



Connecting Leaders for Fellowship, Mentoring Vision, and Support

Rick Whitter, Administrative Bishop

May, 2022

A drive through the Illinois countryside will be boring to some. But to those who understand the importance of agriculture to the world's existence, and for those of us who like to eat, it can be fascinating. Thousands of acres of the most beautiful crops in all of the land! Millions of people enjoy the benefit of the hard work of corn and soybean farmers in the Land of Lincoln. But did you know that the soil in our state is unique? It is among the most fertile and productive in our country.

Why is the dirt in Illinois so fertile? Geologists tell us that ancient glaciers settled over central Illinois and ground up rock and soil in its path. As the glaciers flattened the land, they deposited sand, gravel, dirt, and rocks of various types, adding various valuable nutrients. In addition, the rivers of Illinois and their seasonal flooding affect soil and agriculture. In the flat prairies, water may stand for months after heavy rains. Illinois also has rich soil because centuries of decomposing prairie plants enriched the land they grew on. All of this results in some of the most fertile soil in the country.

The richness and productivity of the farm soil pales in comparison to the fertility of the spiritual soil in our great state! Those who invest themselves in the harvesting of souls in Illinois have come to a distinct conclusion: Illinois is an extremely ripe harvest field!

Jesus utilizes agriculture to teach us about modern ministry. In the "Parable of the Sower" (perhaps "Parable of the Soil" would be more appropriate), Jesus discusses 4 types of soil: hard soil, rocky soil, thorny soil and fertile soil. You can read the story in Matthew 13, Mark 4 or Luke 8. We are compelled to consider the spiritual harvest of Illinois as it relates to this story.

It's true, Illinois presents some significant challenges in ministry. The hearts of many are hardened by sin and the Word of God is quickly ignored. Rocky soil is common - where people live shallow lives, and the Word cannot take root. Thorny soil is also prevalent; folks have so many cares that the Gospel gets choked out. Residents of Illinois can identify with these soil analogies.

But, there is very fertile soil in Illinois! Like our corn and soybean fields, many areas of our state are rich in the spiritual nutrients that allow for a bumper crop, where an unusually rich harvest is available.

Here is what is needed in Illinois:

- People who are willing to "get their hands dirty" in the soil of Illinois. It is hard work, but the diligent farmer enjoys an abundant crop!
- People who will plant and people who will water, so that God can bring the increase (I Corinthians 3:6)
- People who will break up fallow ground. "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you." (Hosea 10:12)
- People who will see Illinois for what it is: a rich, bountiful state with an amazing harvest that is ready to be reaped!

To those who have committed to and are investing in ministry in Illinois – thank you! To those looking to support the growing ministry here, please give to our "Reaching Illinois" projects. To those who are considering a place of service unto the Lord, please pray about joining the family in Illinois. It won't be easy, but it will result in souls being saved, lives being changed and the Church of God being built!

Thank God for the fertile soil of Illinois!

Rick Whitter

THE FERTILE SOIL OF ILLINOIS





ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

ALL TOGETHER NOW

CAMP MEETING

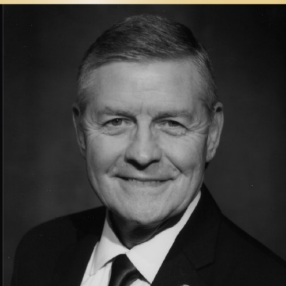
JUNE 8-10 7:00PM

BETHALTO CHURCH OF GOD
800 E. BETHALTO BLVD.

LUIS
RODRIGUEZ



RAYMOND
CULPEPPER



TONY
STEWART



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

June 8-10, 7:00PM | June 9, 10:00AM | June 10, Pastors' Luncheon
Childcare and Children's Services available for all evening services.

STATISTICS

Tithe Breakers

Danville
\$2,473.00

New Members

Alvin
10
Kincaid
5
McLeansboro
4
Bethalto
3
Brookport
2
Shawneetown
2

	MARCH	ON	OFF	MORNING	APRIL	APRIL
	TITHES	CAMPUS	CAMPUS	WORSHIP	MISSIONS	REBUILDING WALLS
Alton, R. Todd Shaw	\$ 6,760.00	0	0	65	\$ 193.00	\$
Alvin, Dan R. Hunt	14,092.75	80	0	116		
Anna, Philip Rexing	N/R					
Benton, Jeremy M. Joplin	19,806.56	57	0	100	20.00	
Bethalto, Jacob Skelton	63,090.57	123	0	262		262.00
Bloomington, Aaron L. Stine	2,873.00	14	0	30		30.00
Bourbonnais, Rick D. Sexton	3,615.00	0	0	77		
Brookport, Charles D. Tate	12,403.05	42	0	94		
Cahokia, Larry Ridenour	3,795.00	12	0	35	25.00	
Cambridge, Jerry Bosworth, Interim	495.00	0	0	6	20.00	
Carmi, Kenneth Rager	5,265.00	27	0	85		
Carrier Mills, Jonathan Stevens	2,307.00	22	0	53		
Centralia, Nathaniel LeCrone	2,467.00	0	0	13		
Champaign, Christopher Smithey	14,499.27	25	40	41	50.00	
Chauncey, Dwayne R. Sovdi	5,009.69	5	0	29		50.00
Clay City, Thomas Cody	1,594.00	9	0	40		
Clinton, Mark Cooper	3,487.00	15	0	25	60.00	25.00
Collinsville, Bryan Harris	7,119.64	0	0	20		
Columbia, Larry Ridenour	1,835.00	8	0	22	25.00	
Danville, David Moore	2,473.00	14	0	25		
DeKalb, Brandon Nelson	N/R					
East Alton, R. Todd Shaw, Interim	305.00	7	4	11		12.75
Eldorado, Brian Barrett	11,811.75	6	0	30	20.00	30.00
Equality, Peggy J. Winters	1,693.00	36	24	18	10.00	18.00
Fairfield, DuWayne Nobles	4,200.00	29	109	57	10.00	
Galesburg, Roman Krywyn	2,683.00	8	0	34		
Geneseo, Jerry Bosworth	640.00	0	0	11		
Granite City, Michael Mayberry	5,436.00	18	0	25	10.00	75.00
Harrisburg, Paul J. Taylor	1,070.00	11	7	7		
Herrin, Rod J. Joplin	4,641.00	63	28	43		43.00
Honey Comb, Harold E. Miller	10,891.54	55	25	40		100.00
Kincaid, Vance Massengill	13,669.85	49	0	86		125.00
LaSalle, Cres Rios	2,570.00	22	48	24		40.00
Lawrenceville, Thomas Cody	4,534.60	5	0	25	50.00	
Lincoln, Mike Lake	1,681.28	9	0	19		
Logan, Rick Fowler	7,313.23	53	0	46		
Manteno, David R. Hanners	2,862.00	0	0	30	45.00	
Marion-Arise, Jamie Karales	1,154.30	9	0	17		
Marion-All Nations, Bruce Fox	9,783.34	9	0	38		
McLeansboro, Terry Hall	6,623.80	120	1,802	120		
Mt. Vernon-Harlan Road, Michel Campbell	6,777.00	0	0	50		50.00
Mt. Vernon-LifePointe, David Gregg	6,227.75	0	21	40		
Norris City, Charles W. Waggoner	4,515.00	14	8	19	20.00	19.00
Paris, Christian W. White	4,702.21	20	20	30		
Pekin, Rick Hill	10,013.67	34	0	78		30.00
Peoria, John Miller	N/R					
Plano, John Todd	4,740.00	12	0	25		50.00
Ridgway, Jason W. Sork	1,351.00	88	12	12		
Robinson, Jake Popejoy	1,263.00	0	0	7		
Rochelle, Moises Serrano	1,766.00	0	0	23	10.00	
Salem, Brian Mixon	3,780.00	0	0	32		
Sesser, Walter Rexing	1,804.00	0	0	7		
Shawneetown, Randy Vaughn	1,918.85	21	8	40		
Taylorville, Jerry Thorpe	4,144.00	27	19	41		
Thompsonville, Brian Mixon	13,222.00	22	30	72		100.00
Waterloo, Justin Demers	5,186.62	24	30	34		34.00
Wayne City	1,023.00	0	0	35		
West City, Harol Whitlock	8,347.70	37	29	89		
West Frankfort, Tod W. Parchman	9,758.00	28	0	43		43.00
Wood River, Cory Kendall	2,615.00	155	0	98		



“Reaching Illinois”

May, 2022

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 978, Decatur, IL 62525

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

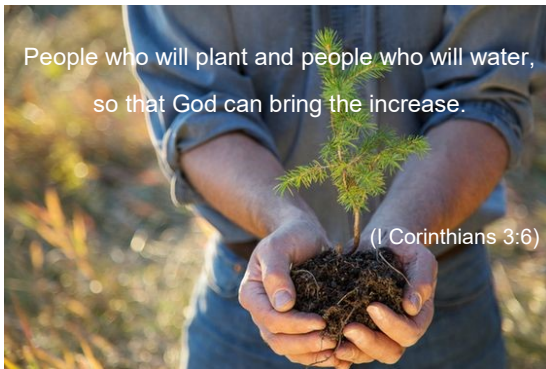
NONPROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

DECATUR, IL

PERMIT NO. 103



People who will plant and people who will water,
so that God can bring the increase.

(1 Corinthians 3:6)

FORWARD TOGETHER YOUTH CAMP



**KIDS
CAMP**
AGES: 6-12



**GUEST SPEAKER:
MICHEAL LAMPKIN**
JUNE 13TH-16TH

NEW LOCATION!
GREEN PASTURES CAMP GROUND
1936 US-67, MEREDOSIA, IL 62665

EARLY BIRD MAY 16 @ \$185
AFTER MAY 16 PRICE IS \$225
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.ILLINOISCOG.ORG

**TEEN
CAMP**
AGES: 13-18



**GUEST SPEAKER:
JOEL TALLEY**
JUNE 20TH-23RD