



ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

November 2019

# LINK

CONNECTING LEADERS FOR  
FELLOWSHIP, MENTORING,  
VISION, AND SUPPORT

RICK WHITTER, ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

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

Thanksgiving is a time of grateful celebration! God has blessed us abundantly and He deserves to be glorified! But what if the season brings a struggle to express our gratitude for the blessings of life? How should we respond if the reality of life is painful and heartbreaking?

Of course, we realize that regardless of our circumstances, God is good. His faithfulness, mercy and grace have nothing to do with our feelings. We may have to look beyond our temporary trials in order to give God the praise He deserves. And we must learn how to worship through our pain.

But there is more to consider.

In Christianity, we walk a delicate balance. On the one hand, we know the importance of sharing a testimony of God's goodness: answered prayers, miracles experienced, and the favor of the Lord. On the other hand, we are aware that things do not always go as well for other people. Most of us have prayed prayers that seemed to go unanswered. There are times that things don't go our way, we struggle through difficult seasons and celebration is the farthest thing from our minds.

Can we boldly celebrate victory when so many among us are mourning?

We must walk this delicate balance between celebration and sensitivity. How can we celebrate the goodness of the Lord when so many around us are struggling for any source of hope and joy? Can we possibly practice *compassionate celebration*?

Here are a few helpful ideas:

Give God the glory! Never stop praising the Lord! For all that He has done, for who He is, we must boldly honor Him! We must never entertain the idea of silencing our praise.

It's all because of grace. In our celebration, be sure to deflect credit. We are not responsible for our blessings. While we may have been obedient, it is only God's grace that results in blessings. Never attribute credit to people – always defer praise to the Lord.

Be sensitive. In our exuberant praise, remember those who are hurting. Some are grieving. Some are broken. We never want to inadvertently cause hurt to someone while we are expressing our praise.

Choose your words carefully. "I'm God's favorite!", "favor isn't fair!", "if you just had faith like me..." are statements that reveal gloating, not praise. When you give thanks, consider what the other person is living through. If your words hurt, you've missed the point.

Don't write a rulebook. When things go well, the temptation is to presumptuously create a list of simple behaviors that will result in getting what we want. This is not wise and it is not Biblical. God will not be put in a box. Resist the temptation to say, "follow these easy steps..."

Remain humble. While it's good to be excited, and joyful celebration of victory is to be expected, never become selfishly proud of your blessings. There is nothing wrong with a humble celebration.

God ahead, celebrate God's goodness! Just do so with compassion for those who are struggling.

A blessed Thanksgiving season to you and your family. We love you!

## Compassionate Celebration







Illinois Church of God

# Christmas Open House And Fellowship

Come be our guest at the  
State Parsonage

104 Hickory Drive, Bethalto, IL

Saturday, December 7 • 2 - 4<sup>PM</sup>

All Ministers and Spouses are invited!

Christmas photo shots will be available.

## Reaching Illinois District Rallies

DISTRICTS	AMOUNT
West District	\$ 750.00
North District	\$ 700.00
North East District	\$ 355.50
Central District	\$ 633.00
South Central I District *	\$ -
South Central II District	\$ 452.01
South I District *	\$ 2,306.02
South II District *	\$ -
South East District	\$ 1,439.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,635.53

\* South Central I, South I and South II held one Harvest Rally at the Benton-New Life Church

**Thank you supporting  
Reaching Illinois!**

Illinois Church of God

# Just Believe

Women's Conference

March 6-7, 2020

Beltline Christian Center

310 Oakwood, Alton, IL

*'Don't be afraid  
just believe'*  
...Mark 5:36

Worship  
Curtis & Charmaine  
**Bridgeman**

Speaker  
Pastor **Rae Orozco**  
Grace to the Nations



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

Watch for Registration packets with additional details.



# STATISTICS

	September Tithes	On Campus	Off Campus	Morning Worship	October Missions	October Rebuilding Walls
Alton, Beltline Christian Center- <b>R. Todd Shaw</b>	\$ 5,196.86	0	0	87	\$ 200.00	\$
Alvin- <b>Dan R. Hunt</b>	12,661.65	93	75	110		110.00
Anna- <b>Philip Rexing</b>	N/R					
Benton, New Life- <b>R. J. Joplin</b>	26,311.25	510	114	151	20.00	151.00
Bethalto- <b>Dennis Laughlin</b>	43,296.15	127	0	278		278.00
Bloomington, Center for Hope- <b>Larry Taylor</b>	Mission					
Bloomington, New Beginnings- <b>Aaron L. Stine</b>	2,549.00	35	0	28		28.00
Bourbonnais, Worship Center- <b>Rick D. Sexton</b>	7,449.50	51	0	150		150.00
Brookport- <b>Charles D. Tate</b>	15,891.19	62	0	117	20.00	117.00
Cahokia- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	5,209.00	35	21	74	150.00	144.00
Cambridge- <b>Donald Grooms</b>	225.00	0	60	12	20.00	
Carbondale- <b>Jamie Karales</b>	1,215.28	12	11	23		
Carmi, New Beginnings- <b>Kenny Rager</b>	7,213.25	60	0	149		
Carrier Mills- <b>Jonathan Stevens</b>	1,218.40	23	27	31		
Centralia, New Destiny- <b>Nathaniel LeCrone , Interim</b>	1,315.50	0	0	26		52.00
Champaign- <b>Christopher Smithey</b>	14,299.62	35	0	44	100.00	
Chauncey- <b>Dwayne R. Sovdi</b>	5,719.70	13	7	39		50.00
Clay City, Transformation- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	1,887.00	12	0	58		
Clinton- <b>Jeffrey L. DeLaughter</b>	4,302.00	32	30	41	45.00	41.00
Collinsville, Solid Rock- <b>Travis Watkins</b>	630.00	0	0	35		
Columbia, East Bridge Fellowship- <b>Larry Ridenour</b>	2,110.00	18	17	29	177.00	57.00
DeKalb, Cathedral of Praise- <b>Brandon Nelson</b>	12,763.00	90	0	120		
East Alton, Flowing River- <b>R. Todd Shaw, Interim</b>	N/R					20.00
Eldorado- <b>Brian Barrett</b>	6,162.10	45	55	70	50.00	70.00
Equality- <b>Peggy J. Winters</b>	4,420.00	80	22	35	10.00	34.00
Fairfield- <b>Chris Vandergraph</b>	4,200.00	45	275	51	20.00	
Fairfield, Canaan Bridge- <b>Jeremy Cline</b>	2,365.00	33	0	114		
Galesburg, Oasis- <b>Sherman Jones, Jr.</b>	2,298.00	300	0	25		
Geneseo, Ebenezer- <b>Jerry W. Bosworth</b>	505.00	3	0	8		
Granite City, <b>Michael Mayberry</b>	5,527.00	13	0	29	10.00	28.00
Harrisburg, Land Street- <b>Paul J. Taylor</b>	3,787.00	18	7	19		
Herrin, Park Avenue- <b>Daniel Maples</b>	5,597.00	59	0	42		42.00
Honey Comb- <b>Harold E. Miller</b>	8,861.63	60	50	55		
Kincaid- <b>Jacob Skelton</b>	13,512.21	60	0	100		125.00
LaSalle, Living Word- <b>Cres Rios</b>	3,000.00	10	20	28		30.00
Lawrenceville- <b>Thomas Cody</b>	5,882.00	12	23	53	100.00	
Lincoln- <b>Roman W. Krywyn, II</b>	795.00	15	0	29		
Logan- <b>Rick Fowler</b>	13,204.99	53	0	68	100.00	200.00
Manteno- <b>David R. Hanners</b>	3,388.00	10	6	30	45.00	
Marion- <b>Jarrod Barton</b>	1,921.00	18	0	18		
Marion-All Nations- <b>Bruce Fox</b>	11,711.67	24	0	76		
McLeansboro- <b>Terry Hall</b>	N/R					
Mt. Vernon, Harlan Road- <b>Michael Campbell</b>	8,717.10	37	0	56		
Mt. Vernon, LifePointe- <b>David Gregg</b>	5,827.40	24	0	48		
Norris City- <b>Charles Waggoner</b>	3,774.00	29	0	30	20.00	30.00
Paris- <b>Christian White</b>	3,502.00	6	30	30		
Pekin, Lighthouse- <b>Will Carson</b>	7,297.00	65	2	41		100.00
Peoria- The Lord's Table- <b>Cody Dickerson</b>	4,914.00	36	8	36		
Plano- <b>John Todd</b>	3,742.00	27	0	28	50.00	
Pontiac- <b>Kris Wattelet</b>	1,344.00	0	0	7		7.00
Raleigh, Restoration- <b>Troy Brittingham</b>	2,063.00	22	55	35		
Ridgway, Soul's Harbor- <b>Jason Sork</b>	1,676.00	98	15	14	20.00	25.00
Robinson, Westside- <b>Hugh Crowe</b>	N/R					
Rochelle- <b>Moises Serrano</b>	2,424.00	0	0	10	10.00	
Salem- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	3,691.00	0	0	38		
Sesser- <b>Fred Ping</b>	1,221.00	25	0	9		25.00
Shawneetown- <b>Randy Vaughn</b>	2,084.38	29	7	27		27.00
Taylorville, Faith Community Worship Center- <b>Jerry L. Thorpe</b>	2,940.00	36	17	41		137.00
Thompsonville- <b>Brian Mixon</b>	8,607.00	48	30	66	10.00	100.00
Waterloo, New Beginnings- <b>Matt Smith</b>	7,072.00	3	0	27		150.00
Wayne City- <b>Ryan Reavill</b>	991.00	0	0	51		
West City- <b>Harol Whitlock</b>	11,827.70	127	94	131		
West Frankfort, Southpoint- <b>Tod W. Parchman</b>	10,454.40	65	0	68		68.00

## Tithe Breakers

Waterloo  
\$7,072.00

## New Members

Mt. Vernon	
Harlan Road	7
Honey Comb	3
LaSalle	2
Kincaid	1
Shawneetown	1



ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 978, Decatur, IL 62525

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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

