



LINK

**CONNECTING LEADERS FOR
FELLOWSHIP, MENTORING,
VISION, AND SUPPORT**

RICK WHITTER, ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

www.illinoiscog.org

Desperation or Destination?

Let's take a walk down by the pier. Two boats are floating in the bay, preparing to set sail. The captain of the first boat calls out to you: "Come aboard! We are preparing for a fantastic voyage. We have charted a course for great adventure. To be certain, we will encounter some storms but the destination ahead of us will be well worth the risk. The sights we will behold are beyond imagination. Don't delay, come set sail with us – and bring everyone you love on this fantastic journey!"

The captain of the second boat also calls out to you: "Come aboard! We are sinking fast and we need all the help we can get. Most of my crew has jumped ship! I am working hard by myself and I can't carry on much longer. We do not have a destination; our goal is to survive. If you don't get in the boat and start bailing water, this boat will sink! And please, bring your family with you!"

Which ship would you board? Now, let's connect this allegory with the church. It is difficult to get people to come aboard a sinking ship – and it is also difficult to get people to join a dying church. A mistake that some of us make is to communicate our vision for ministry as desperation rather than destination. Some of us are struggling in ministry. Some of us feel as though we are fighting just to survive. While these are real issues for many, we need to be aware of a problem. Until the Holy Spirit inspires us with a compelling vision, people will not want to join us. This is not a matter of misleading people. Certainly, the church goes through challenging times and there is risk involved. But if we do not have a desired destination in mind, we are simply floating around the ocean until we sink! Who, in their right mind, would want to join us?

People invest in vision. We are not compelled to give our money or time to a dying proposition. We want to know that we are headed somewhere. Most certainly, God has promised to lead us on life's journey until we reach heaven. The church must carry this message.

Pastor, even if you are weary and frustrated, don't desperately plead for people to help you. To be clear, we must ask people to join in the mission of the church but let's do so with vision, passion and confidence. The ship is not sinking! People are looking for purpose and meaning – the church embodies the hope of the Gospel of Jesus. Our ministry should be so compelling that people are standing in line waiting to get on board.

Is it desperation or destination? We all know that the church experiences storms. But we also know that those who sail with Jesus will find their eternal destination. "They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven." (Psalms 107:30)

Bishop Rick Whitter

You don't want to miss this great event!

*I find joy in your promise like
someone who finds a priceless treasure...*

Psalm 119:162

Women's
Discipleship
Conference

Promise

March 31 - April 1

Friday Service 7:00^{pm} • Saturday Service 9:00^{am} • Lunch Provided



Special Guest Speaker

Gandra Kay Williams

Conference Host

Letha Whitter



Worship

*Curtis & Charmaine
Bridgeman*

Cost: \$60 All Inclusive - Lunch Provided

Register by March 13
to avoid additional charges

Location: Heartland Community Church
Decatur, IL

Download a registration packet at
illinoisocog.org/womens-discipleship
or call the State Office at
217-429-5121

STATISTICS

	December Tithes	On Campus	Off Campus	Morning Worship	Missions January
Alton, Beltline Christian Center- R. Todd Shaw	\$ 5,383.00	49	0	95	\$ 100.00
Alvin- Dan R. Hunt	5,280.90	95	104	84	
Anna- Stanley Cornett	N/R				
Benton, New Life- R. J. Joplin	17,154.03	188	111	134	20.00
Bethalto- J. Shea Hughes	70,304.92	127	0	424	10.00
Bloomington, Center for Hope- Larry Taylor	Mission				
Bourbonnais, Worship Center- Rick D. Sexton	8,425.50	32	18	140	
Brookport- Charles D. Tate	26,355.93	51	0	84	420.00
Cahokia- Larry Ridenour	4,657.00	22	43	89	80.00
Cambridge- Donald Grooms	472.00	0	60	20	15.00
Carbondale- Roger Moore	2,330.00	30	0	37	
Carlyle, Living Stones-	2,131.00	8	8	10	60.00
Carmi, New Beginnings- Michael LeBuhn	6,927.00	49	0	105	
Carrier Mills- Jonathan Stevens	1,076.00	15	0	22	
Centralia, New Destiny- Jason Wyman	998.93	0	0	30	
Champaign- Christopher Smithey	10,040.76	45	0	59	100.00
Chauncey- Dwayne R. Sovdi	2,072.00	16	0	49	
Christopher, Bethesda- Michael Wall	800.00	10	0	10	
Clay City, Transformation- Cory L. Respondek	2,357.00	0	0	34	
Clinton- Jeffrey L. DeLaughter	5,593.90	62	22	40	45.00
Collinsville, Solid Rock- Donald Baker	2,150.00	13	0	16	75.00
Columbia, East Bridge Fellowship- Larry Ridenour	3,746.90	14	28	38	101.00
DeKalb, Cathedral of Praise- Eric S. Wyzard	9,049.00	30	0	100	
Decatur, New Vision Urban Ministries- Dow Moses	4,623.66	26	0	70	25.00
East Alton, Flowing River- Kenneth Dickerson	241.00	17	0	17	
Eldorado- Jarrold Barton	6,126.57	26	21	67	
Equality- Peggy J. Winters	6,874.00	94	64	29	85.00
Fairfield- Chris Vandergraph	2,660.00	41	25	45	10.00
Fairfield, Canaan Bridge- Jeremy Cline	685.00	52	0	164	
Farmer City- Timothy J. Clagg	500.00	6	0	6	
Galesburg, Harvest- Darrell W. Garrett	2,190.00	7	75	21	
Geneseo, Ebenezer- Jerry W. Bosworth	389.00	6	0	9	
Granite City, Michael Mayberry	3,644.00	30	40	28	
Harrisburg, Land Street- Paul J. Taylor	2,368.00	14	10	15	
Herrin, Park Avenue- Michael DuPriest	3,522.00	53	0	40	
Honey Comb- Harold E. Miller	6,160.39	31	40	48	
Kincaid- Jacob Skelton	9,446.00	58	0	75	
LaSalle, Living Word- Cres Rios	2,182.00	10	15	30	
Lawrenceville- Thomas Cody	N/R				
Lincoln- Ryan Loucks	N/R				
Logan- Earl Young	6,515.27	99	0	75	50.00
Manteno- David R. Hanners	2,846.00	12	8	25	45.00
Marion- Preston House	2,640.00	10	0	13	
Marion-All Nations- Bruce Fox	10,439.00	352	4	44	
McLeansboro- Leo Hall	5,135.00	27	0	77	
Mt. Vernon, Harlan Road- C. Doug Bowers, Sr.	8,988.50	77	40	72	5.00
Normal, New Beginnings- Aaron L. Stine	5,349.00	32	26	31	20.00
Norris City- Charles Waggoner	3,075.00	31	7	39	20.00
Olney-	130.00	0	0	9	
Paris- Christian White	2,262.00	15	30	35	
Pekin, Lighthouse- David Routien	9,057.00	51	2	54	
Peoria- The Lord's Table- Burl Cole	3,006.00	36	8	36	
Plano- John Todd	1,580.00	12	0	25	
Pontiac- Matthew Studinger	N/R				
Raleigh, Restoration- Troy Brittingham	1,566.00	11	8	13	
Ridgway, Soul's Habor- Jason Sork	1,134.61	48	12	12	40.00
Robinson, Westside- Larry Comer	2,428.00	6	125	8	
Rochelle- David W. Reish	1,766.80	0	0	0	
Rockford, River of Life- Scott D. Myres	509.50	0	0	14	
Salem- Brian Mixon	1,175.00	0	25	20	
Sesser- Mark Pierce	N/R				
Shawneetown- Randy Vaughn	1,052.12	39	20	24	
Taylorville, Faith Community Worship Center- Jerry L. Thorpe	2,214.70	24	22	46	
Thompsonville- Brian Mixon	5,663.40	72	68	91	
Waterloo, New Beginnings- Ken Coots	570.00	7	0	38	50.00
Wayne City- Gary L. Cline	N/R				
West City- Harol Whitlock	8,688.00	107	61	122	
West Frankfort, Southpoint- Tod W. Parchman	4,929.00	74	0	61	
Wilmington- David Jones	455.00	0	0	7	

New Members

Raleigh		
Restoration	1	
Brookport	1	
Honey Comb	11	
Mt. Vernon		
Harlan Road	2	



"Reaching Illinois"

February 2017

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 978, Decatur, IL 62525

Telephone: 217-429-5121

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



 ILLINOIS YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP
PRESENTS

**CODE
RED
RALLIES**

02.17.2017 ALVIN CHURCH OF GOD 5 PM
02.19.2017 TAYLORVILLE CHURCH OF GOD 6 PM
03.03.2017 NEW LIFE CHURCH OF GOD 7 PM

 Illinois COG Youth Department
 ilcog_yd
 Illinois COGYD

 ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

**Teen
Talent**

APRIL 29TH 2017
BETHALTO CHURCH OF GOD
 800 E BETHALTO BLVD BETHALTO, IL 62010

REGISTRATION 9-10AM
COMPETITION 10AM

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MARCH 18TH
 REGISTER ONLINE
 @WWW.ILLINOISCOG.ORG/YOUTH-DISCIPLESHIP-2/
 OR MAIL TO: 715 W IMBODEN DR. DECATUR, IL 62521