

November 2017



# THE ALLIANCE CHURCH OF CHEEKTOWAGA

*Experiencing Christ's Kingdom Together*



**PJ Bogoniewski**

actsoflight@gmail.com

740-331-9711

www.ActsofLight.com

## **T MINUS 70 Until We LAUNCH!**

I can't believe that our time to **LAUNCH** our Sunday services is almost here! 70 days seems so close and yet so far away. When I think of how far we've come since that very first conversation I had with our district superintendent in March of 2015 I realize that there have been many months of praying, planning, strategizing, meeting, speaking, inviting, and training—all preparing for the day we **LAUNCH** our public services. We'll be launching a Sunday morning worship service, followed by a discussion of the sermon; as well as an evening ministry time, when our kids' ministry, youth ministry, and small groups will be meeting. There is still so much for us to do in the next 70 days! We have practice services to prepare for, details of ministries to work out, a worship leader to find, and a location to decide upon!

## **God Has Provided...AGAIN!**

This entire church planting experience has been nothing more than discovering Christ's leading, being faithful to follow Him wherever He leads us, and then telling His story to anyone who will listen. After all, we are His people, listening to His voice, following His leading, using His gifting, and joining Him in the work He is doing. We're just discovering His story and then telling it to others. This has simply been an amazing journey! We are seeing that He is doing something amazing in our area and we are so privileged to be part of it!

God has provided so much for us on this journey so far. He has provided partner churches, members of our CORE team, finances, equipment, vision, relationships, and encouragement. Partner churches, and people just like YOU, have offered to give us so many things. In fact, I believe that God has provided more than \$10,000 worth of equipment that we needed to launch this new church plant—for FREE! We were given chairs, tables, an entire sound system, children's curriculum, a drum set, a bass guitar and a HUGE bass amp, furniture, a fully equipped nursery, toys for the kids to play with, a copy machine, a computer and projection system, and more stuff than I can list here. Still, the most important thing that we have been given is PEOPLE. I'm so thankful for the partner churches who were willing to send key people to be part of this new church plant. A church isn't a building, or the stuff in the building, but people who are called by His name, joining to worship Him, and working together to accomplish His purposes in His ways.

Our CORE team has spent so much time praying for the Lord's leading and the Lord's provision. We have seen Him answer those prayers over and over again—and we know that He's not done yet!

## **Something's Coming**

Did you know that those who write on the history of God moving in our nation say that every major awakening that has taken place in America has started in the Northeast? Do you know that some missiologists are saying that there is a renewed interest in spiritual things again in the Northeast?!?! Some are saying we are on the cusp of seeing another great awakening or spiritual renewal in our nation and that it will begin in the Northeast and could spread throughout our nation. OUR NATION SURE NEEDS IT!!! I feel so privileged to be part of this movement of God and am excited about what's ahead!

If this is true, I sure want to be part of it! I mean, I want to be a key player. I don't want to be merely an observer. I don't want to be someone who chronicles the things that God is doing without being able to talk about first-hand experiences. I don't want to miss it. I don't want to fight it. I want to surrender my life to join the great work that God is doing. He always does His work first in us and then through us. Oh Lord, come do Your deep work in my life and in the lives of others!

## **Save the Date**

**January 7, 2018**



THE  
ALLIANCE CHURCH  
OF CHEEKTOWAGA

*Experiencing Christ's Kingdom Together*

**Opens to the Public**

Less than 70 days until we LAUNCH!

As I drive around town, walk around town, and talk with people around town I truly sense that God is about to do something amazing in Cheektowaga. The members of our CORE team are having some amazing conversations with people who are seeking something deeper than they've experienced, who are looking for a church who can nurture them, who are looking for discipleship adventures, who have deep questions about God, the Bible, and life with God that are hidden deep inside, but are beginning to bubble to the surface. Some of them know that they're seeking something deeper, but haven't been able to find it yet. Some don't even realize what is happening inside of them—but I know what it is. I know that God is calling them into a personal relationship with Him. I know that He's reaching down into the miry pit in which they live and calling them to join Him on the high ground that is His love, His ways, and His purposes.

### **THANK YOU!**

Because we are implementing an adapted version of the Greenhouse Church Planting Model, this church planting experience has been so much more than a church-planting couple being dropped off in a location with the hopes of being able to plant a church in that region. So many people have been part of this process—from partner churches to coaches to members of our CORE team to prayer partners (like you!) to our district leadership to people who have given financially to those who have given us stuff to those who have offered encouragement and so many others! This truly is a picture of what can happen when Kingdom-minded people work together to advance His Kingdom in His ways, not ours.



### **Location—Location—Location**

Friends who are involved in real estate tell me that the most important thing to focus on in real estate is "Location, location, location!" You can have a huge piece of property that's in the middle of nowhere, but if you want to invite people to come and interact with you on that property you'll spend a lot of time telling them where that property is and how they can get there. If that property is too far off of the beaten path it creates a significant barrier to keep people away from your property. That's why church property has to be functional AND positional—in a place that's easy to invite people to meet with you and enjoy all of the benefits of the ministries and relationships you have to offer.



Equipment that was given to us recently.

Finding the right location has been a significant by-line in the story of this church plant. The Lord has led us down a very interesting path as we've been seeking a place to meet to prepare, then a place to meet to worship, and one day a place to purchase to call our own. Centerpointe has been a great blessing to us, offering to allow us to meet at the church on Sunday nights this entire year as we prepare our CORE team for our launch. They have allowed us to use their facilities for free. This has been a huge blessing to us! But we can't use their facilities for a Sunday morning worship. They're using just about all of their space Sunday mornings. We have to find another place for us to call home on Sundays as we launch in January.

This journey has brought us into a variety of discussions regarding possible places for us to meet—all in search of the place the Lord has for us to meet. We want to be missional in this new church—finding a way to be a blessing to the community around us. I would prefer to have a neighborhood location, yet

be easy to access from main roads. I don't think that a location in an industrial complex would be an ideal place for us to meet.

Early on the Lord led us to have discussions with a struggling church about a potential merge with them. Then He closed the door to that possibility. Then He opened the door for us to meet in a local primary school, but there are many limitations for our church to use the school and it will cost us more than \$1500 a month to use the school. The costs will vary per week depending on the janitorial costs. We would have to wait to see how long it would take for the janitors to clean up after us and we would be billed for the hours. We already know that they expect to take 6-8 hours to clean, but they may take more.

Then we looked into the possibility of renting some commercial space. We talked with three commercial realtors about renting about 5,000 sq. ft. for between 3-5 years. I found more than a dozen potential places in the town of Cheektowaga and our relators tracked them down for us. I was surprised to find the number of property owners who didn't want a church in their property. They said they didn't want "our kind of traffic" in their location. Those doors were closed to us. Still, we were trusting that the Lord was leading us to the right place. There were just two who were interested in renting space to us. One was in an industrial complex, in a neighboring town, and too far off of a main road for us to be seriously interested. The other was a location that we were very interested in. We met with the property owner and two potential contractors to discuss what changes would have to be made for us to use the space and how much that would cost. After hearing that it might cost \$50k-\$100k to make the space work for us we decided that we needed to look somewhere else. I really don't like the thought of us investing thousands of dollars in a space we hope to grow out of as soon as possible. Even if we did rent that space for 4 or 5

years we would be paying about \$3,000 a month for those renovation costs, on top of the rent for the space. It was looking like rent would be 5-6K a month. That just seems to be an unwise investment for a space we hope to get out of as soon as possible.

This week I'm meeting with a couple of event coordinators at hotels who have conference space that can seat up to 600 people. My early conversations with them have been positive and encouraging. I think that at least one of these may pan out as our first home. A few of the nice things about renting some hotel space are:

- They may do most of our set up and tear down for us!
- We wouldn't have to transport chairs from storage to the hotel (as we would have to do if we rented the school).
- There is plenty of space for us to expand into as God grows this church.
- We can use the same space Sunday mornings and Sunday nights.
- They would transition the space from "Sunday morning worship," to "Sunday evening small groups" for us.
- The cost is well within our budget, leaving room for us to afford additional expenses along the way.

I am sure that I'll have more to report on location in my next update—the last one before we launch!

### **Alliance to the Core**

We are currently studying the Alliance Core Values. Each of them are foundational to the mission and vision of this new church!

- Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.
- Prayer is the primary work of God's people.
- Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards.
- Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success.
- Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple.
- Without the Holy Spirit's empowerment we can accomplish nothing.
- Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change.

### **Our Current Needs**

We have so many positive steps in this past year! There are still a few more things that we require before we're ready to launch on January 7th! Will you pray that the Lord would provide the following for us, as well as prayerfully consider how you and your church can respond to help meet these needs? Thanks for praying for us!

### **LAUNCH Team**

- We could still use more than 50 people on our LAUNCH team. These are people who are willing to be part of our new church plant for a year. This will give us the forward momentum of people in the pews as new people come into the church. Everyone likes to be part of something that seems successful rather than something that appears to be floundering at the start. Having about 100 people in our worship services will cause people to be excited about what's going on in our new church. Then, as the Lord brings new people into the church, these LAUNCH team members will be released to return to their sending churches over the first year.
- In addition to asking people to give us an entire year (this commitment may be too intimidating for some), we're asking small groups to consider coming to our church once a month for the year. We would accomplish the same goal of people in the pews if a small group from each of our partner churches picked one Sunday a month to join us Sunday mornings and Sunday nights.
- I'm hoping for families with children and teens who are willing to be part of our LAUNCH team. We have a youth pastor on board, as well as a children's ministry director—now we need youth!
- I'm hoping that leadership in our partnership churches would pray about approaching people from their congregations and asking them to pray about being part of our LAUNCH team. Keep in mind that studies have shown that churches who send their people to be part of a church plant see the Lord bring new people into their churches to replace those they sent!

### **Location**

- We need to choose a location SOON!

### **Finances**

- Because of the blessing of Centerpointe Community Church, to date we've had NO building rental costs. They have provided me with office space and have invited us to use their building free of charge on Sunday nights. They are a true blessing to us!
- My salary is on a decreasing percentage plan from the District Office. The Alliance Church of Cheektowaga has already



- begun to pick up 25% of my salary. Please pray that the Lord would continue to provide this monthly shortfall.
- When we launch we will probably have facility costs, as well as equipment costs. The money that is being donated today will help us as we discover these upcoming costs.
  - We will be advertising on social media as well as developing some printed materials. All of these will be designed to let the people of Cheektowaga know that we're "opening for business" on January 7th!

### Want to Partner With Us?

The best way you can partner with us is through **PRAYER**. There are plenty of other ways to partner with us as well. Maybe God's calling you to move to Cheektowaga to be part of this plant. Maybe He's leading you to new relationships with people who already live in Cheektowaga who are looking to be part of a church plant like ours—or who need to be part of it and don't know it yet! Maybe He's asking you to do something else that will take you out of your comfort zone and experience His Kingdom in ways you've never experienced before. The important thing is that you listen to His leading and step out in obedience! Ask Him to give you the courage to follow His leading. He'll meet you where you are and allow you to take the next steps in your spiritual journey with Him.

Here's how you can give financially to this new church plant. We're working on filling out all of the paperwork required for us to be an official new church (there is LOTS of red tape to wade through!) so that we can set up our own bank account. We're hoping to have that figured out some time soon. Until then, our district office staff have set up an account for us to use through the district office. Any gifts sent will be tax deductible. You can send any checks to:

Edward Lyau  
Northeastern District of the CMA  
6275 Pillmore Dr.  
Rome, NY 13440

Make your check out to "the Northeastern District of the CMA" and write "For Cheektowaga Church Plant" in the memo line.



Scan this code to get all of our updates through PJs Blog.  
Or go to:  
[ActsofLight.com/acts/pjblog.htm](http://ActsofLight.com/acts/pjblog.htm)

You can go to our webpage to read all of our updates—and to view some of our leadership training sessions. These sessions will give you a more detailed idea of our focus for this new church plant.

Will you pray about **purchasing, reading, and recommending my books**? Your recommendation could lead to another recommendation, and another, and another, and another... This is a great way for you to support our family, and this new church plant, as well as give me the opportunity to bless you. If each of the families who receive this newsletter signed up to listen to my books on Audible we would receive over \$5,000. That would be a HUGE HELP in planting this new church! I know that these books will be a blessing to you as you read them as well!

I'm thankful for those who have purchased my writings, are reading them, and are sharing how the Lord is using them to expand their faith, their understanding of Kingdom living, and are actively joining Him in His work to expand His Kingdom!

All three of these books are available on Kindle, in printed format, and on Audible. If you haven't heard of Audible, it's a way for you to listen to books on your smart phone, computer, or tablet. I narrate each of the books (they take about 6 hours to listen to) and you can listen as you drive, walk, or just hang out around the house. Audible gives me a significant bonus if you sign up for their service, purchase my book first, and then listen to my three books in three subsequent months. The service is \$15 a month and there are thousands of other books you can enjoy. Scan this code to find out more about each of my writings or you can search by my last name at Amazon.com.

### **Got Questions? Jesus Has The Answers! Volume I**



**PJ Bogoniewski**

Everyone Has Questions about God  
Let's explore how Jesus provides the answers  
And how He is the Answer!

### ***Mission: Possible Living the Great Commission***



Doing our part  
to complete  
The Great Commission



***PJ Bogoniewski***

### **MAKING DISCIPLES**



A Rationale For Making Disciples Of Jesus Christ  
And A Practical Guide To Meet With Others One-on-One  
To Make Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ  
Who Make More Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ.

"What you have heard from me  
in the presence of many witnesses  
entrust to faithful men  
who will be able to teach others also."  
2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

**PJ Bogoniewski**



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