

Date	June 6, 2010 (V4RV 2010 Campaign – Groundbreaking Service)
Series	Answering The Call
Title	A Letter to the Church in Dublin
Big Idea	The Call is God's Plan to reach a city through the local church.
Text	Various Texts
Speaker	Roger Valci

### **Introduction:**

Whether you realize or not, **we live at a critical juncture in history.** On one hand, we see the lofty promises of Scripture concerning our future:

***Hab. 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.***

***Rev. 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.***

As followers of Jesus, we know **at the end of history and time,** Jesus will win and overthrow all political, religious and economic ideologies in our world and usher in His kingdom of righteousness. **We win...and that is a most pleasant thought indeed.**

**Yet, for now, in the fight for our city, we are losing the battle.** According to recent statistics from CityServe: **7% of Santa Clara county, 4% of Alameda county and 1% of Marin county are in church today.** According to **Operation World,** there are more people percentage wise worshipping Jesus today, in **China, Indonesia, Malaysia** and **Rwanda** than in our own city today. *Our missionary, **Todd Churchill,** has more believers gathering in **Congo** this morning than in **Dublin, California?*** We once prided ourselves as **a missionary sending people,** but now we are in need of becoming **a missionary receiving people.** Perhaps the DFM of the AG needs to put Dublin in its jurisdiction. **The fact is that all our churches in the Tri-valley are NOT**

**growing.** Rather than winning our city for Jesus, we, the evangelical churches, are all fighting for the same 4%. **God deliver us from this dismal state we currently find ourselves in.**

These facts have led me to ponder several questions. ***What does God want from us His church? What is our place in the city we find ourselves? When we stand before Him on judgment day, how will our faithfulness be judged?*** I want us to look at several passages in Scripture this morning **that speak to God's expectation for His church.** I purposely did not create any slides. I will post my sermon notes on the web. I would rather have you focus on me and on the Scriptures throughout this message together.

In addressing you this morning, I have fought not so much for **content** as **tone.** In my spirit I do hear **some** chastising of the Lord, but what the loudest sounds **I hear are the groans of intercession of Jesus to Father for Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon.** I pray that at the end our time together this morning you will hear them too. Turn with me first to **Romans 15.**

*Rom. 15:17* Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

*Rom. 15:18* I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—

*Rom. 15:19* **by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum (Balkans on the east side of the Adriatic Sea), I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.**

*Rom. 15:20* It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

*Rom. 15:21* Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

*Rom. 15:22* This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

*Rom. 15:23* ¶ **But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you,**

*Rom. 15:24* I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Paul felt his job from Jerusalem to Eastern Europe was **done**. **Churches were planted. Pastors, deacons and elders assigned. God's people equipped and released to take their home, industry and city for Jesus.** He must now **move ahead to regions beyond** to bring the Gospel. **I want us to pause for a moment and focus on Paul's expectation of the churches in these regions.** Obviously, not everyone in these provinces of the Roman empire has heard the Gospel. At best, only a few dozen churches were established by Paul and his missionary band. Yet, **he felt there were sufficient resources in these beachhead churches to take their city, their region, their nation for Jesus.** Paul anticipated that these young churches would grow, **multiply and plant more churches.** History shows that is exactly what they did. Now turn to **Psalm 2.**

***Psa. 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.***

God is speaking to His Son and telling Him to ask for the nations. **Jesus is asking His Father for Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon.** Whatever Jesus asks, He gets. Even the prayers for the nations and cities, Jesus gets.

In the Bible God starts out in the garden, but ends up in cities and in nations. Revelation speaks of a city of our God coming down to earth. Most of the letters in the NT were written to cities as well as churches and in the book of Revelation, God address 7 church/cities.

**Rev. 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

**Rev. 21:2 *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.***

**Why is God consumed with cities? BECAUSE IF YOU CHANGE THE CITY, YOU CHANGE THE NATION. Cities must arise to change the nation. We must partner with Christ until Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon becomes a place where Jesus reigns.**

Rev. 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ***“The kingdom of the world HAS BECOME the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”***

**God earmarked us to change the city for Him. That is His expectation of us for here at Valley Christian.** For some of us here, that means spending less time with your ministry here at the church **and more time serving the needs of the city.** For me, it means **that I must view myself not just as a pastor over my church, but as a pastor over my city.** Now turn to **Luke 19:**

***Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it.***

**Listen. Can you hear it? Jesus is interceding to His Father for Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon.** Valley Christian, you must come to terms with God’s placement of you in this city. You and the city have a connection. You must get a vision for what God wants to do for the city. You must love her streets, hers industry and her institutions. Why? **You will never win that which you curse. You will never pray for what you hate. You will never intercede for that which you deem evil. You will never cry over that which you have settled in your heart is unchangeable.** Jesus is interceding for our city. **Shall He pray for her alone or should we get our knees and join with Him?**

I often tell people that **the diagnosis determines the remedy.** That is the diagnosis. Facts and all. Let me review them for you one more time before we ask ourselves how we got here?

1. **Jesus expects His church to expand geographically and numerically.**
2. **Jesus is coming back not just for local churches, but for cities who exalt and glorify His name.**
3. **The gospel is meant to penetrate all aspects of culture turning selfish institutions into instruments of God's righteousness.**
4. **Prayer is the means God delivers cities from demonic strongholds and make the city harvestable for the Gospel.**
5. **4% of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon is a shameful offering to our Lord.**

If you miss these points, you can pull them off the web site later. **So how did we get where we find ourselves today? Let me reveal A DEMONIC TRUCE we find ourselves in partner with that I believe we need to break off TODAY.**

**Breaking the Treaty with the Evil One:**

Much of the dismal state we find ourselves is due to a “TREATY” we have made with the world and god of this world. By saying “TREATY”, I mean “RULES THAT WE HAVE AGREED TO LIVE BY IN THIS CULTURE.” This generation **unconsciously** made a truce with **the world** and **the devil** saying, *“If you don’t touch us, we won’t touch you.”* In modern American language on CNN it sounds more like this, *“Because there are so many religions and ideologies in our land, we must limit free expression to worship to designated houses of faith and then banish expressions of worship from the public arena.”* We have compartmentalized faith to a piece of real estate at a designated time and then live in “peaceful coexistence” out in the market place, malls and soccer fields with our multi-cultured neighbors. Whether consciously or unconsciously, we have agreed that both worship and evangelism must be limited to a set “time” and “place.”

**I stand here before you this morning telling you that this treaty with evil one must be broken. He certainly has not kept his end of the deal.** His venom has seeped into Christ’s church stirring up factions, jealousy, discord, self-preservation and impotence. He has attacked our own children stripping some of them of their innocence and purity, he has divided our homes, put a blanket of fear over our city, and robbed us of the joy that comes from victorious living in Christ through proclamation. The god of this world has ensnared our children with pleasure and the promise that they would become *“**Psa. 127:4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth**”* is **NOT** a reality for many of us.

**This treaty must be broken BECAUSE “the bunker strategy” of the church suggested by this culture has failed us.** No matter how high we construct walls to protect ourselves and our children from the influences of the world, Satan seeps through the cracks and injects his poisonous venom in the community of faith. Ironically, constructing walls only tempts our children to explore the very things we are protecting them from. For some families, these “walls” have replaced our calling as parents to mature our children by imparting worship, prayer, study, evangelism and community into them. Because we have not prepared them to live in this culture, only preserved them from it, when they leave home, many young Christians succumb to the pressures around them. According to one study by the AG, **82%** of our youth leave the faith after high school.

**This treaty must be broken BECAUSE Jesus is returning for cities that glorify Him, not merely houses of worship.** All the major figures in the Bible transformed palaces and politics for God. Joseph, Moses, David, Jehosophat, Josiah, Daniel, Philemon and Paul. **None of them climbed into a spiritual cave and awaited for the Messiah come.** They were visible standards of righteousness to kings and rulers that there is a God in heaven who is watching and that they must give an account to him whether they knew Him or not.

Newark Soccer Club  
37053 Cherry Street, Ste. 205  
Newark, CA 94560

November 16, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you concerning an issue that has been troubling my heart for the past week. After winning the under twelve division game last week, my son Matthew was invited to participate in an upper division league with his championship team. As parents, we were proud of his team's achievement and we were honored that our son was apart of such a successful group of soccer players. When the coach announced to us that the games for this new division would be played on Sunday, we

regrettably had to decline this wonderful opportunity. Our family worships Jesus each week at Harbor Light and we believe God does not want anything to compete with this primary purpose of our lives.

I suggest that Newark Soccer Club partner with God's desire to see all his children in His house worshipping one day out of seven. Growing up in this community, this was never a problem when I played for the city. I recommend that the Newark Soccer Club honor God's command to visit with Him in His House and not compete with Him with concurring athletic events.

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart with you and for allowing my son to play one of his favorite sports in our city.

Respectfully,  
Roger Valci  
Soccer Dad

If Jesus is the Son of God, if indeed He did rise from the dead, if, one day, He will return for the city of Newark, then as one of the pastor of the cities, I want to present to Him the Newark Soccer club that honor Him.

**This treaty must be broken BECAUSE separation of church and state has become suppression of the church by the state.** *When my son was in Kindergarten in the public schools in Santa Cruz, I was invited to come into the classroom and share my vocation. I asked that teacher if there would be any problem with me as a pastor. She queried me as to what I did as a pastor. I told her that I tell people each day the good news of Jesus. She asked if we did humanitarian deeds. I told her yes. "Speak to these," she suggested. But that is only part of my job. She then went to principle and the the school board. Listen to the statement I was told back. I can talk about Jesus but not about the cross.*

**This treaty must be broken BECAUSE there are spiritual strongholds over the people in this city that must be broken. Cities have profiles and personalities. God gives cities boundaries and characteristics. Yet, whoever has the strongest influence in the city will rule the city. Yet the church has abandoned this influence war and been silent concerning the things that shape our city. We have no seat in the table of our community.**

**Four stages a city goes through before she falls (by Jackson Senyonga):**

1. **Ideology** – outlandish thoughts to shape communal thinking. Often times we don't respond to these thoughts and ignore them. Church is simply too busy to do something about it.
2. **Belief** – Ideology becomes belief. People begin to experiment with some of these thoughts. People don't know things anymore. Call good bad and bad good.
3. **Lifestyle** – Satan comes out with his testimonies. Talk shows fill it. Church stands up here, but it is too late. We wait until practice is established and then we address it.
4. **Stronghold** – then a city is ready to fall to a certain attribute. City is ready to change its name. Personality of the city is now associated with them. When people come to the place of stronghold, they feel that is what describes them. This is who I am. It was outside them at the place of conception, now it is apart of them. People are so influenced and bound, they can't separate themselves from it. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. To break this does not come by good preachers.

People are not the problem. People yield to what is over them. People are not where they are because of choice. Somebody arrested them. Unfortunately, we don't want to deal with the spiritual world. We only want to condemn them. They are helpless because the spiritual world is not addressed – a topic I will address further in a minute.

**But there is a far greater reason why we must leave this unholy alliance. One that relate to the survival of our city and Christ's church. This treaty must be broken because WE HAVE EMBRACED INDIVIDUAL SALVATION AND NEGLECTED THE SOCIAL ARM OF THE GOSPEL. By giving up the high ground of THE POLITICAL ARENA, Satan has duct taped our mouths in the work place and handcuffed our hands in our neighborhoods with a legal atmosphere that almost makes living for Jesus look like a crime in the public arena. By surrendering OUR SCHOOLS, he has filled young and influential minds with the religion of self, pleasure and personal ambitions. By selling OUR HOSPITALS to big business, acts of mercy have now been translated to issues of profit and ailments in need of cure must be deemed worthy by greedy insurance companies. By abandoning THE MEDIA, Satan has established a pulpit whereby he**

makes sin look normal and righteousness look bizarre. **By neglecting Jesus call to CARE FOR THE POOR**, he has robbed us of the moral plateau to show the world that by caring for the least of these, we do have something important to say. **By disregarding THE ELDERLY**, he has stripped us of the wisdom of experience and placed many of them in impoverished living conditions.

**The church today is in retreat and the enemy is on the run.** The picture I paint for you today is **MUCH DIFFERENT** that the words of Jesus about His church to Peter:

***Matt. 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.***

In many ways I feel like St. Augustine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, watching the last pillars of the great Roman Empire crumble, have political leaders blame the church for its decline and watch a dark cloud of Islam come over my land. ***By surrendering our culture to the evil one, we unknowingly set the course for the disintegration of the church in our land.*** If Jesus spoke to Valley Christian much like he did to the Seven Churches in Revelation, what would He say? I am sure that he would have much commendation for the numerous ministries inside our walls, but I also believe rebuke us for the lack of mission outside of them. Would he say:

***Rev. 2:5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.***

Church, do not take lightly the stern warnings in these text. My best friend is in Turkey today trying to relight the lampstand of the church of Jesus in Biblical Asia Minor, because they did not heed these words of admonition. Asia Minor and North Africa was at one time the center of Christian thought and practice. Today, Turkey, is one today one of the darkest places

on the globe because the people did not take seriously the warnings of God's prophet. He might also say to us:

***Rev. 3:17*** *You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*

***Rev. 3:18*** *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*

There was a day the world looked to America to see Jesus. That day has now passed. America no longer reigns as the center of Christian thought and practice. In fact, I believe God is sending immigrants to America ***to bring back to a physically wealthy, but spiritually impoverished people in America the song of renewal.***

**The call to pray:**

I stand before you today to declare that the age of combating spiritual strongholds with physical means is over. Programs fail not because their content and structure is poor, but because they run on the gas of human ambition and strength. *Running 7 Alpha courses at Harbor Light, I sat week after week laboring to ensure the meal was set, the teachings were in place, the setting was right, but neglected to battle in the heavenlies against the shackles that on the lost and over the fear that cripples God's people to win people for Jesus. It was like running a gasoline engine on kool-aid. Little or no fruit. Week after week I stared at empty chairs trying to encourage those who volunteered, but in my heart I felt defeated.*

As followers of Jesus, we must see ourselves as we truly are spiritual people.

***1Pet. 2:5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

God called us to walk in the supernatural, doing things **BEYOND** our means. We are not normal people. Some may call us weird. We are unique. We don't do the things that flesh and blood do. Yet, the lens of our physical world, **the blessings of material prosperity and the American stomach for gratification has all but dulled the spiritual side of our life.** We are so dialed into this world, we cannot even discern most times the subtly of the forces that influence and shape us. For many of us, spiritual warfare is determining whether I order 100 channels from Comcast or 200 with HBO, Cinemax and Stars. We are a prayerless people who don't need God.

Yet, inside, amidst all the blessing of this good earth, we feel something is amiss. We long for miracles, but see so little. We relegate the lavish promises associated with the inbreaking of the Kingdom to some eschatological moment in the future to justify why we don't see the hand and power of God. Our pallets desire both the presence of God and football, and regrettable we choose latter rather than former. Our prayers are often short, direct and connected with acquiring more of this world. Few of us know what it is pray from the gut rather than the mind. To fill the altars and our pillows with tears for the condition of mankind, groaning over the victories of the evil one and weeping over the lack of revival in our land.

To all those in the hearing of my voice whether hear today, though podcast, CD or reading this on the internet. A trumpet is resounding from heaven. It is the call to humble ourselves and prayer. A call to combat the spiritual forces over our city. A call to get on our knees beside Jesus and weep for our city and land.

**2Cor. 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.** It is time to get on our face before God to pull down the strongholds **that are attempting to take root in our city.** Church it is time to rise up and push back these **spiritual forces who are taking residence in our town.** Only through prayer can we push back these demonic influence and make the Tri-valley harvestable for Jesus.

**Prepare ye the way of the Lord:**

We must change are **prayer for revival TO PRAYER OF ARRIVAL**. As the beaver told Lucy in *The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe*, ***“Aslan is on the move. His coming is soon.”*** Valley Christian, the calling of John the Baptist is upon you. I charge you: ***“Prepare the way of the Lord”***.

**Luke 3:4** *As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.*

**Luke 3:5** *Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.*

**Luke 3:6** *And all mankind will see God’s salvation.”*

As John prepared his culture for the coming Messiah we must prepare our city for the coming King. If you continue in Luke’s rendition of John’s ministry in chapter 3:10-14 you see John called people to repent and imparting righteousness **into the religious, the military and business sectors of his day**. John did not just prepare the synagogue and temple for Jesus. No, John called the entire culture to account to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

**Luke 3:10** ¶ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

**Luke 3:11** ¶ John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

**Luke 3:12** ¶ Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

**Luke 3:13** ¶ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

**Luke 3:14** ¶ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” ¶ He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

People of Valley Christian, please stop praying the escape prayer of “Maranatha” (Come, Lord Jesus). Personally, I don’t want Jesus to come today. **4% is to small an offering for my Lord**. We are not ready Lord. We need more time. *Last Wednesday Janae hosted the MPact*

leaders over our home. I mowed the law and pulled the weeds. I picked up the dog poop and raked the leaves. My wife set a room for them and cleaned the bathrooms. The kids dusted, vacuumed and put away junk to make our house presentable to our coming guests. In the same way church, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon is NOT ready for the soon expected coming of Jesus. He is worthy of a greater harvest. I understand there are opposing forces and stubborn wills of men, but I also know that one day all the educational, political, business and religious institutions of our city will bow and acknowledge Jesus as Lord. My hope they will do it as an act of love and surrender today rather than an act of regretful homage when He returns.

**Matt. 25:31 ¶ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.**

**Matt. 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him.**

We must recognize twin truths in order to hear those words, “Well done, thy good and faithful servant.”

1. Faithful and success as a believer are always tied to evangelism.
2. Our church exists here in Dublin **NOT** to provide benefits to its adherents but to take this city for Jesus.

**Luke 12:42 ¶ The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?**

**Luke 12:43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.**

Let us pray and never stop until heaven and earth are one.