



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

*Rick Whitter, Administrative Bishop*

June, 2022

It seems that in today's culture, human life has been cheapened and devalued, to the point that we hear daily about the wholesale taking of lives, without remorse. Whether mass shootings, terrorist bombings, abortions or increasing murders in our cities, these daily events are evidence that many have lost appreciation and respect for life itself. It stands to reason that, when a society promotes the destruction of babies in the womb, people of all ages become vulnerable, dispensable. How has it come to this?

People forget that, unlike the rest of God's creation, we humans were made in the image of God. Unlike animals, we are created with a spirit, a soul that is in constant and eternal interaction with God Himself. We can know the Lord intimately, commune with Him and spend eternity with him. He literally chooses to take up residence in our hearts. Life is sacred and is to be treasured, valued, guarded and protected.

What has happened to our world that people can utterly destroy innocent victims and never give it a second thought?

I believe that the current assault on human life is the result of humankind losing its grip on reality. Too many have rejected the Truth. The effort to remove God from our consciousness carries with it horrifying ramifications. We cannot deny the unchanging nature of God's Word without paying a stiff penalty. Some don't like the parameters that God as Creator has established, so they seek to overthrow God. In the effort to become our own god, we have rejected the only hope for solutions. Until our society repents of its sins, humbles itself, submits to God, and follows His Lordship, we will continue on a course of vicious self-destruction.

But there is hope! Although the Scriptures tell us plainly that the end times will be perilous, we cannot, as the Church, give up hope. We must continue to "fight the good fight of faith."

When dark times come, when the news of the next school shooting breaks, when people fight for the right to kill babies in the womb, when elders are abused and neglected, when senseless slaughter of sacred life becomes even more commonplace, remember:

"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." (Psalms 127:3)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jeremiah 1:5a)

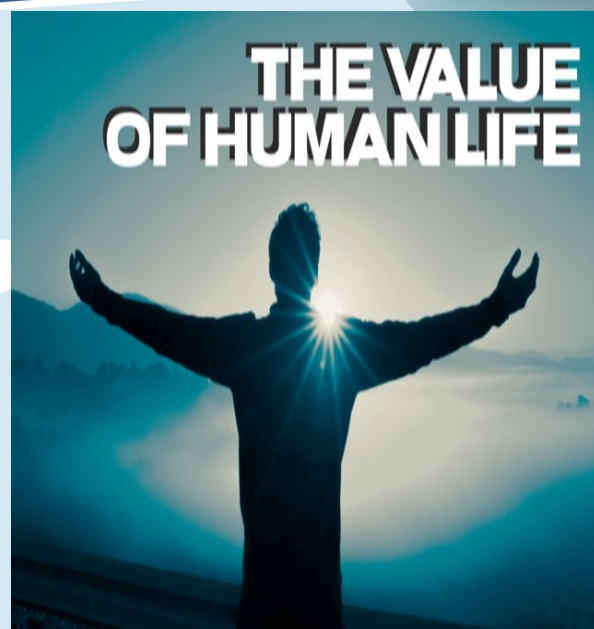
"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

God loves people, all people! As His creation, we belong to Him. No one has the right to take the life of another, because God is the giver of life. If we as Believers will experience and display this same kind of love – unconditional, sacrificial, reconciling love, lives will be saved. Not all lives, not enough lives, but valuable lives, nonetheless.

Let's embrace the sanctity of human life as God does. Let's show the world a better way.



*Rick Whitter*



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# STATISTICS

New Members
Benton-New Life
6
McLeansboro
4
Chauncey
1
Marion-All Nations
1
Rochelle
1
Salem
1

	APRIL TITHES	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS	MORNING WORSHIP	MAY MISSIONS	MAY REBUILDING WALLS
Alton, R. Todd Shaw	\$ 5,729.00	0	0	82	\$ 191.00	\$
Alvin, Dan R. Hunt	14,704.20	83	0	133		150.00
Anna, Philip Rexing	N/R					
Benton, Jeremy M. Joplin	20,467.30	118	0	117	50.00	
Bethalto, Jacob Skelton	64,085.46	140	0	332		332.00
Bloomington, Aaron L. Stine	3,140.00	18	0	42		42.00
Bourbonnais, Rick D. Sexton	5,472.50	0	0	100		
Brookport, Charles D. Tate	16,138.12	88	0	138		
Cahokia, Larry Ridenour	7,162.00	25	7	37	50.00	
Cambridge, Jerry Bosworth, Interim	225.00	0	0	7	20.00	
Carmi, Kenneth Rager	6,337.70	27	0	92		
Carrier Mills, Jonathan Stevens	2,595.00	16	176	65		
Centralia, Nathaniel LeCrone	1,383.00	0	0	13		
Champaign, Christopher Smithey	11,109.38	35	40	49	50.00	
Chauncey, Dwayne R. Sovdi	5,009.69	5	0	29	20.73	50.00
Clay City, Thomas Cody	2,224.60	10	0	41		
Clinton, Mark Cooper	1,809.00	11	0	24		
Collinsville, Bryan Harris	3,793.03	0	0	26		
Columbia, Larry Ridenour	1,321.00	0	10	22	25.00	
Danville, David Moore	762.00	14	24	39		
DeKalb, Brandon Nelson	N/R					
East Alton, R. Todd Shaw, Interim	205.00	0	3	11		14.75
Eldorado, Brian Barrett	9,625.25	6	0	25	20.00	20.00
Equality, Peggy J. Winters	2,432.00	36	7	21	10.00	21.00
Fairfield, DuWayne Nobles	4,100.00	29	202	58		
Galesburg, Roman Krywyn	3,097.00	20	0	34		
Geneseo, Jerry Bosworth	280.00	0	0	21		
Granite City, Michael Mayberry	6,878.49	21	0	25	10.00	75.00
Harrisburg, Paul J. Taylor	880.00	10	7	7		
Herrin, Rod J. Joplin	5,155.00	66	30	46		46.00
Honey Comb, Harold E. Miller	9,980.33	75	25	51		100.00
Kincaid, Vance Massengill	12,579.51	50	0	95		
LaSalle, Cres Rios	3,159.00	0	48	25		40.00
Lawrenceville, Thomas Cody	3,717.00	6	7	29	50.00	
Lincoln, Mike Lake	1,631.00	10	0	19		
Logan, Rick Fowler	7,544.74	48	0	62	25.00	
Manteno, David R. Hanners	3,016.00	0	0	30	45.00	
Marion-Arise, Jamie Karales	N/R					
Marion-All Nations, Bruce Fox	12,735.42	9	0	51		
McLeansboro, Terry Hall	4,850.25	65	1,222	102		
Mt. Vernon-Harlan Road, Michel Campbell	7,540.00	0	0	60		60.00
Mt. Vernon-LifePointe, David Gregg	5,668.92	21	0	46		
Norris City, Charles W. Waggoner	4,654.17	16	8	20	20.00	20.00
Paris, Christian W. White	3,614.00	20	20	30		
Pekin, Rick Hill	8,430.67	30	0	117		30.00
Peoria, John Miller	N/R					
Plano, John Todd	4,227.25	10	.	30		60.00
Ridgway, Jason W. Sork	1,657.00	88	12	12		
Robinson, Jake Popejoy	788.00	0	0	9		
Rochelle, Moises Serrano	2,133.00	0	0	20	10.00	
Salem, Brian Mixon	5,515.00	0	0	28		
Sesser, Walter Rexing	2,404.00	0	0	10		
Shawneetown, Randy Vaughn	1,866.50	22	26	43		
Taylorville, Jerry Thorpe	3,336.94	28	16	49		
Thompsonville, Brian Mixon	8,293.26	26	30	104		100.00
Waterloo, Justin Demers	6,686.75	24	11	37		37.00
Wayne City	967.00	0	0	36		
West City, Harol Whitlock	6,235.84	39	27	101		
West Frankfort, Tod W. Parchman	7,756.00	25	0	53		53.00
Wood River, Cory Kendall	N/R					





*"Reaching Illinois"*

June, 2022

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

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