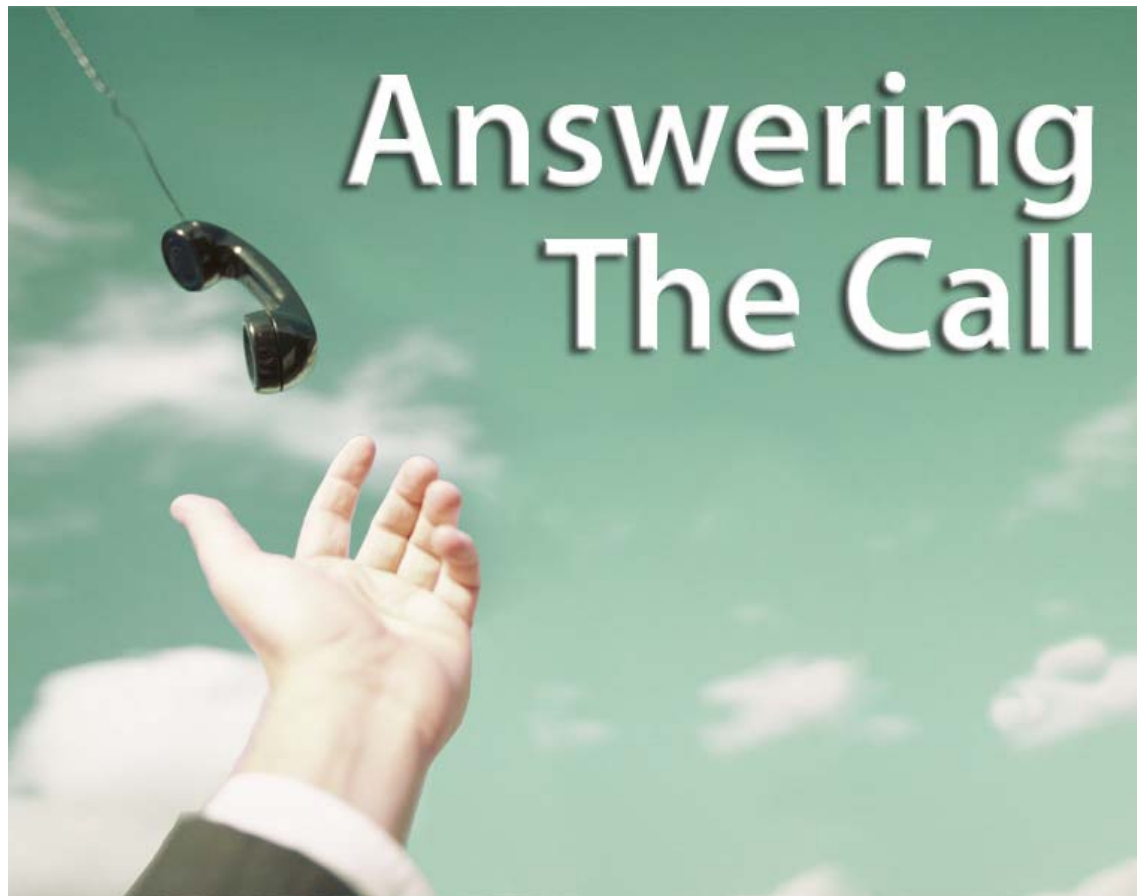


NEWSLETTER

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



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CELEBRATING THE CALL

By Pastor Jim Balzano

Recently I have been reading a book entitled ***“Come On People”*** by Bill Cosby and Alvin F. Poussaint. I can’t say that I always agree with everything that Bill Cosby says or does, but his book is intriguing and thought provoking. In the book he makes the following statement concerning the church:

“Some Christian ministers have misunderstood – not all, but some – and have let their people linger in sedation and apathy. In Genesis, a contract was set up between the two people whom God created and God. The nature of it was that they would look after the garden, namely the earth. Some of their descendants have done a wonderful job, and others have caused a huge mess. Today, no matter where we happen to be, we should still be looking after our part of the garden.”

I am so fortunate to pastor a church that takes their part of tending the garden seriously. You’ve spent time preparing the ground, uprooting the weeds and getting ready to plant seeds. A harvest will be reaped by you, for you and most importantly, for the Kingdom of God.

In just a few short days we will come together for Celebration Sunday -- a day when Pennie and I, the Pastoral Staff, Elders

and Deacons, and all the people of PVAG will come together to celebrate each other’s commitment toward the Answering The Call Capital Campaign. We’ll do that in praise & worship, testimonies, dramas, preaching, and a special “first fruits” offering towards the Answering The Call Campaign.

This offering can be the first of your 24-month commitment or a gift over and beyond that. It’s your call. ***Mark your calendars; you don’t want to miss that day!*** We will celebrate more than financial commitments as we celebrate the call of God that dictates the need for financial resources. Because of the greatness of God and the commitment of a people, we’ll celebrate the victories to this point. And, in faith, we will celebrate the future! Please come prepared to commit, to celebrate and to Answer The Call.

**I am so fortunate
to pastor a church
that takes their
part of tending the
garden seriously.**

It is an absolute blessing for me to be partnering with Pleasant Valley Assembly of God. Answering the Call is exactly what God wants us to do, and it is what the saints of Pleasant Valley have been doing for a long time. I am so very proud of you and your leadership team for the ways in which you have been responding to your corporate call to minister effectively in your great community. The doors are wide open, and your future is bright as you hear and obey His call. Please take the opportunity to hear the voice of God and know that His call must not only be heard, but obeyed. He will reward you abundantly for your faithfulness. I am looking forward to being with you on Celebration Sunday, November 11th.

- Peter Joudry

Personal Story

Dick Scholton's Journey

By Linda Gracy

Dick Scholton sees many possibilities at the 11th Street Project. When Pleasant Valley Assembly of God first considered buying the property, he saw beyond the formerly condemned structure. "I visited the site on numerous occasions and saw the number of kids playing on the street," he said. For him, buying the building was a way to "try to improve our community." He saw it as investing in providing a safe place for kids, where they first can see the Word of God through people who care, and hear the Word of God.

Dick, a member of Pleasant Valley Assembly for 15 years and a deacon, believes an after-school program in the Lower Fairview neighborhood is a vital part of answering the call. He said once the kids get involved, he sees the parents coming to the building for programs to improve their lives. "There are a lot of single parents in that neighborhood. We need to work with parents, get them drug-free,

alcohol-free, help them find employment, get them off the welfare rolls so they can be self-sustaining," he said. As vice chairman of the Answering the Call capital campaign, Dick sees the two-year financial commitment by the church family as vital to making that vision reality. "We need money on a monthly basis to finish what was started. . . the community is watching." "We put a roof on and said, 'we were coming,' but what if they see nothing else being done? "It's important to keep the program going," he said.

Within the 11th Street Project are three building goals:

- Completing the rooms designated for a computer lab, kitchen and meeting rooms.
- Converting the former parsonage into offices
- Restoring the former sanctuary.

"We need to get one of those done to show the community we are here, and we are here to stay," Dick said. Reflecting on how far the 11th Street Project has come, he said, "One of the things I see happening is the fellowship people have in the church. Men and women are working hand in hand, whether it's throwing out trash, ripping walls apart, or cooking a meal. A lot of people are coming together and not just going to church on Sunday and Wednesday."

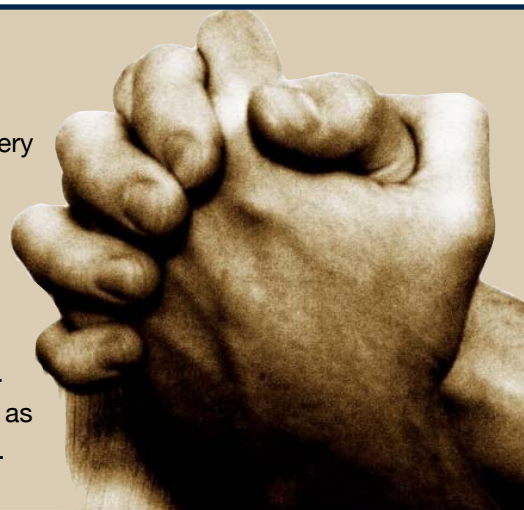
When the church more than doubled the goal of \$30,000 for the roof by raising \$76,000, it was overwhelming, he said. As a senior vice president in commercial lending for S&T Bank, Dick said funds for the project could not be borrowed. Most banks would not lend money for any part of the project because it has no cash. He said if Pleasant Valley borrowed the money, it would still have to have a capital campaign to pay the loan and with interest.

Dick is looking forward to the day when the 11th Street Project is a building filled with children completing homework on computers and teens and adults learning life skills. All will be standing tall because they are contributors to the community and know the power of God in their lives. He sees himself as part of that mix. If a ministry develops to provide hot meals for the lower Fairview community, Dick wants to be in kitchen. "I am more interested in being a servant there than a leader. I don't want to be in charge of meals; I would rather do the dishes or serve or cook the meal. I want to be there to help."

The Prayer Team Requests **YOUR** Presence

Everyone! Join us... We, the Answering the Call Prayer Team, are planning a very special evening of prayer and song and praise on Sunday Evening November 4th at 6:00 pm. Plan to make this coordinated prayer event part of your "Answering The Call".

It is our desire to unite as many believers as possible on this very unique and special evening as we link our hearts, lift our voices and seek the face of God. What a precious and powerful time it will be when we come before the Father as one body - one vision - one voice. See you Sunday November 4th at 6:00 pm.



CONCERT OF PRAYER

Sunday, November 4th - 6:00

Celebration Sunday

November 11th

10:00 am

One Service

What's My Part?

Defining our individual significance

By Pastor Troy Ferguson

Many of us are aware of the massive project PVAG has undertaken. Our staff and leadership have discussed this on numerous occasions over the past several years. With that being said, I have looked at this project as something necessary, valuable and important, but I did not see my connection to it. Several of our staff are directly involved because their passion and ministries are directly connected to the vision. From the beginning, I thought I was supporting this endeavor but just not involved very much aside from the occasional video and helping in some technological areas.

Recently, my focus has changed due to God enlightening me with a different perspective. This is not a specific ministry initiative, nor even a PVAG initiative. This is a God initiative. The timing of this project, needed recourses, and vision are directly in line with God's purpose for our community. So I asked God: What's my part? He strongly revealed to me that I need to change my mindset from tolerating this project to supporting it. Allow me to explain. I have said for many months that this is something "they" are doing. I have agreed with the concepts and vision, but I was not truly supporting it. I have prayed for God to move through this effort, but, to some degree, have felt disconnected from the project. Not

everyone will be able to support this through construction and renovating. Not all of us are integrally involved in the outreach, children, or youth ministries. But ALL of us have skills, resources and finances to give. We all need to find our place of support just as Aaron and Hur found their place in holding up the arms of Moses in Exodus 17. How are you going to Answer The Call?

Ask God to change your mindset from **TOLERATING** to **SUPPORTING** the 11th Street Project.

My challenge to you -- who have not had some sort of direct involvement in this project, is to ask God to change your mindset from tolerating to supporting the 11th Street Project. I know it has had a major impact on me, and I believe it will impact you as well. As you do so, your significance and your part in this endeavor will be rewarding and life changing.

Children's Ministry

by Teresa Miller

As some of you know, Sunday was the first week for the kids to bring an offering to The 11th Street Project from their personal treasury!!! They did a fabulous job and so did you on "Penny Sunday". Altogether the total was \$285.00 given by the kids and many of you. On "Penny Sunday", Pastor Chris challenged the kids by promising to match the funds they raised that day. The total is now \$570.00! Between now and Celebration Sunday, the children have set a goal to give \$750.00 above and beyond the challenge. Thanks for your help and support. The kids are responding so well because they are truly getting it. They are understanding each week what being an asset manager for the Lord really means. It showed in their giving this week, and I can't wait to see what next week brings. \$2000 is the two year goal our children have set for their pledge to Answer The Call. But it really isn't the money that excites me; it's seeing them excited about what we as a church are doing. They have blessed me more than you could possibly know in their willingness to embrace the vision of the church. But why wouldn't they? They are it's future!!!! Have a blessed week and remember....Sunday the 28th is "Silver Sunday"!!!! If you have any extra silver, I know a great place you can invest it.

Youth Ministry

by Pastor Ron Ross, Jr.

The Youth Ministry of PVAG is taking on the task of raising the money for a sound system for the building on 11th street. I believe that it is important for us to not only be a part of this campaign, but to "Answer The Call" that he has specifically for us. I'm not sure of the details of that call at this point, but I know that it is more than just being around and watching the adults answer their call. God used young men such as David, Timothy, and many others while they were young. It is vital that our youth ministry understand that their call doesn't start when they become adults, but when they are created. Many of the teens have already played a significant part in answering this call by giving their time in helping with the demolition of the old run-down structures, the building of the roof, and also by the giving of their money. I am excited to see all of the different ways we are going to be able to help, as well as how God is going to bless the teens and build their faith as they give sacrificially to this project. It is often said that teenagers have more disposable money than their parents. If that is truly the case, then it is just a matter of them using that money to help reach people rather than spending it on themselves. I am looking forward to what God is going to do in and through the teens as they step out in faith and Answer The Call by raising \$10,000.

EXECUTIVE **LEADERSHIP** TEAM

There will be much work and many activities associated with Answering The Call. Below is a list of team leaders and their area of leadership.

Lead Pastor	Jim Balzano
Consultant	Peter Joudry
Campaign Chairperson	Harold Ferguson
Campaign Vice-Chairperson	Dick Scholton
Printing and Publication	Ron Ross
Prayer	Patty Bracken
Celebration Sunday	Karen Maher
Leadership Dinner	Eleanor Cree
Followup	Will Heller
Children's Ministry	Teresa Miller
Youth Ministry	Ron Ross, Jr.

PRAYER **FOCUS**

VISION:	It's For You
OBEDIENCE:	Will You Accept the Charges?
PROVISION:	Reverse The Charges
DESTINY:	The Completed Call

**Ur turn to TEXT**

Do you have a testimony or story connected to the 11th Street Project or the Answering the Call capital campaign? Send us your story to magnify the goodness of the Lord and share with other newsletter readers. E-mail your story of 200 words or less to atcnews@pvag.org or give a hand-written copy to Ron Ross Sr.

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