

# RICK SHALLENBERGER

Regional Director  
North Central, USA

## Background:

**How did you connect with GCI?** I've been in this church all of my life, attending church in Northern Indiana until I went to college in Big Sandy and then Pasadena. I stayed in Pasadena for 19 years working on the various publications we produced at that time. / **What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** During my early teen years, my family went through a series of serious traumas. I lost three siblings in four years. Our pastor, George Affeldt, saw my pain, answered my numerous questions, and mentored me. When I was 16, I decided I wanted to be a pastor. God put me through 19 years of different ministry learning experiences before he provided me the opportunity to pastor. Looking back, I'm happy he took as long as he did. I had a lot to learn. I love GCI - I love that we are able to admit error and move forward. I love that we are always seeking God's will. I love what God has done with us and through us and I believe the best is yet to come. / **What is your ministry or calling?** My personal mission statement is to share God's love and life with others as I journey with Jesus. That's what matters to me. I want others to know God loves them just as they are, but he loves them so much that he won't leave them the way they are. Another calling is to develop leaders. I've also always been fascinated with the qualities of leadership. I learn by doing - often doing poorly - and I'm still learning. It continues to be a great journey. / **What is the legacy you hope to leave?** Interesting question. I've never been too focused on a legacy. If there are four people standing around my casket, I hope one will say, "He was a good family man. He loved his wife and children and they love him." I hope another will say, "He was a man of God. He loved Jesus and it was evident in the way he lived." I hope the third will say, "He loved making people laugh. It was important to him to bring joy to others." I hope the fourth will say, "Look, he's moving." / **Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** Besides my wife, who is my biggest fan and the nurturer who keeps me balanced, there have been a number who have invested in me. Dean Blackwell was the first one who sent me out as a ministerial trainee. Joe Tkach Sr. always spoke truth to me as he put me on the speaking rotation in southern California. Dexter Faulkner taught me how to express myself with writing and encouraged me to be a leader. Bob Taylor was my supervisor when I became a pastor and taught me the most important thing in pastoring is to love the brethren. John Halford was a wonderful friend and mentor for many years. Greg Williams has been a friend for almost 40 years and saw things in me I didn't see in myself. / **Who are you teaching and equipping to help with this ministry?** I'd like to believe I'm teaching and equipping many of the pastors in my region - especially the few I have opportunity to spend extra time with. I'm also training the team in Tipp City, where I attend as an elder.



## Get to Know Rick

**MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE YOU, TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, LOVE ONE ANOTHER." - JOHN 13:34**



1.

**For what are you most grateful?** My wife, my kids, and my grandkids. I was never close to my siblings, but our kids are best friends and we are all very close. I praise God for my family all the time. I am blessed that Cheryl has put up with me for 34 years. I'm a connector; she is a nurturer. Praise God we've learned the value of each other's voice order. I appreciate her more and more as the years progress. She keeps me grounded and she keeps me laughing.

2.

**What energizes you?** Working on projects. Over the years I've remodeled most of the homes we've lived in. Four years ago we purchased a foreclosed house and pretty much gutted it. I've rebuilt most of the main floor with help from a good friend who knows much more than I'll ever know, and I'll be working on the basement for a couple more years. I love taking on a challenge (project) and then seeing the result. I'm still an amateur, but I very much enjoy remodeling and making things better.

3.

**What is one of your greatest accomplishments?** The book I wrote with Greg Williams and Tom Nebel. I've always wanted to write a book, and *A Giant Step Forward* was finally published late last year.

4.

**What are 5 things you can't live without?** A good book, a good set of tools, music, family, laughter.

5.

**How do you experience/feel close to God?** In nature - at the beach, in the mountains, or in the backyard watching the birds eat at all the feeders. His creation is amazing.

6.

**Struggle or life lesson you would like to share:** It's OK to be the person God created me to be. I spend much of my life trying to please others and be what they wanted me to be. God created me to be me and to use the gifts he gave me. When I do that, I am at peace.



**MY HOPE IS THAT GCI WILL GROW IN WAYS WE CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE, AND THAT GOD BLESSES ME WITH PARTICIPATING IN THAT GROWTH.**