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RICK WHITTER, ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

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## THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN MINISTRY



By Rick Whitter

What is the most important element in successful ministry? Ask 100 people, you may get 100 answers. The list will be long. Some examples: We must be able to pray in order to succeed in ministry. We must be able to clearly communicate the Gospel. We must have access to people and resources. A positive attitude, the right mix of gifts and talents, and the anointing of God are all indispensable to success in ministry. But in my mind, one thing rises to the top of the list when it comes to elements necessary in order to be effective in ministry:

**Passion for God is the most important element in ministry!**

I am able to reduce the list above to a true heart for God because a heart for God motivates the rest of the elements. Think about it: Prayer is driven by passion for God. Our desire to love God forces us to articulate His love to others. When our heart burns for God, He brings people and resources to us – and we go to them because this is how our vision is fulfilled. Passion for God drives us to submit to Him to the point that He develops in us the gifts we need to do His work. Even the very elusive influence and moral authority needed to be effective in ministry will result from a passionate pursuit of God.

If you “do ministry”, you must work on lots of things but nothing supersedes our need for passion for God. Without it, you can be the most talented pastor in town and still have no results. Without a driving heart for God, there will never be enough money to truly help people.

Passion for God...

- Encourages us to press on through difficult times
- Makes us uncomfortable with the status quo
- Provides the confidence necessary to take risks
- Is our motivation for church growth
- Helps us to overcome discouragement
- Is contagious and motivates others to pursue God
- Drives us to get better at the ministry
- Forces us to deal with our inadequacies
- Won't allow us to make excuses for failure

Passion for God is an indispensable element for effective ministry. As with King David, God is looking for people who have a heart after His heart.

Passion for God can't be faked. It can't be manufactured. You cannot purchase it and it cannot be inherited. There is only one way to become passionate for God. We must relentlessly pursue Him. He promises in Jeremiah 29:13, “You will seek for me and you will find me; when you seek for me with all of your heart!” Passion for God is a life-long, all-consuming and ever-increasing desire of our hearts that takes us ever closer to the Lord.

Don't try to do ministry without passion for God. And if your ministry is lack luster and non-productive – increase your passion for God. The truth is, passion does not belong to you – it belongs to God. And He will freely give to us everything we need to live and work for Him. And we certainly need passion for Him!

# STATISTICS

	April Tithes	On Campus	Off Campus	Morning Worship	Missions May
Alton, Beltline Christian Center- <b>R. Todd Shaw</b>	\$22,348.02	48	0	107	\$ 100.00
Alvin- <b>Dan R. Hunt</b>	8,480.38	54	109	76	
Anna- <b>Ken Smith</b>	385.00	0	5	7	
Benton, New Life- <b>R. J. Joplin</b>	18,084.60	141	104	167	20.00
Bethalto- <b>J. Shea Hughes</b>	80,338.84	129	0	474	10.00
Bloomington, Center for Hope- <b>Larry Taylor</b>	Mission				
Bourbonnais, Worship Center- <b>Rick D. Sexton</b>	10,816.50	18	25	191	
Brookport- <b>Charles D. Tate</b>	21,728.77	65	0	124	20.00
Cahokia- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	8,990.00	47	53	116	95.00
Cambridge- <b>Donald Grooms</b>	929.60	0	6	15	15.00
Carbondale- <b>Sam Varis</b>	3,343.00	28	0	44	
Carlyle, Living Stones- <b>Larry Whited</b>	2,986.00	10	8	11	
Carmi, New Beginnings- <b>Michael LeBuhn</b>	9,670.03	49	0	129	
Carrier Mills- <b>Jonathan Stevens</b>	1,640.00	20	0	44	
Centralia, New Destiny- <b>Jason Wyman</b>	1,299.80	0	0	27	
Champaign- <b>Christopher Smitley</b>	13,589.30	45	0	57	100.00
Chauncey- <b>Dwayne R. Sovdi</b>	4,058.00	7	0	48	
Christopher-	N/R				
Clay City, Transformation- <b>Cory L. Respondek</b>	4,066.00	8	0	45	
Clinton- <b>Jeffrey L. DeLaughter</b>	4,012.32	37	40	55	45.00
Collinsville, Solid Rock- <b>Donald Baker</b>	3,756.08	9	0	17	75.00
Columbia, East Bridge Fellowship- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	4,672.50	17	11	31	105.00
DeKalb, Cathedral of Praise- <b>Eric S. Wyzard</b>	10,156.00	42	0	135	
Decatur, New Vision Urban Ministries- <b>Dow Moses</b>	4,855.22	25	0	74	
East Alton, Flowing River- <b>Kenneth Dickerson</b>	1,347.00	17	0	17	
Eldorado- <b>Jarrod Barton</b>	10,362.30	26	23	67	50.00
Equality- <b>Peggy J. Winters</b>	5,116.00	120	20	40	10.00
Fairfield- <b>Chris Vandergraph</b>	2,205.00	58	75	55	10.00
Fairfield, Canaan Bridge- <b>Jeremy Cline</b>	2,394.00	80	0	215	150.00
Farmer City- <b>Timothy J. Clagg</b>	550.00	6	6	6	
Galesburg, Oasis- <b>Darrell W. Garrett</b>	2,583.47	4	75	23	
Geneseo, Ebenezer- <b>Jerry W. Bosworth</b>	603.00	5	0	8	
Granite City, <b>Michael Mayberry</b>	6,351.00	31	43	38	
Harrisburg, Land Street- <b>Paul J. Taylor</b>	1,913.00	10	10	13	
Herrin, Park Avenue- <b>Michael DuPriest</b>	5,384.00	0	40	29	
Honey Comb- <b>Harold E. Miller</b>	8,432.21	40	40	50	
Kincaid- <b>Jacob Skelton</b>	13,374.80	63	0	70	713.71
LaSalle, Living Word- <b>Cres Rios</b>	2,850.00	15	45	27	50.00
Lawrenceville- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	6,039.35	15	0	61	
Lincoln-	450.00	12	10	25	
Logan- <b>Earl Young</b>	6,426.22	96	0	80	50.00
Manteno- <b>David R. Hanners</b>	3,120.00	13	6	35	45.00
Marion- <b>Preston House</b>	2,200.00	10	0	20	
Marion-All Nations- <b>Bruce Fox</b>	12,787.55	289	0	56	
McLeansboro- <b>Leo Hall</b>	5,610.00	25	0	95	1,000.00
Mt. Vernon, Harlan Road- <b>C. Doug Bowers, Sr.</b>	15,229.00	82	40	94	15.00
Normal, New Beginnings- <b>Aaron L. Stine</b>	5,129.00	43	17	39	
Norris City- <b>Charles Waggoner</b>	4,179.00	28	5	34	20.00
Olney- <b>Michael Wall</b>	31.75	4	0	10	
Paris- <b>Christian White</b>	2,936.00	20	354	45	
Pekin, Lighthouse- <b>Will Carson</b>	8,951.10	93	2	60	
Peoria- The Lord's Table- <b>Burl Cole</b>	5,858.00	37	8	37	
Plano- <b>John Todd</b>	3,165.00	8	0	28	100.00
Pontiac- <b>Matthew Studinger</b>	N/R				
Raleigh, Restoration- <b>Troy Brittingham</b>	2,042.00	26	0	20	
Ridgway, Soul's Harbor- <b>Jason Sork</b>	1,648.08	60	12	12	60.00
Robinson, Westside- <b>Larry Comer</b>	444.00	7	0	8	
Rochelle- <b>David Reish</b>	1,212.00	0	0	10	
Rockford, River of Life- <b>Scott D. Myres</b>	500.00	0	0	22	
Salem- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	1,250.00	0	0	27	
Sesser-	N/R				
Shawneetown- <b>Randy Vaughn</b>	1,999.34	46	8	20	
Taylorville, Faith Community Worship Center- <b>Jerry L. Thorpe</b>	2,491.00	36	41	42	
Thompsonville- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	8,619.50	84	52	108	
Waterloo, New Beginnings- <b>Ken Coots</b>	505.00	16	0	20	
Wayne City- <b>Gary L. Cline</b>	N/R				
West City- <b>Harol Whitlock</b>	12,864.16	105	72	135	
West Frankfort, Southpoint- <b>Tod W. Parchman</b>	8,948.00	73	0	78	
Wilmington-	463.00	0	0	8	

## Tithe Breakers

### Alton Beltline

\$22,348.02

## New Members

Benton 5

Carrier Mills 4

Shawneetown 1

# STATISTICS

	May Tithes	On Campus	Off Campus	Morning Worship	Missions June
Alton, Beltline Christian Center- <b>R. Todd Shaw</b>	\$ 4,728.37	41	0	105	\$ 100.00
Alvin- <b>Dan R. Hunt</b>	5,924.50	44	95	79	
Anna- <b>Ken Smith</b>	840.00	0	0	15	
Benton, New Life- <b>R. J. Joplin</b>	19,595.00	136	106	162	20.00
Bethalto- <b>J. Shea Hughes</b>	55,954.59	122	0	439	10.00
Bloomington, Center for Hope- <b>Larry Taylor</b>	Mission				
Bourbonnais, Worship Center- <b>Rick D. Sexton</b>	4,256.50	28	25	166	
Brookport- <b>Charles D. Tate</b>	15,466.72	54	0	123	
Cahokia- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	3,500.00	51	23	96	100.00
Cambridge- <b>Donald Grooms</b>	462.00	0	0	60	20.00
Carbondale- <b>Sam Varis</b>	2,466.00	21	0	32	
Carlyle, Living Stones- <b>Larry Whited</b>	3,125.00	9	8	13	40.00
Carmi, New Beginnings- <b>Michael LeBuhn</b>	7,351.90	46	0	122	
Carrier Mills- <b>Jonathan Stevens</b>	1,247.40	20	0	33	
Centralia, New Destiny- <b>Jason Wyman</b>	1,915.00	0	0	38	
Champaign- <b>Christopher Smithey</b>	9,176.88	45	0	54	100.00
Chauncey- <b>Dwayne R. Sovdi</b>	2,491.00	9	0	37	
Christopher- <b>Bradley W. Wilson</b>	600.00	0	0	4	
Clay City, Transformation- <b>Cory L. Respondek</b>	2,465.50	8	0	31	
Clinton- <b>Jeffrey L. DeLaughter</b>	3,660.17	48	32	48	45.00
Collinsville, Solid Rock- <b>Donald Baker</b>	3,213.50	12	0	19	75.00
Columbia, East Bridge Fellowship- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	3,538.50	21	10	32	107.00
DeKalb, Cathedral of Praise- <b>Eric S. Wyzard</b>	11,180.00	40	0	130	
Decatur, New Vision Urban Ministries- <b>Dow Moses</b>	5,466.30	25	0	82	
East Alton, Flowing River- <b>Kenneth Dickerson</b>	801.00	17	0	17	
Eldorado- <b>Jarrod Barton</b>	5,635.76	26	0	40	
Equality- <b>Peggy J. Winters</b>	3,871.00	112	18	40	10.00
Fairfield- <b>Chris Vandergraph</b>	2,022.00	56	47	56	10.00
Fairfield, Canaan Bridge- <b>Jeremy Cline</b>	3,290.50	80	0	184	
Farmer City- <b>Timothy J. Clagg</b>	625.00	6	6	6	
Galesburg, Oasis- <b>Darrell W. Garrett</b>	1,511.00	5	75	23	
Geneseo, Ebenezer- <b>Jerry W. Bosworth</b>	380.00	0	0	9	
Granite City, <b>Michael Mayberry</b>	4,399.63	30	35	45	
Harrisburg, Land Street- <b>Paul J. Taylor</b>	902.00	12	7	17	
Herrin, Park Avenue- <b>Michael DuPriest</b>	4,059.00	56	0	44	
Honey Comb- <b>Harold E. Miller</b>	8,859.03	45	40	51	
Kincaid- <b>Jacob Skelton</b>	8,567.00	66	0	77	
LaSalle, Living Word- <b>Cres Rios</b>	2,049.00	15	20	25	
Lawrenceville- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	N/R				
Lincoln-	819.00	0	0	25	
Logan- <b>Earl Young</b>	7,261.96	91	0	64	
Manteno- <b>David R. Hanners</b>	2,607.00	11	6	30	45.00
Marion- <b>Preston House</b>	2,510.00	12	15	13	
Marion-All Nations- <b>Bruce Fox</b>	10,201.35	372	0	58	
McLeansboro- <b>Leo Hall</b>	4,519.00	27	0	90	
Mt. Vernon, Harlan Road- <b>C. Doug Bowers, Sr.</b>	10,818.00	88	40	92	20.00
Mt. Vernon, LifePointe- <b>David Gregg</b>	3,383.60	31	0	55	
Normal, New Beginnings- <b>Aaron L. Stine</b>	3,403.00	28	10	37	
Norris City- <b>Charles Waggoner</b>	4,452.40	34	7	42	20.00
Olney- <b>Michael Wall</b>	119.00	10	0	18	
Paris- <b>Christian White</b>	3,458.50	20	65	45	
Pekin, Lighthouse- <b>Will Carson</b>	7,908.00	65	6	56	
Peoria- The Lord's Table- <b>Burl Cole</b>	4,103.00	38	8	38	
Plano- <b>John Todd</b>	2,650.00	10	0	28	
Pontiac- <b>Matthew Studinger</b>	N/R				
Raleigh, Restoration- <b>Troy Brittingham</b>	1,467.42	31	14	22	
Ridgway, Soul's Harbor- <b>Jason Sork</b>	1,238.72	48	12	12	25.00
Robinson, Westside- <b>Larry Comer</b>	1,717.00	5	11	9	
Rochelle- <b>David Reish</b>	1,299.00	0	0	0	
Rockford, River of Life- <b>Scott D. Myres</b>	417.00	0	0	17	
Salem- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	1,130.00	33	0	28	
Sesser-	N/R				
Shawneetown- <b>Randy Vaughn</b>	1,706.73	35	10	20	
Taylorville, Faith Community Worship Center- <b>Jerry L. Thorpe</b>	2,081.08	31	15	42	
Thompsonville- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	7,467.00	75	52	90	
Waterloo, New Beginnings- <b>Ken Coots</b>	405.00	47	0	21	
Wayne City- <b>Gary L. Cline</b>	N/R				
West City- <b>Harol Whitlock</b>	10,363.00	97	106	127	
West Frankfort, Southpoint- <b>Tod W. Parchman</b>	6,141.00	76	0	68	
Wilmington- <b>Bill Gray</b>	376.00	0	0	10	

## New Members

Bethalto	72
Carmi	19
Mt. Vernon	
Harlan Road	10
Kincaid	4
McLeansboro	4



July 2017

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

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