

PASTOR JOHN HEVER

RELIANT MINISTRIES

USA-FLORIDA



When asked to summarize his life in Orlando, John said, “I start by first speaking of the joy of my marriage and family. My four adult kids (Katelyn, Kara, Emily and Caleb) are all doing really well. My wife, Jana, has been a constant source of encouragement to me, and to them.

“The work of ministry for me here remains challenging, but it is difficult precisely because God has blessed us. More than a year ago, I was GIFTED with a church building near downtown Orlando, which requires a massive renovation to be used to reach people in the way that is effective. I have found that leading the capital campaign to raise the necessary funds while carrying the teaching/leading/discipleship load of my normal ministry to be very heavy, indeed. For this, I need prayer!”

John also reported that in his ministry they have discerned that they were not merely renovating a building, but that the move into this new building is actually a church plant. Meaning, they start all over again, redefining their vision and values, and recruiting people that want to invest heavily into the work of their mission. John said, “We could have said, ‘Let’s just continue everything as is...’ and been o.k., maybe even good. But for my ministry to be as effective as I hope it to be, the new building opened doors of opportunity to challenge people with the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), to live as missionaries to our post-Christian culture. Describing what we are doing as a church plant has required a massive amount of work, but we believe it will yield the greatest results (the salvation of people, joy!, and glory to the Lord). It’s essentially saying to all those who attend H2O— ”Look, we really mean business here. This will cost us money, time, energy, and a whole lot of love to do this right. We need you to grow from being an attender to being a leader. Are you in?”

John hopes the ministry will have enough room for all their needs, but notes that the building is not massive; but, he says they intend for meetings to be going on there ALL THE TIME. Sometime after Covid, they will re-launch Radiant (women’s ministry), God on Tap (outreach ministry), and various service ministries as well. There are 3 offices, providing space for special classes and for counseling. They will still use their homes a lot (where they do life groups) also. Being non-traditional, he explained, they trend away from Sunday school, and more toward offering seminars given throughout the week.

It is expected that renovation to the building will run about \$637,000, and John is considering borrowing the money with a 12 year repayment schedule. but his real hope is to raise it all in one year. He said, “I’d like that money to stop flowing out to a bank to pay off the loan, but rather, out into outreach, into serving the neighborhood, or into hiring people who can be effective in doing that. By the grace of God, we have raised 187K so far—only \$450 K to go. So, yes, I need prayer! And some really brilliant ideas, and, of course, investors.”

Also, interesting to note: The proceeds from John’s book, *The Hidden Delight of God*, published September 2021, will go toward the work on his church.

Birthdays: John, Feb. 27; Jana, Sept. 5

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John is the son of HPC members, the Bob (deceased) and Marge Hever.