



# LINK

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

RICK WHITTER, ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

[www.illinoiscog.org](http://www.illinoiscog.org)



Lots of retailers make a lot of money from Christmas sales. Major corporations enjoy record profits year after year at Christmastime. Marketers, delivery companies and small businesses count on big sales during the holidays to boost their profits and add to their bottom line.

## **But is this who Christmas is really for?**

holiday offers." If we're not careful, we can develop a bad attitude about the season because so many are corrupting the true meaning of Christmas; Let's not do that!

## **Let's remember who Christmas is for:**

Christmas is for children: The little boys and girls of the world who simply embrace the excitement of the holiday.  
Christmas is for Christians: the Christ-followers around the world who humbly celebrate the birth of their Lord, Savior and soon-coming King!  
Christmas is for families: though perhaps spread across the miles, they hope to be together to share special moments and memories.

But...

Christmas is also for the lonely: those who have no one during the holiday.  
Christmas is for the hurting: those who are in physical, emotional or relational pain.  
Christmas is for the bound and addicted: those who have no concept of freedom.  
Christmas is for the hard-hearted: those who have been so hurt, they refuse to trust again.  
Christmas is for the doubters: those who refuse to believe.  
Christmas is for the rebellious: those who feel the need to run from God.  
Christmas is for the lost: those who just can't find their way through this dangerous world.  
Christmas is for sinners: those who have yet to accept Christ as their Savior and Lord.  
Christmas is for those who need Good News!: Those who are tired of the ugliness and sin of this world.  
Christmas is even for those who miss the point entirely (they think it's about making money): God doesn't give up on them, we shouldn't either.

## **God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Way, the only Way to salvation.**

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21) These words, spoken by an angel to Joseph, speak to us about the eternal Good News of the birth of Jesus. Jesus came to preach the Gospel (Good News) to all people! This means that Christmas is for everyone! Christmas is Good News for all of us!

This Good News of Christmas triumphs over the bad news. This Good News of Christmas heals the brokenhearted. This Good News of Christmas brings families back together. This Good News of Christmas comforts the lonely. This Good News of Christmas brings hope to the hopeless, joy to the sad, and the promise of a better future to a world that desperately needs it.

But it is not the presents, the money-spending, the holiday stress that brings what we need.

## **The love that God displays at Christmas is what makes Christmas belong to all of us.**

Merry Christmas to you. We love you, thank God for you and pray that this Christmas season will be especially blessed!





# IYLA Luncheon 2020

JANUARY 24TH @ NEW LIFE- BENTON, IL  
(12-2PM) LUNCH & INFO SESSION FOR  
ALL ILCOG YOUTH PASTORS/LEADERS.  
REGISTER ONLINE@ILLINOISCOG.ORG BY JANUARY 6TH.

Illinois Church of God

## *Just Believe* Women's Conference March 6-7, 2020

Registration Information available at  
[illinoiscog.org/womens-ministries/](http://illinoiscog.org/womens-ministries/)

Register at  
Winter Campmeeting  
for a chance to  
win this tote!!!

Conference Cost: \$60/T-shirt: \$15

Deadline for early registration and T-shirt orders: February 10





# STATISTICS

	October Tithes	On Campus	Off Campus	Morning Worship	November Missions	November Rebuilding Walls
Alton, Beltline Christian Center- <b>R. Todd Shaw</b>	\$ 3,525.00	0	0	90	\$	\$
Alvin- <b>Dan R. Hunt</b>	8,669.18	87	78	102		102.00
Anna- <b>Philip Rexing</b>	N/R					
Benton, New Life- <b>R. J. Joplin</b>	22,246.10	490	114	127	20.00	127.00
Bethalto- <b>Dennis Laughlin</b>	46,658.84	118	0	290		290.00
Bloomington, Center for Hope- <b>Larry Taylor</b>	Mission					
Bloomington, New Beginnings- <b>Aaron L. Stine</b>	1,844.00	35	0	32		32.00
Bourbonnais, Worship Center- <b>Rick D. Sexton</b>	6,188.25	69	0	150		150.00
Brookport- <b>Charles D. Tate</b>	12,919.44	50	0	93	20.00	93.00
Cahokia- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	4,287.80	39	21	61	300.00	61.00
Cambridge- <b>Donald Grooms</b>	225.00	0	60	12	20.00	
Carbondale- <b>Jamie Karales</b>	712.00	10	11	10		10.00
Carmi, New Beginnings- <b>Kenny Rager</b>	5,714.25	60	0	149		
Carrier Mills- <b>Jonathan Stevens</b>	1,466.05	20	32	31		
Centralia, New Destiny- <b>Nathaniel LeCrone , Interim</b>	975.10	0	0	24		
Champaign- <b>Christopher Smithey</b>	13,350.87	35	0	49	100.00	
Chauncey- <b>Dwayne R. Sovdi</b>	4,395.00	12	12	33		50.00
Clay City, Transformation- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	1,268.00	10	28	45		
Clinton- <b>Jeffrey L. DeLaughter</b>	3,600.14	18	23	40	45.00	40.00
Collinsville, Solid Rock- <b>Travis Watkins</b>	950.00	0	0	35		
Columbia, East Bridge Fellowship- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	1,910.00	14	16	30	275.00	30.00
DeKalb, Cathedral of Praise- <b>Brandon Nelson</b>	N/R					
East Alton, Flowing River- <b>R. Todd Shaw, Interim</b>	345.00	0	3	10	50.00	40.00
Eldorado- <b>Brian Barrett</b>	6,682.01	45	0	70	100.00	70.00
Equality- <b>Peggy J. Winters</b>	2,617.10	48	8	22	10.00	22.00
Fairfield- <b>Chris Vandergraph</b>	3,600.00	52	335	53	10.00	
Fairfield, Canaan Bridge- <b>Jeremy Cline</b>	1,420.00	46	0	120		
Galesburg, Oasis- <b>Sherman Jones, Jr.</b>	1,645.00	0	250	24		
Geneseo, Ebenezer- <b>Jerry W. Bosworth</b>	280.00	4	0	6		
Granite City, <b>Michael Mayberry</b>	4,843.00	17	0	29	10.00	29.00
Harrisburg, Land Street- <b>Paul J. Taylor</b>	2,423.00	13	10	13		
Herrin, Park Avenue- <b>Daniel Maples</b>	3,697.00	48	0	41		41.00
Honey Comb- <b>Harold E. Miller</b>	8,828.93	62	50	59		400.00
Kincaid- <b>Jacob Skelton</b>	12,405.50	69	0	105		125.00
LaSalle, Living Word- <b>Cres Rios</b>	2,013.00	10	15	23		35.00
Lawrenceville- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	3,693.00	11	12	48		50.00
Lincoln- <b>Roman W. Krywyn, II</b>	990.00	11	0	24		
Logan- <b>Rick Fowler</b>	9,619.99	55	0	66	10.00	66.00
Manteno- <b>David R. Hanners</b>	2,984.00	10	6	30	45.00	
Marion- <b>Jarrold Barton</b>	1,826.50	18	0	18		
Marion-All Nations- <b>Bruce Fox</b>	9,007.43	15	0	77		
McLeansboro- <b>Terry Hall</b>	1,884.50	45	25	89		
Mt. Vernon, Harlan Road- <b>Michael Campbell</b>	N/R					
Mt. Vernon, LifePointe- <b>David Gregg</b>	4,301.08	24	0	41		
Norris City- <b>Charles Waggoner</b>	2,693.00	33	8	23	20.00	23.00
Paris- <b>Christian White</b>	3,643.00	5	46	29		
Pekin, Lighthouse- <b>Will Carson</b>	5,352.00	2	50	42		100.00
Peoria- The Lord's Table- <b>Cody Dickerson</b>	3,973.00	33	8	33	30.00	
Plano- <b>John Todd</b>	2,544.00	61	0	34		
Pontiac- <b>Kris Wattelet</b>	995.00	0	0	7		7.00
Raleigh, Restoration- <b>Troy Brittingham</b>	1,376.00	23	24	30		
Ridgway, Soul's Harbor- <b>Jason Sork</b>	1,694.00	88	12	14	20.00	25.00
Robinson, Westside- <b>N/R</b>	N/R					
Rochelle- <b>Moises Serrano</b>	1,987.00	0	0	10	10.00	
Salem- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	3,068.00	0	0	35		
Sesser- <b>Fred Ping</b>	1,017.00	25	0	9		25.00
Shawneetown- <b>Randy Vaughn</b>	2,023.38	38	102	28		28.00
Taylorville, Faith Community Worship Center- <b>Jerry L. Thorpe</b>	N/R					
Thompsonville- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	6,368.00	45	35	69		100.00
Waterloo, New Beginnings- <b>Matt Smith</b>	N/R					
Wayne City- <b>Ryan Reavill</b>	1,025.00	0	0	59		
West City- <b>Harol Whitlock</b>	9,576.00	141	89	130		
West Frankfort, Southpoint- <b>Tod W. Parchman</b>	8,086.10	66	0	65		65.00

## New Members

Benton, New Life	6
Honey Comb	3
Thompsonville	2
West City	2



ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 978, Decatur, IL 62525

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DECATUR, IL  
PERMIT NO. 103



Illinois Church of God Winter Campmeeting

**REVIVE ILLINOIS!**

**January 23-24, 2020**

**New Life Church of God**

**707 N. DuQuoin, Benton, IL**



**Pastor Joe Dobbins**

Twin Rivers Worship Center

Thursday, Jan. 23 - 7pm

**Dr. John Childers**  
Assistant General Overseer  
Friday, Jan. 24 - 7pm

