

LIGHT ON THE MILL

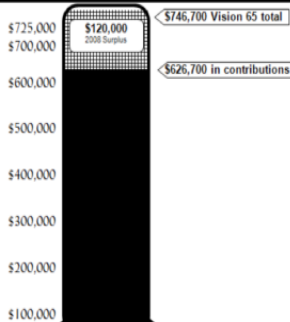
A Newsletter of the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church



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PROGRESS REPORT: OCTOBER 2010
VISION 65 GOAL: \$750,000



VISION 65

\$725,000 MILESTONE ACHIEVED!!!!!!!
WALKING BY FAITH:
Moving from Vision to Victory!!!

Vision Vessels:



J. Luk Construction Company is a commercial contracting company which was developed by combining the 30+ years of the experience of Adirondack Development Corporation, John Hodorowski, Sr., proprietor with the commercial contracting experience of his son, John Luke Hodorowski. J. Luk prides itself on serving customers to deliver the ultimate goal of having their vision realized. J. Luk's one on one approach makes the difference! J. Luk designs a game plan to accomplish client goals, taking land planning, site plan approvals, design, budget, financing, capital campaigns and eventually actual construction into consideration. This all-inclusive process delivers the desired completed project on time and budget.

The Metropolitan church building project required a long process of preliminary site work, including soils testing, environmental studies and geotechnical reports, zoning submittals, utility requirements, demolition permits as well as Albany Planning Board reviews and permits. J. Luk Construction coordinated all of these components while simultaneously collaborating with SD Atelier Architecture to create preliminary design drawings which meet and respond to the requirements and specifications of the design plan, to assure conformity with all building codes.



John Luke Hodorowski has personally met with the Steering Committee numerous times to receive input on the building design and internal layout. Discussions were held to ensure the most efficient use of the space while upholding the integrity of the worship experience, classroom audio concerns and administrative needs. John Luke has utilized his experience in the unique aspect of church building design to produce a design for Metropolitan that addresses specific needs of a growing congregation.

An ordained Elder in his own church, John Luke Hodorowski is in touch with the wishes of church members as well as the needs of the community. He is a member of Calvary Tabernacle in Schenectady and his entire family is involved in ministry. Calvary Tabernacle is known for transforming a blighted community into an environment that safe and comfortable, yet still located within a well-populated city neighborhood. Their church was surrounded by buildings that housed unlawful activity and through much prayer and effort Calvary Tabernacle purchased the properties within their neighborhood and utilized some of the acquired properties to expand their church edifice and parking area. Many of the houses they purchased were rehabilitated to serve the community.

John Luke was very recently part of a six-person mission delegation from Calvary Tabernacle sent to Port au Prince, Haiti. They have made a long-term commitment to assist Haiti, and their goal with all our short term mission trips is to develop a relationship with the local church and to help empower them to serve the community. On this particular trip, the delega

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From the Desk of the Pastor

To the Saints of God, in the City of Albany, at the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.



This time in history brings us awesome memories as it marks the 67th Anniversary of our church family, the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church. We lovingly welcome the Holy Spirit, and you, to worship and praise the One who really deserves all honor and glory, our Lord God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we continue to do ministry and mission, our church family has expanded spiritually and numerically – for which we praise God! We are preparing to build an 18,000 square foot facility to meet the needs of Christian education, youth and young adult development, senior enrichment, health awareness through our Nurses Ministry, and the list goes on and on. Additionally, many labors through our 20+ ministries are shaped to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the church and our community.

Metropolitan has always been a viable, recognizable force in the Albany community and we praise God for the longevity and future to ensure a church home for our children's children. Our extended arms are embracing this community and beyond through our senior housing: IdleWild Terrace and Drake Manor; the Clovis A. Drake Scholarship Ministry, TUFF [Teenagers Utilizing Fearless Faith] Fellowship and GPS [God's Precious Stars]. Our mission ministries have provided support and assistance locally, nationally and globally....we praise God! I sincerely appreciate all of the efforts, love, support and care you have afforded Metropolitan down through the years and I praise God for His goodness, mercy and grace for each of you.

I am excited, yes, very excited, about where the Lord is taking us....and even more so, because we're walking together by faith, "Moving from Vision to Victory" and from "Victory to Reality!"

Lord, I'm grateful for the things that You have done and the victories You've won. Flowing from my heart are the issues of my heart, it's gratefulness!!!

Grateful servant of the Servant Lord,

*Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson
Senior Pastor*

Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church

Vision Vessels:

J.Luk Construction Company, LLC.

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tion conducted health care clinics and then performed home visits.

God continues to show His favor and blessings to the Metropolitan Church and it is His doing that has aligned us with a building professional contracting company with not only the expertise to complete the job with quality and integrity, but also a mission-mindset that embraces our focus on the Kingdom. "...the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23 NIV)

Vision Vessels:

SD Atelier Architecture LLC

SD Atelier (French for studio) Architecture L.L.C. is an architecture firm located in Saratoga Springs, New York. The firm has a diverse architectural and planning background having worked in New York, Connecticut, Switzerland and Germany. Donald and Susan Davis, the owners of SD Atelier, have over 30 years experience in the architectural field. Their immediate family includes, two sons and one daughter ages 17, 13, and 9.

Donald and Susan share a love for architecture and discussed what attracted them to the field. Susan was inspired in high school to enter the architecture field; while Donald discovered his love for architecture a few years after college. SD Atelier's resume is filled with a variety of projects from custom residential jobs around Saratoga, the Adirondacks, and surrounding area to the Burnt Hills Veterinarian Clinic, the Malta Ambulance Facility and the Theatre Building for the Oscar Seagle Colony in Schroon Lake.

Susan has spent time studying a chapel retreat and the spiritual aspect of it; she feels the building of Metropolitan is another form of worship. Their company philosophy is driven by a desire to please and meet the needs of the client... "Our job is to make sure floor and ceiling, and structural beams are all supported. We will pay attention to details. A primary function of the architect is to design a building working from the needs and wants of the client; ensuring the floor plan desired fits the structural design of the building. The use of any structure plays a big part in construction."

As with any big project Susan and Donald anticipate the biggest challenge will be keeping interruptions at a minimum, so the current church remains accessible. The firm's goal is to design a clean and seamless addition between our current church and the "new" church. The biggest impact during construction will be the parking areas and the noise associated with building a structure. In spite of these challenges the firm believes "open communication, realistic budgets and deadlines are the key to successful projects."

SD Atelier has an actual model of the "new" Metropolitan and look forward to formally presenting the replica in the near future. In recalling their recent Sunday visit, the Davis family shared how warm, welcoming, and exciting Metropolitan felt and how much they look forward to visiting again!



The Vision: Accomplishments

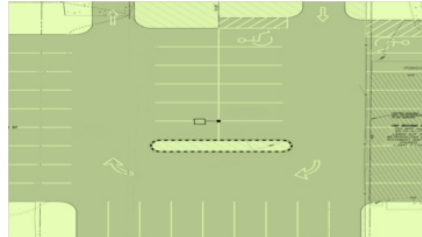
- ✓ Property Survey Completed
- ✓ Site Engineering Completed
- ✓ Schematic Design Completed
- ✓ Owner Review Completed
- ✓ Soil Boring Results Completed
- ✓ 95 Second Street Asbestos Testing Completed
- ✓ 95 Second Street Demolition and Removal . Completed
- ✓ City of Albany Planning Board Approvals Completed
- ✓ 120 Second Street Asbestos Testing Completed
- ✓ 120 Second Street Asbestos Removal..... Completed
- ✓ 120 Second Street Demolition and Removal. Completed
- ✓ Preliminary Site Workin process
- ✓ Building Loan Applicationin process

The Vision: Current Target

The Vision 65 Building Project is progressing towards completion. The entire process has been a learning experience for Metropolitan leadership and yet the focus remains steady with a great expectation that if we continue to PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens), the Victory will become Reality.

As the winter weather begins to settle in the Capital Region, construction progress on the building itself will be minimal but hearts, hands and minds will still be diligently working on reporting, site preparation and other pre-construction requirements.

Pastor Johnson and the Steering Committee have escalated the completion of the new parking area located at 120-130 Second Street. This parking area has already been approved by the City of Albany Planning Department and will provide approximately an additional 49 parking spaces for Metropolitan services and events. Estimated completion: Early December 2010



The building loan is another task that is presently being addressed by our Trustees Ministry. This process required the assembly of documents and information related to all of the properties owned by Metropolitan, property deeds, property appraisals, the Certificate of Incorporation, budget and finance reports and projections, building project expenses paid-to-date, as well as the Vision 65 stewardship campaign statistics. Following meetings with the financial institution representatives, the application process is soon to transition to underwriting. The underwriting process will be followed by the required review from the Attorney General's office prior to the loan closing process.

It Is Good

Greetings, in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

In the beginning when God created the world, after each crucial step He paused, looked and proclaimed...It was Good.

Metropolitan as we enter into the next phase of our building project, we must pause to observe how far we have come. When we started this mission our proposed time table was to reach a goal in three years, although we didn't reach the goal in our time we did reach it in God's time and therefore we must pause and say...It is Good. While not all participated and not all were in complete agreement we must stop and say...It is Good.

Pastor Johnson has charged us with the humbling and awesome responsibility of overseeing this building project along with members of the Vision 65 Steering Committee. Our goal and prayer is to go beyond our walls and extend out into the community so we can truly become the "Light on the Hill" not just in words but in action.

Many of you participated in the pledge program and completed your pledges. Many of you have completed your pledges and continue to give and we say...It is Good. Also thanks and praise goes to the members of our church family who although a formal pledge was not established, your financial commitment of continual giving will help us to worship in a new facility uplifting the Name that is above all names, Jesus Christ and we say...It is Good.

Metropolitan, the challenge before us as a church family is to continue to pray that God gets the Glory. This project is not just about a new building, but a rededication of ourselves to minister as we go out to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Every generation must remember that there is another generation to follow. So, it is with great anticipation that we continue this journey of faith – "Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."

(Habakkuk 2: 3)

-Servant Leaders Bro. Donald Wallace and Sis. Rosalyn Wallace

Metro Vision

**MEET a member of the congregation,
Founding Member
Deaconess
Zora B. Williams**



Name:
Zora Belle Williams

Family Background:
12 to 13 siblings/four
still living

Favorite Scripture:
Psalm 23

Hobby:
Younger years – playing basketball

METROPOLITAN QUESTIONS:

How long have you attended Metro?
66 years

Where did the church first begin?
Well it started in a store front at 170 South Pearl Street and then moved to 140 Second Street where our church suffered a fire. So, without a place of worship, we were allowed to go to the Arbor Hill Community Center until we could find a bigger building. Our next move was 105 Second Street.

What kinds of ministries were active when the church first began?
Started out had some of the same ministries that we have today but they weren't called ministries. The two different ministries that we don't have today are the BTU (Baptist Training Union) and the Holmelettes (name of the choir); we have more now.

What ministries do you enjoy being a part of?
I use to be in the choir, but now I'm a part of the kitchen, trustee, and deaconess ministries.

How has the church changed over time?
Started out with a few members and now we have a lot and it's still growing.

Forecast Metropolitan's future?
I see it in my mind ...that we would be in a larger building and have a larger congregation.

Transitional Support

Nehemiah 4:3-4 – So I sent messengers to them with this reply, “ I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” Four times they sent me the same message and each time I gave the same answer. (NIV)

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

The Floating Axe Head

2 Kings 6: New Living Translation

The Floating Ax Head

¹ One day the group of prophets came to Elisha and told him, “As you can see, this place where we meet with you is too small. ² Let's go down to the Jordan River, where there are plenty of logs. There we can build a new place for us to meet.” “All right,” he told them, “go ahead.” ³ “Please come with us,” someone suggested. “I will,” he said. ⁴ So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they began cutting down trees. ⁵ But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. “Oh, sir!” he cried. “It was a borrowed ax!” ⁶ “Where did it fall?” the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface. ⁷ “Grab it,” Elisha said. And the man reached out and grabbed it.

I have been meditating on this passage of scripture for the last couple months, trying to grasp its significance and as I have allowed God to minister to me through the word. I get the feeling he is trying to broaden my understanding in the area of giving and serving, especially as it relates to Vision 65.

Since making the decision to draw closer to God in a deeper more intimate way, I can honestly say I have lacked for nothing; that's not to say it hasn't been difficult from time to time! However, I have never seen it to fail, whenever I've had the spiritual desire to serve or give in some capacity--be it time, money, talent and/or some other act of benevolence especially when prompted by of the Holy Spirit, God has always found a way to bless my efforts. My obedience in the area of giving and serving as is true of others I've talked with is consistently confirmed not only by scripture and testimony, but the seemingly miraculous provision which is allotted to me every time I step out on faith to give. Much like the Israelite community who experienced “bread falling from heaven,” (Exodus 16:4), I too have experienced God's faithful provision in the same way.

Likewise, 2 Kings Chapter 6 is a passage which continues to validate for me the importance of my contribution and service to our church community. As the scriptures above illustrate there was a recognized need to expand the spiritual dwelling; and in response the group of prophets collectively came together and sought out their spiritual leader to not only sanction, but to guide the work that needed to be done. The scripture indicates Elisha's presence was requested and for me, it is reassuring to know that at the center of every well-intentioned spiritual enterprise, God-centered motives and direction are intimately linked together and all involved are continually petitioning God to bless the work needed to be accomplished.

What I love most about this scripture is the prophets desire to serve, which was seemingly unhindered by his obvious lack. Here in scripture we are presented with a man who is so earnestly sincere about contributing, he borrows an axe to help. Lest you think these dedicated prophets were operating under the guise of their own fortitude and resources-- as we oftentimes mistakenly assume. Case in point, a couple of years ago I could never conceive of giving to Vision 65 because of my substantial college loan debt. I essentially looked at it as robbing Peter to pay Paul; and felt that my first obligation was to pay off my debt. What I initially failed to realize is how awesome the power of God really is and what a potent combination obedience, desire and faith are when mixed together with prayer. As God continues to stretch my understanding as a believer, so with it my resources and ability to give have also increased. In retrospect, I realized how distracted I was by what I thought I didn't have. Not realizing that God would take whatever I offered up in a spirit of sincerity and transform it into a blessing, even going so far as to recover what was seemingly a financial loss.

This leads me to the final nugget found in this passage, God's mighty ability to recover anything that is lost like the axe head that disappeared into the river. Thank God for the presence of Elisha and his ability to meet the need of this willing and dedicated worker. Parallel to the lessons embedded in this passage of scripture is Matthew 6:33 “...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” To date I continue to contribute cheerfully and regularly to Vision 65 while also paying my school loans!!

- Leslie Jimpson

Metropolitan New Testament Mission
BAPTIST CHURCH

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