

Vision in Action FAQs

Fall 2010



*The greatest movement of all began with a group of 12 misfits.
Just imagine what God can do with 1500 of us...*

What does VIA mean?

VIA stands for Vision in Action. At the core of our vision is the goal of connecting people to Christ in our community and around the world. Our actions are what make that happen. It's happening through all our ministries here at Village and with you. After all, **you** are the Vision in Action.

Part of Vision in Action is communicating all the amazing things God is doing through Villagers. We are working to try to do a better job of telling Village's story, encouraging Villagers to get into the story and to invest in the story – all for God's glory and the growth of His kingdom.

What is our vision?

Village seeks to be a church that is intentional in connecting people to Christ. We are a community passionate about connecting with others, both here and around the world. We want Village to be a place where:

- Failure connects with grace
- Cultures connect in unity
- Emptiness connects with fullness
- Gifts connect with opportunity
- Christ connects with the world

What benefits are we seeing from the new Worship Center?

Our Worship Center opened in September 2009 and has been a significant tool as we work to share the love of Christ here in our community and around the world. A few examples:

- Village ministers every weekend to an average of 1530 worshippers.
- Village annually ministers to hundreds of children through weekend programming (averaging around 225), AWANA (around 150 children), and special events like VBS, the Harvest Party and Breakfast with an Angel.
- Each weekend, Village ministers to about 175 Middle and High School students.
- Village supports over 35 missionary families working in 14 different countries in the critical areas of education, health care, aviation, leadership training, advocacy and administration. Many work strategically with groups of people who have limited access to the Good News.

(this question continued ...)

Who will see my commitment?

Your commitment will be handled with the same confidentiality as all other financial giving. Only the executive pastor and Village's bookkeeper will view your commitment card.

If I make a pledge, but my finances change, am I held to the original commitment?

This is a non-binding commitment made by faith. We trust that God will provide through you; but, if you are unable to meet your commitment, you are not obligated.

If I want to contribute stock toward paying off our debt, how do I do that?

This is a great way to contribute to this effort to pay off our debt. Contact Jane Esping, Bookkeeper, 503-643-6511 or JaneE@vbconline.org to acquire the form and instructions for donating stock.

What if I have more questions?

You are invited to attend one of the upcoming information meetings at Village.

Saturday 11/13 7:15 pm – Columbia A
Sunday 11/14 9:45 am – Willamette A
Sunday 11/14 12:00 noon – Columbia B
Sunday 11/14 12:00 noon – Music Room (Chapel Community)
Saturday 11/20 7:15 pm – Columbia A

You may call the church office or contact the following people if you have more questions:

Bill Lattin	lattin@easystreet.net
Bud Lindstrand	bud.lindstrand@gmail.com
Dorothy Kelson	kelsoncd@comcast.net
Kim Greenwood	kimagreenwood@comcast.net
Doug Kronmiller	dkronmiller@ethicspoint.com
Jon Hay	jhay@hillsboroaviation.com
Jim McGuire	jimm@vbconline.org
Scott Moore	scottm@vbconline.org
Joe Kim	joek@vbconline.org
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What benefits are we seeing from the new Worship Center? (continued...)

- Village has 97 Life Groups ministering to 936 people.
- Our Village family includes hundreds of families from ethnic backgrounds including, Korean, Hispanic, East Indian, Chinese, Indonesian, and others. We translate our weekend services into at least two additional languages. Special events may be translated into as many as four languages.
- Village annually provides food and clothing and necessities of life for over 200 families in our community through our GRACE fund, Thanksgiving Baskets, Food Pantry, School Supply Drives and items donated for refugee and seasonal workers.
- Over 35 community organizations used the Village campus this past year.

This past year, Village hosted over 20 different training events for the **Beaverton School District**. A recent letter from **Superintendent Jerome Colonna** said, *“Because of this collaboration with you [Village] we are able to focus our attention on creating the best teaching and learning environment for our students...We commend Village Baptist Church for its commitment to supporting Beaverton School District and for making a positive difference in our community.”*

In addition our new worship center allows for:

- Expansion of service opportunities by adding the Chapel service to the 10:30 hour reaching out to a group looking for distinctive worship and teaching that reaches the emerging generation.
- MID size and small groups to use the new classroom spaces for deeper interaction and connection over God’s word.
- Increased size and seating options providing opportunities for Villagers to worship together at special events and services.
- A larger lobby and Village Café to create an environment for fellowship and connection before and after services. Instead of scattering after services because there is no room to visit, groups often enjoy the opportunity to visit and connect before and after services.
- Consolidating our Sunday services from three service times to two, optimizing volunteer support.

How much did we spend building the Worship Center?

We spent a total of \$16.7 million dollars on the project. This included the Worship Center construction costs, purchasing four adjacent homes for necessary office space, purchasing the cemetery gaining more usable land and all planning costs relating to the construction project.

In early 2006, many Villagers committed to three years of giving above and beyond their tithes and offerings to support the *Realizing the Vision* campaign. **As of October 1st 2010, and to God’s glory, Villagers have given more than \$8.3 million dollars**, helping pay for this project.

How much debt do we owe?

\$8.3 million. As a congregation, we voted with a 96% majority on June 7th and 8th 2008, to apply for a loan for the balance of the construction costs. The Village Future Fund has enough money to make payments on that loan until April of 2011. If we do nothing, the loan payments will have to be paid out of our operating budget. This would severely impact our ability to continue all the programs we have in place and will most certainly impact our ability to expand our ministries.

Why should we pay off our debt now?

Retiring or reducing the debt will allow more of Village’s resources to go to ministry rather than loan payments. Interest payments do not further the vision of the church. In fact, absorbing these payments into our operating budget will prevent us from growing our ministries.

Eliminating the debt reduces our risk of future interest rate increases and even higher loan payments. If we do not retire or significantly reduce this debt, we may set ourselves up for payments over a long period of time that will significantly reduce our capacity for doing ministry.

Is it wise for us to be asking for Villagers to give more resources during an economic downturn when many in our church family are hurting financially?

The worst of times are the best of times for the Gospel. We remain committed to wise stewardship while also knowing that the work of the Gospel is not controlled by what happens on Wall Street. The recession was not a surprise to God and we continue to step out in faith (like so many who have gone before us – Abraham, Noah, the Hebrews leaving Egypt, Esther, Paul, and many others...). We step out with even more passion to be the church God has called us to be in the midst of difficult times. We know many are struggling right now; but, we believe God provides generously through unexpected means and can multiply even the small gifts of the faithful. Remember the boy with a few fish and five loaves of bread? We serve a powerful God who provides!

How can I give to paying off this debt?

On December 5th we’ll host a special worship celebration where you can make a one-year pledge towards reducing this debt. To make the best use of our resources, any one-time gifts made before December 31, 2010 will go directly towards reducing the principle of the debt. Payments received in 2011 will accrue first to ensure we can make scheduled payments on the loan. After we reach that amount, additional monies will be applied directly towards reducing the principle. Gifts to this effort should be marked “Village Future Fund”.

Should I just give my regular offering toward paying off the debt?

Village has many vital ministries both locally and globally that depend on faithful giving of regular tithes and offerings. We encourage you to continue giving faithfully to Village and its ministries through your normal giving. Any pledges or gifts given to reduce the construction debt to the Village Future Fund should be in addition to your regular giving.

Is it OK to make a commitment to give an amount that I don’t have right now?

An effort to reduce an 8.3 million dollar debt cannot be funded just through a one-time gift out of your excess. Prayerfully consider how God might stretch your faith to commit resources that you may not have today to give. For example: future raises, downsizing next year’s family vacation, giving up lunches out and brown-bagging it. Be creative and look for God’s provision in your life that you can use to fund your pledge.