



## Connecting Leaders for Fellowship, Mentoring Vision, and Support

Rick Whitter, Administrative Bishop

September 2021

My, how things have changed! Just a few years ago, people communicated primarily face to face. News came from a printed paper. Gossip came through the grapevine. And when a man skipped church on Sunday, his boss asked him about it on Monday. Times have changed.

There are people who haven't seen another person other than digitally in weeks. Our newsfeeds are jammed with too much information – to the point that we are overloaded. Social media assures us that we stay on top of the juicy gossip. And church has become just another of many options for too many people.

Times have changed!

One thing that has not changed is the Gospel of Jesus. "The Word of the Lord remains forever!" From the beginning of recorded time, God stays the same. This is our steady and sure confidence. **But how can a church preach an old-fashioned Gospel to a society that changes faster than the speed of sound?**

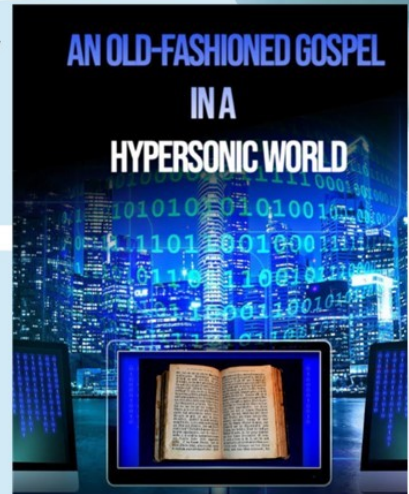
Here are 6 considerations for pastors and church members when it comes to reaching our modern world with the Truth of Jesus.

We must:

- **Acknowledge:** we must accept the fact that the old days are gone and are never coming back. The world is on a course predetermined by God and things will only be expedited until Jesus returns.
- **Release:** we must be willing to release things that used to work but no longer work. Of course, the essentials of our faith are never to be compromised. But some of our methods need adjustment. If a particular event or practice does not result in people finding Christ or in making disciples, perhaps it is time to release it.
- **Consider:** think about how God never changes, but His work in the world does. It is not in His nature to stubbornly refuse to tailor His approach to people who need Him. Throughout the Bible, God met people where they were. He didn't change based upon what they wanted but He presented His plan to them in an individual way, in the way that they needed.
- **Learn:** it can be overwhelming to think about doing things in a new way, especially when we aren't quite sure what to do. The solution is, let's learn what to do! Let's connect with people who do know what to do. Let's expose ourselves to Believers and churches that are utilizing ministry methods that are forward thinking. Let's be active learners when it comes to reaching a new generation for Christ.
- **Embrace:** It's time for the Church to embrace technology and more modern ways of doing the work of the Lord. While we must continue to meet together in the house of the Lord, we should also learn how to communicate with a modern world using the tools that God has provided. The sky is the limit when it comes to technology, let's use it to its fullest extent to preach the Word.
- **Adapt:** change is difficult for most people, but we all do it anyway. New ways of reaching the world are all around us. Our desire is to be as effective in winning the lost as we can possibly be. We must promote innovative methods of ministry!

Here is an important point. The phrase, "Old Fashioned Gospel" is not really accurate. "Old" means advanced in years, but it also can indicate, "not new." The truth is, the Gospel is for all times. It never expires, never grows old and never becomes outdated. That is why the Gospel is effective now and until Jesus returns.

Our responsibility is to reach our generation for the Lord. Regardless of how fast the world changes, the Church must declare the Good News. Let continue to preach this Old-Time Gospel to a Hypersonic World!



Bishop Rick Whitter



ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD PRAYER CONFERENCE



**The Church On Mission!**

**January 20-21, 2022**  
**7:00pm Nightly**

New Life Church of God  
707 N. DuQuoin St.  
Benton, IL 62812

*Guest Speakers*



*Thursday PM*  
**Bishop Wayne Dority**  
*TN Administrative Bishop*



*Friday PM*  
**Bishop Tim Hill**  
*General Overseer*

# STATISTICS

## New Members

Bethalto

7

	JULY TITHES	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS	MORNING WORSHIP	AUGUST MISSIONS	AUGUST REBUILDING WALLS
Alton, R. Todd Shaw	\$ 6,152.00	0	0	74	\$ 150.00	\$
Alvin, Dan R. Hunt	9,729.78	0	0	92		100.00
Anna, Philip Rexing	200.00	3	0	7		
Benton, Rod J. Joplin	18,056.09	45	0	88	20.00	
Bethalto, Jacob Skelton	42,990.88	98	0	244		244.00
Bloomington, Aaron L. Stine	3,739.00	33	0	46		46.00
Bourbonnais, Rick D. Sexton	4,150.00	0	0	62		
Brookport, Charles D. Tate	15,624.12	45	0	64	39.86	
Cahokia, Larry Ridenour	5,707.50	0	0	38	15.00	15.00
Cambridge, Troy Sullivan	95.00	0	20	15	20.00	
Carmi, Kenneth Rager	10,395.00	25	0	92		
Carrier Mills, Jonathan Stevens	1,112.30	21	12	38		
Centralia, Nathaniel LeCrone	N/R					
Champaign, Christopher Smithey	12,935.14	22	41	44	50.00	
Chauncey, Dwayne R. Sovdi	5,330.00	4	8	31		50.00
Clay City, Thomas Cody	1,150.00	0	9	28		
Clinton, Mark Cooper	3,012.75	19	10	30		
Collinsville, Bryan Harris	1,891.46	0	0	0		
Columbia, Larry Ridenour	1,820.00	0	0	21	17.00	17.00
Danville, David Moore	736.00	0	0	0	20.00	
DeKalb, Brandon Nelson	11,758.00	0	0	0		
East Alton, R. Todd Shaw, Interim	85.00	0	6	12		15.00
Eldorado, Brian Barrett	4,346.30	0	0	20	50.00	25.00
Equality, Peggy J. Winters	3,224.00	40	0	28	10.00	28.00
Fairfield, DuWayne Nobles	3,000.00	25	251	51		
Galesburg, Roman Krywyn	2,112.51	6	146	21		
Geneseo, Jerry Bosworth	580.00	0	0	5		
Granite City, Michael Mayberry	4,805.00	18	0	30	10.00	
Harrisburg, Paul J. Taylor	1,915.00	13	10	10		
Herrin, Daniel Maples	3,685.00	71	121	47		47.00
Honey Comb, Harold E. Miller	8,978.67	50	0	37		100.00
Kincaid, Vance Massengill	11,240.64	0	0	48		125.00
LaSalle, Cres Rios	2,321.00	0	80	21		40.00
Lawrenceville, Thomas Cody	4,826.50	0	0	30	150.00	
Lincoln, Mike Lake	2,022.00	11	0	21		
Logan, Rick Fowler	8,641.87	37	0	40		
Manteno, David R. Hanners	3,127.00	10	6	30	45.00	
Marion-Arise, Jarrod Barton	2,107.30	0	0	25		
Marion-All Nations, Bruce Fox	11,406.32	11	0	43		
McLeansboro, Terry Hall	3,105.00	139	618	139		
Mt. Vernon-Harlan Road, Michel Campbell	7,433.00	0	0	54		54.00
Mt. Vernon-LifePointe, David Gregg	5,659.42	25	0	41		
Norris City, Charles W. Waggoner	5,267.00	21	0	15	20.00	15.00
Paris, Christian W. White	3,583.12	18	20	32		
Pekin, Rick Hill	7,102.00	59	0	86		30.00
Peoria, John Miller	3,105.00	22	6	22		
Plano, John Todd	2,477.52	25	0	25		
Ridgway, Jason W. Sork	1,506.00	70	12	14	20.00	20.00
Robinson, Jake Popejoy	400.00	0	0	9		
Rochelle, Moises Serrano	1,370.00	0	0	10	10.00	
Salem, Brian Mixon	4,085.00	0	0	24	20.00	
Sesser, Walter Rexing	638.45	0	0	5		
Shawneetown, Randy Vaughn	2,435.01	19	12	31		
Taylorville, Jerry Thorpe	3,642.00	15	12	41		
Thompsonville, Brian Mixon	8,980.35	0	0	83		100.00
Washington, Matt Smith	1,230.00	21	0	32		
Waterloo, Justin Demers	3,705.00	8	0	21		
Wayne City, Jeremy Cline	590.00	0	0	24		
West City, Harol Whitlock	6,052.00	0	0	0		
West Frankfort, Tod W. Parchman	6,128.00	26	0	50		50.00
Wood River, Cory Kendall	2,332.00	98	32	66		



***"Reaching Illinois"***

September, 2021

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

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