through fall outreaches. Pray for the hearts and minds of students to be open to hear the truth of the gospel and the hope found in following Jesus as Lord.

Day 8: Sunday

Future campus ministries

More than 450,000 students study at Illinois four-year colleges and universities, plus hundreds of thousands more at community colleges throughout the state. This unique time in their lives places many students in a residential experience surrounded by their peers, seeking community and answers to the big questions in life. Churches near those campuses have the answers. IBSA is strategically working to help expand college ministry, especially in northern Illinois, where university enrollment is growing.

Pray for God to provide churches strategically located near campuses and leaders with a calling to invest in students with the Gospel of Jesus. Pray Luke 10:2, that God would provide more partners ready to be workers for this great harvest.

To see stories of
Mission Illinois moving
Faith Forward visit
MissionIllinois.org



Your giving helps carry the
FAITH FORWARD
to the next generation.

MISSION | ILLINOIS
state offering



MISSION ILLINOIS PRAYER GUIDE

Day 1: Sunday

Next-Gen ministry leaders

Ministry to kids and teens relies on dedicated, spirit-led, volunteers and church staff. These women and men are on the front lines, sharing the gospel with tender hearts, building biblical foundations, and showing the love of Jesus to young lives experiencing the ups and downs of growing up. IBSA Next Gen ministries invest in these leaders through support and trainings that builds skills, reinforce best practices, and equip churches to create safe, fun, biblical communities for kids.

Pray that church members across the state would continue to respond to the call to be Next Gen ministry leaders and volunteers, and that God would use IBSA training efforts to support and equip them to share Jesus with compassion and integrity.

Day 2: Monday

Growing Jesus followers

Where do churches find the next pastors and ministry leaders? They are in middle schools, high schools, and home schools right now. They are not too young to begin to grow into their own unique calling to serve God. Events like the AWSOM Girls Weekend, Forged Student Guys Retreat, Go Chicago mission week, and IBSA Super Summer focus on deepening students' understanding of the faith and their place in God's bigger plan.

Pray that older kids and teens would develop an identity deeply rooted in Christ at IBSA Next Gen events. Pray they would begin to use their gifts and talents to serve Jesus and his church now, preparing them to be leaders.

Day 3: Tuesday

Reaching teens

More than 70% of adult evangelical Christians made their profession of faith in Jesus before age 18. Reaching teens with the gospel is essential. That's why IBSA Next Generation ministry events include a clear presentation of the Gospel. This is why events like Youth Encounter also teach teens how to share the Gospel with their friends.

Pray for students who attend Illinois Baptist youth events to hear the truth of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection and respond in repentance of faith. Pray for those who are already believers to be emboldened as they are equipped to share their faith with their friends.

Day 4: Wednesday

Rural camp retreats

For decades, Lake Sallateeska and Streator Baptist Camps have served as special places where children and students hear God's word and commit their lives to following Jesus. Each is designed to provide separation from the distractions of daily life and focus on God. Through summer camps, youth events, and church retreats, hundreds of students are reached with the gospel and disciplined all year long.

Pray that young people would continue to hear God's call in these sacred environments and they would grow into godly leaders in their churches. Pray for camp directors Jacob Kimbrough and Anthony Heathcoat, and the camp staff, as they serve the thousands who come to the camps each year.

Day 5: Thursday

Summer camps

Once the calendar turns to June and July, Lake Sallateeska and Streator Baptist Camps play host to youth and children's camps every week. The mid-week solitude of winter and early spring is replaced by the chatter, energy, and excitement of over 1,000 kids who come from all across the state. Whether it is a camp organized by IBSA, a local Baptist association, or a church, these multi-day spiritual getaways are fertile ground for God's work in kid's lives.

Pray that more and more parents would send their kids and youth to summer camps; that kids would embrace the distraction free environment and have open responsive minds and hearts to Jesus during the week; and that God would continue to call out future missionaries and pastors through camps.

Day 6: Friday

Central campuses ministry

Illinois Baptists have strategic partnerships that fund college ministries on four campuses in central Illinois. Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois State University in Bloomington/Normal, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, and Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. With nearly 100,000 students from across Illinois, the nation, and the world studying on these four campuses, there is a tremendous opportunity to reach young people searching for truth, purpose, and a future at a critical season of life.

Pray for campus ministry leaders and returning students in these ministries to develop relationships with new students through fall outreaches. Pray for God to open doors and hearts to students who are seeking truth and purpose.