

THIS IS

MAIRS

HILL



JS.

*Mars Hill
Church is
all about
Jesus.*

MARS HILL CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2010

**WE
ARE**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

—Matthew 28:19–20

“...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8

Mars Hill Church is all about Jesus.

WE WANT TO MAKE DISCIPLES AND PLANT CHURCHES BECAUSE WE WANT MORE PEOPLE TO MEET HIM.

PASTOR MARK DRISCOLL

Mars Hill Church is more than one man, but the story of Mars Hill Church is inextricably tied to the story of Pastor Mark Driscoll. He is our pastor of Preaching and Vision, the founder of Mars Hill Church, and visionary behind the Acts 29 Church Planting Network and The Resurgence.

Pastor Mark grew up amid the strip clubs, tarmacs, and turf wars of south Seattle, where his family moved from North Dakota a few years after he was born. Pastor Mark was raised in the Catholic Church, but it wasn't until he began reading the Bible as a freshman at Washington State University that he came across the book of Romans and realized he was “called to belong to Jesus Christ” (1:6).

In 1996, Pastor Mark founded Mars Hill with a God-given vision to preach the Bible, plant churches, and train men. The church has grown in size, complexity, and influence ever since. Today a team of elders is responsible for church leadership. These

men share the work of teaching the Bible, leading the mission, shepherding the congregation, and stewarding church resources.

Pastor Mark's teaching ministry reaches millions around the world through podcasts, our extensive free online media library, numerous books, and social media. His Sunday sermons are recorded at Mars Hill Ballard and then distributed to our other campuses. We're grateful for the technology that allows us to make the most of Pastor Mark's strong vision, gift for communication, and insight into the Scriptures. He preaches most Sundays, while our campus pastors and other Mars Hill elders (plus occasional guest speakers) fill the pulpit about ten times per year.

Pastor Mark married Grace, his high school sweetheart, in 1992. Together they have five children (two girls, three boys). Pastor Mark is a self-described “nobody trying to tell everybody about Somebody.”

Mars Hill Timeline

It was the first half of 1996 and I was 25 years of age chronologically, six years of age spiritually, and trying to gather enough people to launch Mars Hill Church in the city of Seattle. About ten to 20 people a week were showing up for our Sunday service, which was now being held in one of those especially awful youth rooms... Our weekly service would start sometime around 6:00 p.m., whenever the college students and indie rockers would show up, because it was apparently very difficult to get up by the crack of dinner.

—Pastor Mark Driscoll

① **1996** – Pastor Mark & Grace Driscoll start a home Bible study that becomes the core for Mars Hill Church.

⑥ **2006** – Mars Hill Shoreline becomes the first video campus & Mars Hill becomes a multi-campus church.

⑨ **2012** – Mars Hill Portland is scheduled to become the second campus outside of Washington state.

God kept bringing more people to hear the gospel. Even five Sunday services back-to-back didn't address our need for more space. After so much time and effort to get everyone under one roof, it became clear that this had been a season for maturation, but Mars Hill hadn't "arrived" as a church with this building. God was only just starting with us.

—Pastor Steve Tompkins

② **2000** – The Acts 29 Church Planting Network begins with Mars Hill Church in collaboration with other churches around the country.

④ **2003** – After years of steady growth & bouncing from building to building, Mars Hill Church moves into a renovated warehouse in Ballard.

③ **2001** – Mars Hill Church moves into a small building in Ballard, north of downtown Seattle, and launches its first-ever Sunday morning service.

⑤ **2006** – Mars Hill Church launches The Resurgence as a platform to serve the greater church & train leaders.

Although the church is first and foremost God's people, a dependable base of operations made it feel as though we'd finally arrived. That arrival brought its own challenges: we had enough money for the shell, but not chairs. One memorable sight was BYOC Night—bring your own chair. The auditorium was littered with lawn chairs and beanbags, supplemented with plastic seats borrowed from a local school.

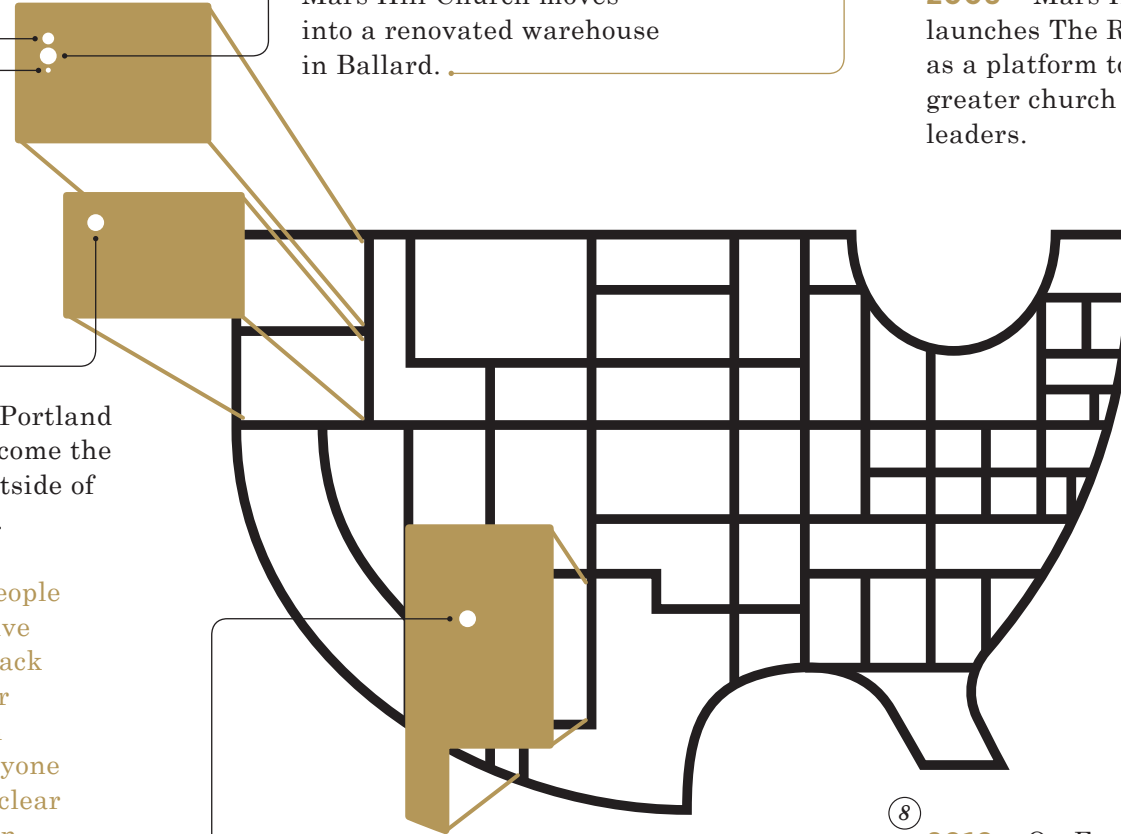
—Pastor James Harleman

Why did Mars Hill Church come to Albuquerque? It certainly isn't because it made sense. But the Spirit of God seemed to be moving, and we try to go where the Spirit of God is going. In hindsight, we can see that God *was* moving. Mars Hill Albuquerque has grown from 275 regular attendees to over 650. We also baptized dozens of people in 2010 and witnessed countless testimonies of lives changed by Jesus.

—Pastor AJ Hamilton

⑦ **2009** – Mars Hill Albuquerque becomes the first campus outside of Washington state.

⑧ **2010** – On Easter Sunday, attendance reaches 12,988 & hundreds of people are baptized.



MARS HILL CAMPUSES

The multi-campus strategy allows the people of Mars Hill to grow in numbers and faith while serving in their own communities as local missionaries for Jesus. This strategy also allows us to multiply our resources and our efforts in order to achieve, by God's grace, a greater impact than we could as separate entities.

Further reading:
Confessions of a Reformission Rev,
by Pastor Mark Driscoll

RELIGION VS. THE GOSPEL

At Mars Hill Church we make a distinction between religion (morality, behavior, rules) and the gospel (what Jesus does for us, in us, and through us). Here are some of the key differences:

Religion

I obey—therefore I'm accepted.

Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.

The world is filled with good people and bad people.

Religion is about what you do.

Religion is our attempt to manipulate God: do the right thing to get stuff from him.

When life is hard, I get angry at God or myself because I am entitled to a comfortable life.

Religion leads to pride (for keeping the rules) or despair (for failing to keep the rules)

Lack of assurance—have I done enough to please God?

Gospel

I'm accepted—therefore I obey.

Motivation is based on grateful joy.

The world is filled with sinners who are either repentant and trust in Jesus' death for their life, or sinners who are unrepentant and remain spiritually dead and separated from God under his wrath.

The gospel is about what Jesus has done.

The gospel is about us receiving God himself. He is our greatest treasure, highest joy, and source of life.

When life is hard, I struggle, but I know that God loves me and uses evil for good. Therefore, I have hope and joy in him regardless of circumstances.

The gospel leads to humility (our righteousness is a gift from Jesus, not an achievement of our own).

Assurance—our standing before God is contingent on Jesus alone, who is perfect.

Verses

Eph 2:8–10

1 Jn 4:7–11

Is 53:6; Rom 3:23

*Rom 10:4; 2 Cor. 5:21;
1 Pt 3:18;*

Phil 3:8–9

*Ps 23:4; Jn 16:33; Phil
4:11–1; Heb 12:1–13*

Mk 10:45; Phil 2:1–11

Jn 5:11–14

WE
BELIEVE



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REFORMED THEOLOGY

By Pastor Justin Holcomb

What you believe about God changes everything. It affects how you love, work, live, marry, parent, evangelize, purchase, and worship.

Is God an impersonal blob, distant and disinterested in the world except for figuring out who the good and bad people are? Is “god” a karmic vibe making sure everyone gets what he or she deserves? Is God a myth used by weak, stupid, or oppressive people to console themselves or dominate others? Is God a cosmic cheerleader who is concerned mainly about your immediate happiness and self-actualization? Or is God someone else?

At Mars Hill, we believe that God reveals himself to sinners and saves them for his glory.

God . . .

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, who is infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons—**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. Each member of the Trinity thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates because they are persons and not impersonal forces. Each member of the Trinity is equally God, which means that they share all the divine attributes.

We believe there is no one like God, no one equal to God, and no other God. God is just, merciful, holy, loving, all knowing, jealous, all powerful, patient, everywhere, eternal, unchanging, and not bound by time.

. . . reveals himself

We believe that God reveals himself to everyone everywhere through general revelation, which includes creation and conscience. In general revelation, God has made known his power and divine nature, wisdom, majesty, justice, and goodness.

We believe God has supremely revealed himself to fallen humans through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We believe it is only through special revelation—God’s gracious self-revelation, that any of us come to a saving and transforming knowledge of God.

We believe Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and humanity. Because God is holy and all humans are sinful and sinners, we need a savior who mediates between God and us. Religious rituals do not mediate between God and us—neither do our good works. Only Jesus Christ—the God-man—serves as our mediator to God. There is no other name by which a man can be saved other than the name Jesus (Acts 4:11–12). Jesus intercedes on our behalf and his sacrifice alone is sufficient to atone for sin (Heb. 7:23–28).

We believe that every word of the 66 books of the Bible is divinely inspired. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of Scripture, illuminates the meaning and understanding of Scripture, and empowers obedience to Scripture. When rightly interpreted, Scripture is centrally about Jesus Christ, as the only God and Savior, and eternal life. Additionally, Scripture is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

We believe that the Scriptures alone are our only ultimate and inerrant authority for faith and practice. This does not mean that the Bible is the only place where truth is found; it does mean that everything else we learn about God and his world and all other authorities are subordinate to the Scriptures. The Scriptures are the sole necessary and sufficient source of our theology.

. . . saves sinners

We believe that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone. We are neither saved by our merits nor declared righteous (justified) by our good works (Eph. 2:8–10). We are justified solely through faith

in Jesus Christ because of God’s grace and Christ’s merit. We do not merit grace, or else it wouldn’t be grace. This means that God grants salvation without reference to our foreseen merits or achievements or even our faith. God’s election is the unconditional and unmerited nature of his grace.

Not only did we inherit from Adam a nature that is in bondage to sin, but we also were born in sin. Therefore, we were enemies of God and lovers of that which is evil. We needed to be made alive (regenerated) so we could even have faith in Christ. All of this is grace that we don’t deserve. Because we don’t earn or attain this grace, we cannot lose it. God graciously preserves us and keeps us. When we are faithless toward him, he is still faithful.

It is only by God’s grace that we may stand before him because he mercifully attributes to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ and attributes to him the consequences of our sins, which were judged on the cross. The effects of this gospel are many. According to the Heidelberg Catechism (1563), our sole comfort in life and death is:

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

. . . for his glory.

We believe that glory belongs to God alone. Sinners being saved by grace is all about God getting glory, not about people improving their lives and using God as a means to their end. Because of who God is and because he reveals and saves, the end goal of all of life is to give glory to God alone: “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). The Westminster Catechism (1647) says the chief purpose of life is “to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

God’s glory and fame are to be our only ultimate ambition.

Pastor Justin Holcomb is director of The Resurgence.

COMPLEMENTARIAN RELATIONSHIPS in Church Leadership

By Pastor Mark Driscoll

Elders are the male leaders of the church. By male we mean not just anatomically male, but manly men. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that manly men are not those who can punch the hardest, argue the best, or get their own way no matter what. According to the Bible, manly men are those who are known for their prayer lives (1 Tim. 2:8) and for modeling Christlike service (Matt. 20:26–28; 1 Pet. 5:2) and being practically responsible in their homes as well in the workplace (1 Tim. 3:4–7). . . .

Why we believe that Scripture teaches that only the best of Jesus’ men should serve as elders:

- 1) God made humanity male and female, which means that men and women are equal yet different.
- 2) The senior spiritual leadership of God’s people in the Old Testament was comprised of male priests.
- 3) Jesus chose twelve men as his apostles, although he befriended, loved, taught, honored, healed, and included women in his ministry, but not in a senior position of leadership.
- 4) In 1 Timothy 2:11–3:5 Paul writes:
Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?

Paul begins by stating something quite controversial and unusual in his day—that women should learn theology. In our day, the application of this principle would mean that both men and women should be taught theology, be permitted to attend Bible college or seminary, and be encouraged to be theologically astute. Apparently, the women in Ephesus were behaving in an unruly and disrespectful fashion during church services. They were much like their Christian sisters in Corinth (1 Cor. 14:33–35), whom Paul likewise commanded to be respectful toward church leadership. For married women, Paul also placed the onus for answering their many theological questions on their husbands as the heads of their homes.

Paul added two requirements for the Ephesian women who wanted to learn theology: quietness and submission. Quietness here does not mean total silence but rather a peaceable demeanor, which in 1 Timothy 2:2 is also required of everyone. The matter of women submitting to the pastoral church leaders directly correlates with the frequent command that women also submit to their husbands as the leaders in their homes (Eph. 5:21–33; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:3–5; 1 Pet. 3:1–6). Clearly, God’s intention is that Christian women will be well-informed theologians, and to do so they must first learn to respect the male pastors whom God has appointed to instruct them.

Paul emphatically commanded that women should not teach or have authority over men in the church. Those who hold a hard complementarian interpretation of Paul’s command are prone to keep things tidy by simply telling women to teach only women and children (which is, admittedly, the cleanest place to draw the line). Those who hold a soft complementarian interpretation of Paul’s commands (as we do) believe that his pairing of teaching and authority refers to the highest authority in the church. While there is huge controversy about the meaning of the word Paul uses for “authority,” we follow the standard Greek lexicon understanding: “To assume a stance of independent authority, give orders to, dictate,” which describes well the elder-level authority in the church.¹ This also seems logical in the context, as what immediately follows in the next chapter of 1 Timothy is the requirements for elders-pastors, which include being a mature Christian man and an exemplary husband and father.

Correspondingly, Paul forbids women to teach and exercise authority as elders-pastors. Later in

his instructions to Timothy, Paul honors elders “who labor in the Word and teaching” (1 Tim. 5:17 literally translated). Teaching here likely refers to preaching and teaching as done by the elders, as every other time teaching is spoken of in the remainder of the letter, it is in reference to the teaching of an elder (1 Tim. 4:11; 5:7; 6:2). Only elders preach, enforce formal church discipline, and set doctrinal standards for the church.

By definition, the position we are arguing for is complementarianism. A complementarian church should encourage women to use the spiritual gifts and natural abilities that God has given them to their fullest extent. This includes anything from teaching a class to leading a Bible study, overseeing a ministry, leading as a deacon, speaking in church in a way that is not preaching, leading worship music, serving Communion, entering into full time paid ministry as a member of the staff, and receiving formal theological education—basically every opportunity in the church except what the Bible and the elders deem elder-only duties. Therefore, the issue is not whether a woman can be in ministry, but rather what ministry a woman can be in and remain faithful to Scripture. . . .

The male elders must focus intently on raising up men, particularly young men, to be responsible, loving leaders in their families and the church like Jesus and unlike Adam. This should not be done at the expense of women and children, but in love for women and children who often suffer at the hands of men who abuse, abandon, or avoid their responsibilities. This is precisely why elders should be only the most exemplary and responsible Christian men.

From: Vintage Church (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009), 65–69.

¹ “Authenteno,” in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. (BDAG), edited and revised by Frederick William Danker (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

COMPLEMENTARIAN RELATIONSHIPS in Marriage

By Pastor Phil Smidt

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. —Ephesians 5:25, 28

God’s design for marriage begins with submission by the husband. He willingly stops trusting himself and instead trusts God with his life, loving and leading his wife accordingly. He brings himself under the authority of a gospel-driven church so he can learn and serve.

Early in our marriage, I didn’t know how to lead. Jen was driven, and talented—I hit the jackpot! I could sit back, watch SportsCenter, eat chocolate shakes, and let her take charge and get things done. Unwilling to leave us in darkness, God interrupted. We both repented, and Jen got honest. She told me she felt more loved and protected when I led boldly and decisively. This meant I needed to lead by thinking more highly of her than of myself. I needed to put her interests before my own, just like Christ did for me.

That’s why I drive the clunker and she gets the nicer car. Even after I’ve had a long, hard week, I give her a day off. I ensure she knows I adore her by making intentional time to go on dates and weekends without kids, and connect daily. I ask her what she needs and how I am leading.

Headship in marriage does not mean superior, more qualified, or tyrannical. Submission does not mean diminished, oppressed, or weak. Men and women are both created in the image and likeness of God and equally receive his grace and forgiveness. But equal does not mean same. The roles of husband

and wife are different and complementary; they are not meant to be in direct competition with each other. Nothing distorts God’s purpose for marriage than competing spouses.

Through God’s redemptive power, we have learned to appreciate and enjoy our differences, help the other in their weaknesses, and utilize our strengths. This means that when my family wants cookies, I bake them since mine are better than Jen’s (I follow the recipe to a T while she doesn’t bother). She adds the spontaneous spark of fun to our family that helps create lasting memories. She rallied our family to attempt our first camping trip when our daughter was barely crawling. Despite my reservations, and our daughter consuming much dirt, we had an amazing time.

What does redemption look like in our marriage today? We work together as a team to move our family in a godly direction. Jen is my primary influencer, confidant, and ally. I don’t make a major decision without consulting and considering Jen’s input. But ultimately I provide the direction, vision, and authority.

Jen does not complete me. That would be an unbearable load to place upon her. Marriage has exposed in both of us just how incomplete we are without Jesus. He is the only one that can fill the gaping hole in our hearts. He is the source of our oneness and completion.

By Deacon Jen Smidt

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. —Ephesians 5:22–24

As a strong-willed, stubborn young wife, I had a miniscule view of God’s design for marriage, including my husband Phil’s role as leader, along with an inflated view of myself. I clearly remember deciding that he was incapable of providing for me at a financial level that included regular Nordstrom shopping sprees, so I took matters into my own hands.

I secretly joined a multi-level marketing business that promised a fortune. Feeling exhilarated and sick at the same time, I knew it wasn’t supposed to be this way—a wife is supposed to trust her husband and share openly with him about her dreams and fears. But I had bought into the world’s lie that I must not become dependent on any man. I believed I could do it better. *You can give it your best shot, Phil*, I thought, *but my plan is in play in case you screw it up.*

Ultimately, what was revealed in my heart was a deep-seated lack of submission to God that manifested itself in a manipulative maneuver behind my husband’s back. The problem that arose at the marriage level simply belied my rebellious heart toward God. James 4:7 lays it out clearly: “Submit yourselves therefore to God.” Phil couldn’t lead me because I wouldn’t trust God to lead me. The strongest man on the planet cannot force an unsubmitive woman to be led.

As I allowed God to change my heart, I began to see submission as one of the most beautiful qualities in a woman. No longer vying with Phil for top billing in our marriage, I began to understand that God’s plan of submission is a gift to women. Submission was put in place by God to free us to exercise both strength and softness. Submitting my heart and life to God takes every bit of my effort empowered by God’s abundant grace. Strength under the control of the Holy Spirit chooses to submit to and depend on Phil for leadership and provision. Softness emerges as the rough edges of independence and rebellion yield to the control of another.

All of my strengths and talents are poured out in submission. Jesus’ life was poured out in submission on the cross. I exemplify Jesus when I lay down my time, my life, my interests—first for God and then for Phil.

Pastor Phil Smidt, leads the Ballard campus ministry to engaged and married couples, with the help of his wife Deacon Jen Smidt. They have three children.

SPIRIT-FILLED LIVES

By Pastor Tim Smith

Each of us, whether we know it or not, desperately needs the Holy Spirit.

We have God’s infallible, inspired, authoritative Word in the 66 books of the Bible, but without the Holy Spirit it doesn’t make any sense. We may have incredible preachers and churches, but without the Holy Spirit there is no real change of heart. We have the tremendous gift of prayer—talking directly to God—but without the Holy Spirit we don’t know what to say.

The Holy Spirit is a gift and a Helper given to us to do and to be what God has called us to.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

There is one and only one God, eternally existing but fully expressed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is an eternal, distinct person in the same way as the Father and the Son are (Heb. 9:14). He is not one-third God or some kind of nebulous force or power. The Spirit is fully God (Acts 5:3-4) and with us forever (John 14:16). He shows up in the second verse of the Bible, hovering over the waters before the foundation of the world, along with the Father (as Creator) and the Son (the divine Word by which the Father created) (John 1:1-3).

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

Without the Holy Spirit, we would not know anything about God. The Spirit reveals God through the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16). The Spirit worked through the words of men, carrying them along to record the words of God: from Moses and Genesis to John and Revelation, the Spirit is the Author behind the authors (2 Pet. 1:21).

The Spirit does much more than just inspire words, however. From creation onward, the Holy Spirit has been active in the lives of God’s people. The Holy Spirit is the empowering presence of God, filling all believers for his mission to make himself known. In Old Testament times, the Spirit empowered specific people for service to God. This special and occasional filling was only a shadow of the work of the Spirit to come.

The Old Testament clearly points to a time when the Spirit will fill all God’s people. The prophet Ezekiel looked to a time when God would take our hearts of stone and give us a new heart and a new Spirit (Ezek. 11:19). All of this would come together in the Messiah, on whom the Spirit of God would perfectly dwell (Isa. 11:2-3).

Jesus, the Perfect Spirit-Filled Man

How did Jesus live his miraculous, sinless life and die on the cross for our sin? Most Christians would answer simply, “Because he was God.” There is a sense in which this is true. Jesus is eternally God: past, present, and future. However, in the greatest

act of humility the world has ever known, Jesus joined his divinity to humanity, taking the form of a servant, and temporarily set aside the continual use of his divine attributes (Phil. 2:7).

The life Jesus lived—doing miracles, healing people, raising the dead, and resisting sinful temptation—he lived by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38). In the Gospel of Luke, we see Jesus was:

- **conceived by the Spirit (1:35);**
- **taught and matured by the Spirit (2:26-27, 40, 52);**
- **filled by the Holy Spirit at his baptism (3:22);**
- **led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (4:1); and**
- **sent to preach by the power of the Spirit (4:14).**

All of this was building toward the cross, where Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for our sin through the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14).

Jesus lived all of life to the ceaseless glory of the Father and he calls us to the same. If he lived this life simply as God, we would be left with precious little hope in following his example. But the good news is that the same Spirit through which Jesus lived, healed, loved, worshiped, and gave himself for us is the same Spirit that now works in all believers.

Life in the Spirit

Jesus actually said it was to our advantage that he would no longer be with us in the flesh because in his absence he would send a “Helper,” the Spirit of truth, to be with us forever and to lead us into all truth (John 16:7-15). When we become Christians, we are flooded with the Spirit of God, and that changes everything.

The Holy Spirit does not just come alongside our efforts to please God and make us more effective (John 6:63). Through the Spirit, we live a new and different life. God is into death and resurrection—not gradual change through our own efforts. We must die to ourselves and be born again by the Spirit (John 3:5-8).

How do we know if the Holy Spirit is at work in someone’s life? The Bible says there are clear signs: pride, selfishness, idolatry, and sexual immorality give way to new “fruit” from the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). God also gives spiritual gifts through the Spirit. Some sadly desire to reduce these gifts to a mystical, personal experience, but they are given to all believers for the common good and mission of the church (1 Cor. 12:7-11). If the gifts and fruit of the Spirit are absent in anyone’s life, all one has to do is ask the perfect, heavenly Father who longs to send the Spirit to those who ask (Luke 11:13).

Praise God for sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to lead us, teach us, and make it possible for us to fulfill the end for which we were created: to worship him forever. We love the Holy Spirit.

Tim Smith is the worship pastor at Mars Hill Bellevue, and will be campus pastor of the forthcoming Mars Hill Portland.

MISSIONAL CHURCHES

By Pastor Mark Driscoll

Jesus relocated from heaven to earth and showed us how to be missionaries in our cities. This is a big undergirding value of Mars Hill. Missionaries are not just people we send to faraway exotic places like China; missionaries are also people we send to faraway exotic places like Albuquerque, Seattle, and Portland. Not only do missionaries need to be sent around the world (which they do), they also need to be sent around the block.

Jesus said that he was “sent” more than 39 times in the Gospel of John alone. He’s God, come from heaven down to the earth on a mission to seek and to save all of us who are lost in our sin. He relocated to a place that was very inconvenient for him. Earth is not like heaven. He was certainly treated better in heaven than he was on earth. He paid a great price to come and do ministry on the earth. Not only did he live in poverty, opposition, and criticism, he also shed his blood and died. He paid the ultimate price to be a good missionary to a culture that initially rejected him, but now people have come to know and love him and a few billion on earth today worship him because of the success of his mission following his resurrection.

In John 20:21, Jesus says, “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” I am

sending you. Our view is that Jesus has sent us here. That’s what it means to be a missionary.

I want you to have a sense of why we exist as a church. I want you to have a sense of why we’re doing multiple campuses and multiple church plants. I want you to have a sense of why we give away millions of dollars to help new gospel works. I want you to have a sense of why we send people out into the world.

Why?

Jesus Christ is alive. Jesus is actually alive. Jesus died for sin and rose. Jesus Christ can take away sin. People don’t need to go to hell. They can go to heaven. They don’t need to be disconnected from God. They can be connected to God. They don’t need to live lives of sin. They can live lives of transforming grace. People don’t need to do anything to merit the love of God. “God shows

his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

Jesus is alive and seated on his throne in heaven. He’s ruling and reigning over all creation. That means that every nation, every city, every neighborhood, every block, every suburb, every small town, every cul-de-sac, every coffee shop, and every condo is under the lordship of Jesus. In all of these places there are people he loves.

There are people he’s willing to forgive.

There are people he’s willing to save.

There are people he’s willing to befriend.

There are people he’s willing to change.

There are people he’s willing to be with forever in the New Jerusalem, the great city that he’s created for us (Rev. 21:1-4).

So I urge you: If you don’t know Jesus, give him your sin, receive his salvation, and get connected to Jesus and his mission—become a member of a campus to formally participate in Jesus’

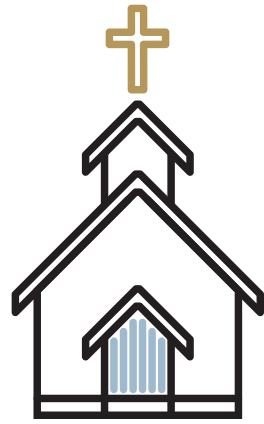
mission, and prayerfully consider how you can informally participate. Own your neighborhood and think about how you and your family could bring the love of Jesus:

- Nominate yourself to love and serve the people there on behalf of the God who loves so well.
- Pray for your city. Pray for the cities around your city. Pray for the places that we have yet to reach. Pray for strengthening in the areas where we presently do have campuses.
- Pray about where God would have you live and what God would have you do as part of Jesus’ mission.

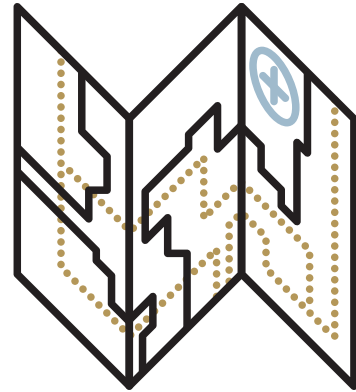
Friends, this is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Think of the places we are in, think of the time we are in, think of the opportunities we have, think of the resources we have, and think of the ground we’ve already covered. Wouldn’t you love to see the gospel flourish in your city? That’s what we want, because Jesus Christ is alive.

WE
DO

3. WE DO



SERVICES

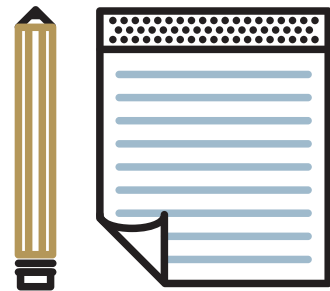


LEADERSHIP

FOUR MISSION PRIORITIES
of
MARS HILL CHURCH



COMMUNITY



TRAINING

By Pastor Jamie Munson

God has been extremely gracious and generous to Mars Hill Church. We have a lot of people with a lot of talent. We have a healthy budget and multiple campuses. We have content that reaches people around the world. And we could waste all of these resources for lack of godly wisdom and focused priorities.

Jesus said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required” (Luke 12:48). In order to be good stewards of Mars Hill Church, your pastors have identified four essential mission priority areas that will inform our decisions moving forward regarding where we spend money, where we send people, and where we invest our time and energy. These guidelines will help us pursue our calling (what Jesus has asked us to do) instead of our potential (chasing every opportunity that comes our way to the detriment of what we should be doing well).

We want Mars Hill to be a great local church. Our mission is to make disciples and plant churches. We cannot do this as some sort of media organization or parachurch ministry. We are a church, first and foremost. So our priorities begin with the things necessary for a healthy, thriving church body. Pastor Mark and seminary professor Dr. Gerry Breshears worked from Acts 2 to come up with a definition of what this looks like (from *Vintage Church*, 38–39):

The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to Scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God’s glory and their joy. . . .

A true church is one characterized by:

1. *Regenerated church membership*
2. *Qualified leadership*
3. *Preaching and worship*
4. *Rightly administered sacraments*
5. *Spirit unity*
6. *Holiness*
7. *The Great Commandment to love*
8. *The Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples.*

Based on the characteristics of a healthy church, and based on our calling—to make disciples and plant churches—the four mission priorities of Mars Hill Church are: **services, leadership, community, and training**. These are broad categories, further defined in the following pages. While they don’t include everything we do, they are the areas where we will focus our attention, measure progress, and pursue excellence in order to ensure that we fulfill our primary purpose before pouring into other projects.

Like a car’s dashboard or a medical patient’s vital signs, our four mission priorities provide a basic framework for our church health. The work of the Holy Spirit is by definition mysterious and unpredictable, but we track what we can in our best effort to follow him well and lead where he’s moving. In this, clear priorities enable us as your pastors to stay on mission, correct our course when necessary, avoid costly distractions, and give an account to you our church and to the God we serve for the many gifts he has given us.

We’ve been given much, and we want to use it well.

Jamie Munson is executive pastor of Mars Hill Church.



SERVICES

A successful Mars Hill Church service includes the following elements:

Gatherings

Regular, organized gatherings generally take place on Sundays but could conceivably happen on any day of the week, depending on need and campus demographics.

Preaching

Jesus-focused, gospel-centered, passionate, compelling, practical messages from the Bible Services feature delivered by a qualified, competent, and approved elder of Mars Hill or an invited elder from another church.

Hospitality

We want to cultivate a welcoming, friendly, and hospitable environment with easy access to information and attendants that make it easy to connect. This also includes comprehensive security and safety measures and adequate parking.

Worship

Our worship bands are to demonstrate musical skill, play singable songs, and cultivate congregational worship, leading a service that flows in the Holy Spirit.

Production

Sound, light, video, and other aesthetic and experiential elements should enhance but not distract from the preaching of and response to God's Word.

Children's Ministry

Our ministry to the next generation must excel in safety and security, biblical curriculum, connecting new families to the church, singing, activities, and evangelizing the children—all in a fun, enjoyable environment.

Giving

A great local church is a church where Christians give sacrificially out of gratitude for God's generosity and to participate in his work. The number of givers, total given, average given per adult, and average giving per household are all key indicators of the heart, health, and future of Mars Hill.

Sacraments

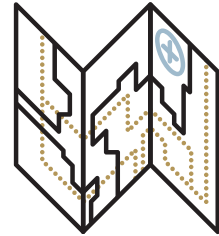
Communion and baptism are important responses to God's Word. Communion takes place at every Mars Hill service, and baptisms on a regular basis. Baptism is a one-time act—an outward witness of an inward faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Communion is a regular act for all who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. By eating the bread and drinking the wine (or juice, according to conscience) we remember that Jesus died in our place for our sins as our Savior God.

Prayer

We talk to God before, during, and after services. Jesus is our Senior Pastor.

Distribution

Mars Hill sermons are distributed across all our campuses and online via podcasts, transcripts, and blog posts. We distribute the content from our services as widely as possible in order to share the gospel with as many people as possible.



LEADERSHIP

Strong church leadership is necessary for shepherding thousands of people. Our goal is not to simply account for people, but care for them by discipling them toward Jesus.

Elders

The biblical office of elder or pastor is reserved for the men of the church who qualify based on the criteria found in 1 Timothy 3:1–7. Elders are the teachers, counselors, and senior leaders of Mars Hill Church. Each campus has an elder team that leads the local mission and vision. Please pray for more elders. Ideally, there should be about one elder for every two hundred people.

Deacons

The biblical office of deacon is open to men and women of the church who qualify based on the criteria found in 1 Timothy 3:8–13. Deacons are administrators, Community Group leaders, and the support leaders of Mars Hill Church.

Unpaid Staff

In order to make the most of church resources, rely on the body of Christ, and provide opportunities for people to worship God through service, we use volunteers as much as possible. Our goal is that at least half of our official church leadership team (elders and deacons) will always be volunteers.

Members

A church is a body of members. At Mars Hill, members are the predominant church leadership group, and church membership is the primary way for people to get and stay connected to the rest of the body. The Doctrine Class for membership is offered at every campus on a regular basis, and is led by an elder or team of elders. Roughly 40 to 60 percent of the church should be members: Christians participating on mission with their time, treasure, and talent. More info at marshillchurch.org/membership.

Baptisms

Public baptisms are a beautiful opportunity to communicate God’s grace. The number of baptisms serves to indicate whether or not the people of the church are being led on mission. If evangelism is taking place, baptisms will follow.

Church Planters

We want to constantly be training and sending out planters to start new churches and campuses around the world. This should take place at all

of our campuses, but bigger, more established campuses will send out planters more often than newer, smaller ones.

Global / Regional / Local

Responsibilities are divided between elders, staff, and volunteers on the church-wide (global),

regional, and local levels. These three tiers must work in partnership for the good of all Mars Hill Church.

For further reading on elders, deacons, members, etc., check out Church Leadership, part of Pastor Mark’s “A Book You’ll Actually Read” series, and Vintage Church.

2010 Leadership Indicators

CAMPUS	MEMBERSHIP	PAID ELDERS	UNPAID ELDERS*	ELDER ATTENDEES	2010 BAPTISMS	BAPTISM PERCENTAGE**
Ballard	52%	11	1	1:260	231	7%
Shoreline	57%	2	6	1:117	60	7%
West Seattle	65%	1	3	1:171	45	6%
Bellevue	49%	2	1	1:472	99	8%
Olympia	40%	1	1	1:200	34	10%
Downtown	53%	1	2	1:300	96	12%
Albuquerque	41%	4	0	1:153	99	19%
Federal Way	41%	1	0	1:521	31	7%
U-District	23%	1	1	1:354	79	17%
Portland	-	1	-	-	-	-
MHC Total	48%	25	15	1:232	774	9%

*Some staff elders also serve as volunteers at their local campus.

**Based on number of baptisms and average weekly total attendance.

Recent Mars Hill Plants

CHURCH OR CAMPUS	CITY	SENDING CAMPUS	YEAR PLANTED
Anchor Church	Seattle, WA	Lake City	2009
Mars Hill Federal Way	Federal Way, WA	West Seattle	2009
The Painted Door	Chicago, IL	Shoreline	2009
Mars Hill U-District	Seattle, WA	Ballard	2010
Downtown Cornerstone	Seattle, WA	West Seattle	2010
TBD	Chicago, IL	Downtown Seattle	2011



COMMUNITY

What makes Mars Hill more than an event or an organization is the community that takes place on the ground. This is where church happens at the day-to-day level.

Connection

It's important that we identify visitors, provide helpful follow-up, and, for those interested in Mars Hill, get them connected. At a large church with lots of visitors on a regular basis, this can be a perpetual challenge, and one of the benefits of the multi-campus model: more campuses create more points to connect with new people.

Community Groups

Community Groups are small gatherings in homes, dorms, apartments, coffeeshops, and elsewhere for building friendships, learning the Bible, praying for each other, evangelizing, serving, doing mercy ministry, and so on. The healthy range for Community Group participation is between 60 and 80 percent of a campus's average weekly adult attendance. Lower participation indicates weaker groups. Greater participation indicates a lack of new people, non-Christians, and visitors, and possibly an overly inward focus at the campus.

Redemption Groups

Redemption Groups are an integral part of the counseling ministry at Mars Hill. They serve as a temporary destination on the road of regular community. In order to maintain a healthy balance, Redemption Groups should not equal more than 25 percent of a campus's total Community Groups (meaning, if a campus has 100 Community Groups, it would have no more than six Redemption Groups meeting each quarter).

Serving Groups

Bands and other particular serving groups at Mars Hill Church require a significant time commitment, which may not allow members to both serve and participate in a standard Community Group. In these instances it makes sense for people to cultivate community within their area of service rather than prescribing a specific method that may not fit the circumstance. The big idea is community—prayer, repentance, relationship, mission, fellowship, service—not an ironclad model of ministry.

Student Ministry

With 1,500 children coming to Mars Hill every week, and more and more families joining the church, a strong student ministry is critical. We want to serve and equip the youth of Mars Hill better in 2011 as we seek help to mature in this area.

Biblical Counseling

While we hope to instruct, train, and teach our members and leaders in such a way that effective biblical counseling can take place in regular community, biblical counseling must be available and accessible for those suffering under acute circumstances.

Weddings & Babies

We want to keep track of weddings and babies at Mars Hill not only because it's fun to celebrate these momentous blessings, but also because noting trends will help us lead more effectively. Hundreds of couples get married and hundreds of babies are born every year within Mars Hill.

“Community Groups at Mars Hill are designed to provide a way of connecting in small groups with your fellow believers and those exploring the faith. Participants share meals, share their lives, share in the Word, and share their successes and struggles. They also participate in the mission that God has for Mars Hill Church, encouraging fellow believers and caring for neighbors and the community in practical ways.”

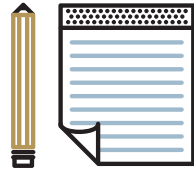
—Mark Dunford, Community Group leader

“A Redemption Group is an intense small group that digs deep into difficult and seldom-discussed areas of life, such as abuse, addiction, and trials of all sorts. Redemption Groups have gained grassroots momentum over the past year at Mars Hill. A Redemption Group is only the beginning—or a way station—in a lifelong journey. Groups are brief and get right to work, meeting for only about ten weeks. Participants leave groups armed with new ways of seeing God and themselves, and tools for working out life over time in community.”

—Pastor Mike Wilkerson, author of *Redemption* (redemptiongroups.com)

“At Mars Hill Church our children's ministry is about more than children. It is about helping families build a legacy of blessing in the gospel that will extend for generations. God desires entire families to know the joy of salvation: parents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and beyond. Therefore we seek to support and equip parents as they raise their kids in the knowledge and instruction of the Lord. And, of course, on Sundays we provide a fun, safe community environment in which children's lives are shaped by the gospel. We want them to go home each week excited to live for Jesus!”

—Steve Tompkins, Shoreline campus pastor



TRAINING

Through training we “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12) and use our influence to serve and build up the greater church.

Acts 29

Mars Hill Church is a vital member of the Acts 29 Network, which was co-founded by Pastor Mark. Through our church, we assess prospective church planters, organize church planting “boot camps,” coach church planters for healthy ministry, and fund the central office that oversees 400 churches in 13 countries.

The Resurgence

The Resurgence is a ministry of Mars Hill that serves as a multi-layered training ground for biblical leaders. TheResurgence.com is one of the most popular Christian websites in the world, Resurgence conferences feature premier leaders, and the Resurgence Training Center (Re:Train) attracts students from around the globe who come to serve and learn from Mars Hill Church.

Life Stage Training

Practical training for singles, couples, parents, men, and women is important to the well being of our church family. We want to develop these programs and make them readily available at all of our campuses.

Coaching

Specific coaching tracks exist to help develop leaders (Gospel Coaching), help people get out of debt (Financial Coaching Ministry), and train faithful disciples of Jesus.

Acts 29 plants churches

“Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples among people of all nations. Mars Hill Church is committed to making disciples of Jesus and uniting them together in campus plants and church plants to saturate every people and place with God’s glory and God’s gospel. The Acts 29 Network serves this goal by identifying and assessing leaders, coaching and equipping them to effectively lead, and unifying a network of Spirit-empowered brothers on mission together for global and local gospel transformation.”
—Pastor Scott Thomas, President of Acts 29 (acts29network.org)

The Resurgence trains leaders

“Resurgence is a ministry of Mars Hill Church that trains leaders for mission. Our goal is for people worldwide to be trained with and use the tools we provide. Our first priority, however, is to serve Mars Hill Church by developing and maintaining a leadership pipeline that serves members, parents, Community Group and Redemption Group leaders, volunteers, deacons, and elders.”
—Pastor Justin Holcomb, Director of The Resurgence (theResurgence.com)

Mars Hill Leadership Program

The MHLP is an inexpensive opportunity for members involved in leadership to receive training in biblical subjects like Old and New Testament, apologetics, and theological studies. The MHLP is built to equip the men and women actively involved and rising in leadership at Mars Hill Church.

Seminars, Lectures, and Retreats

Special events at Mars Hill Church serve as unique opportunities to receive focused training, often in conjunction with The Resurgence, Acts 29, or other ministries.

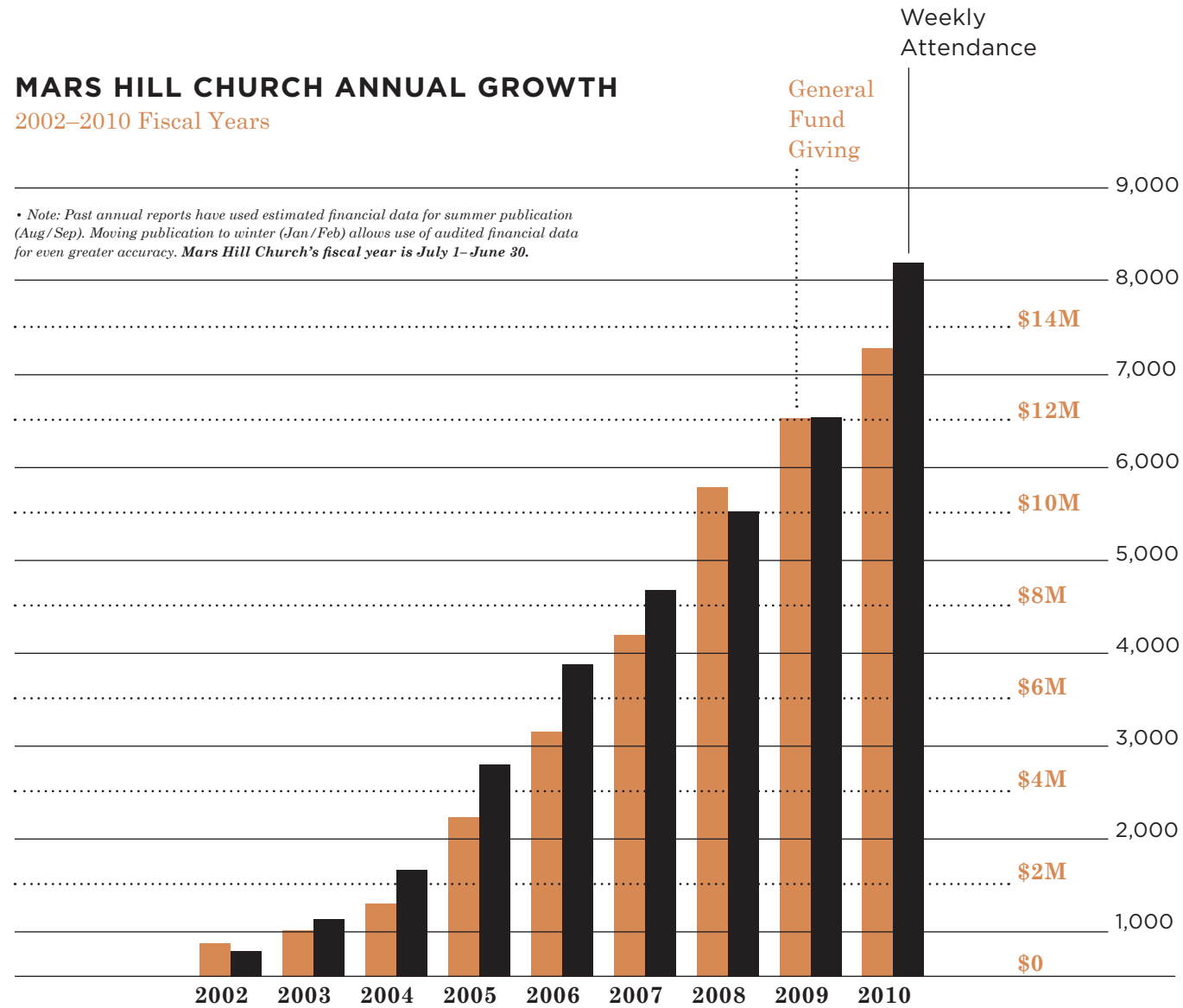
WE
REFLECT

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE | 2010 BY NUMBERS

774	→	baptisms
1,352	→	Sunday services
12,988	→	high attendance (Easter)
133	→	new Acts 29 churches
4,481	→	total Mars Hill members
434	→	total Mars Hill Community Groups

MARS HILL CHURCH ANNUAL GROWTH 2002–2010 Fiscal Years

• Note: Past annual reports have used estimated financial data for summer publication (Aug/Sep). Moving publication to winter (Jan/Feb) allows use of audited financial data for even greater accuracy. Mars Hill Church's fiscal year is July 1–June 30.

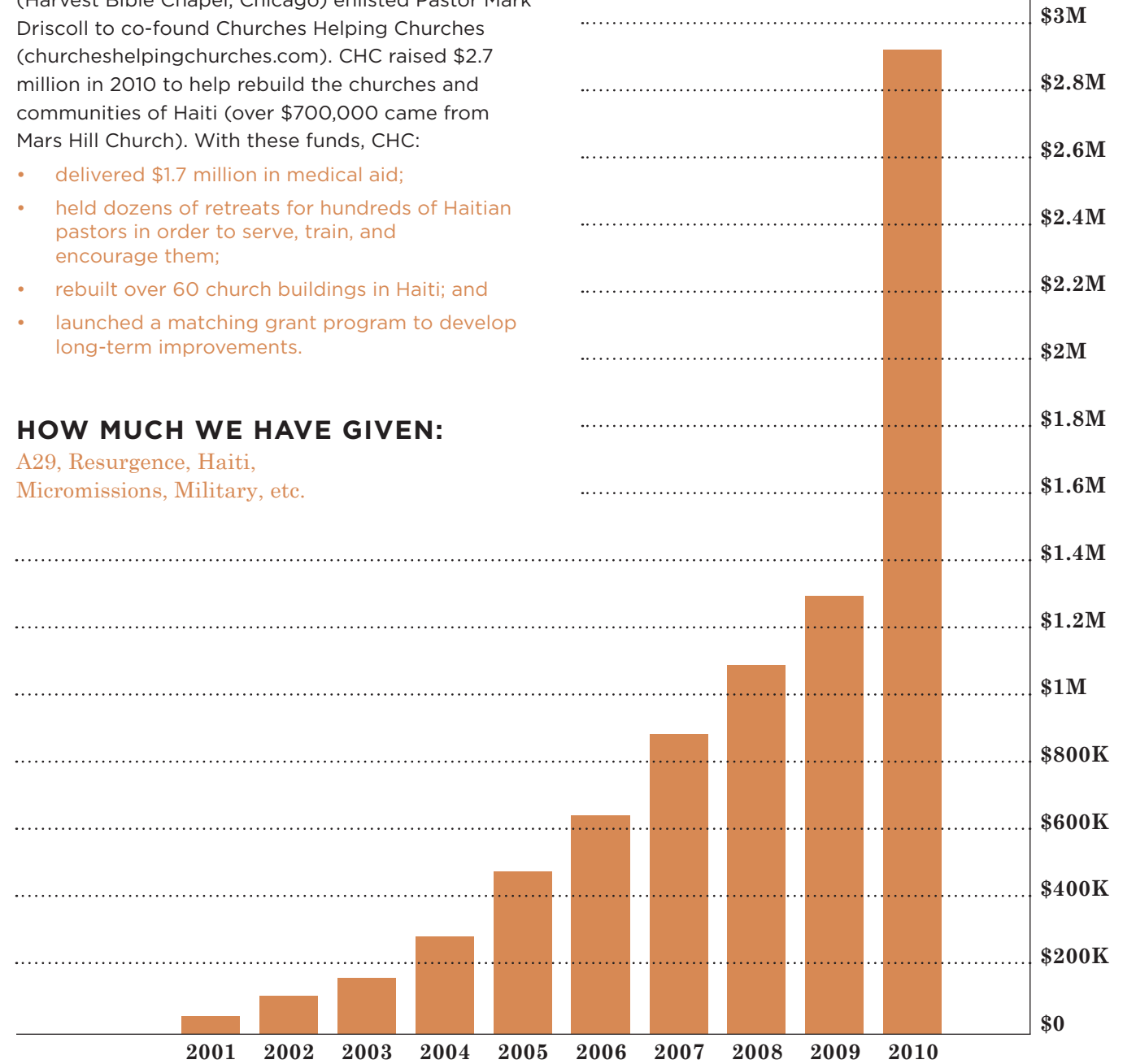


Following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, Pastor James MacDonald (Harvest Bible Chapel, Chicago) enlisted Pastor Mark Driscoll to co-found Churches Helping Churches (churcheshelpingchurches.com). CHC raised \$2.7 million in 2010 to help rebuild the churches and communities of Haiti (over \$700,000 came from Mars Hill Church). With these funds, CHC:

- delivered \$1.7 million in medical aid;
- held dozens of retreats for hundreds of Haitian pastors in order to serve, train, and encourage them;
- rebuilt over 60 church buildings in Haiti; and
- launched a matching grant program to develop long-term improvements.

HOW MUCH WE HAVE GIVEN:

A29, Resurgence, Haiti, Micromissions, Military, etc.



MID-YEAR REPORT

Here's a snapshot of where we're at, six months into Fiscal Year 2011 (July–December 2010)

Budget Need – \$7,125,000

Actual Giving– \$7,765,000

Surplus – \$640,000

Attendance High – 10,001 (11/7)

During the last two months of 2010, Mars Hill Church demonstrated notable growth in faithful giving: the number of givers increased by more than 10 percent, and the average monthly giving per adult increased by more than 40 percent! Thanks to God's provision through the faithfulness of his people, we began 2011 ahead of budget. This will allow us to get a good start on a number of important projects, including new campuses and improved worship and children's ministries.

“IF IT WASN'T FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ALREADY GIVING . . .”

The first time I ever came to Mars Hill, I was three years into an abusive relationship with a drug addict and living in a garage. I had no will to live. A friend invited me to attend with her and I accepted, but wasn't that excited. Having grown up in church, I thought I knew it all. Oh, how I was wrong! Long story short, God's plan for my life was already in action and I didn't even know it.

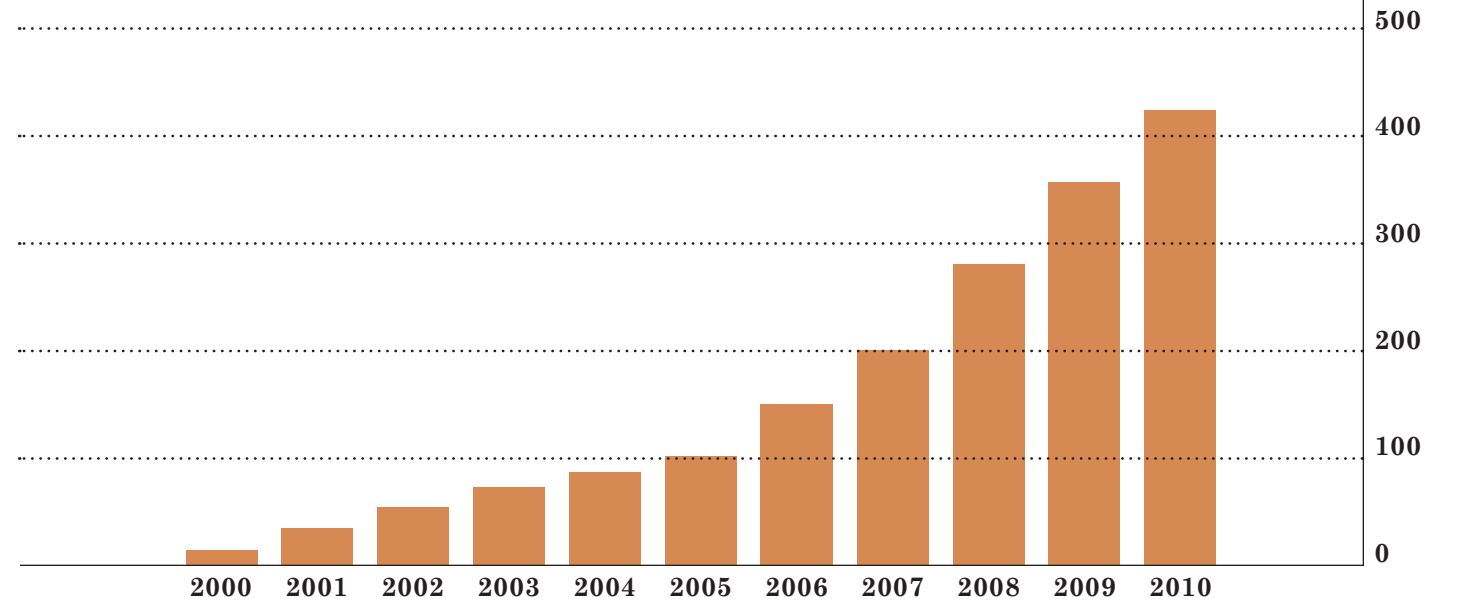
Over the course of the next few months, I moved out, joined a Community Group, started serving, and started giving twenty bucks here and there when I had it. But I never gave sacrificially. God was so patient with me as I sat by and gratefully accepted all my church had to offer, yet even as a member I selfishly was holding onto his money thinking, “Well, I serve and give...Pastor Mark must be talking to those ‘other people.’”

This year God opened my eyes. If it wasn't for the people who were already giving when I was in need, Mars Hill may not have had the resources to help me. If God can use what I can give to help someone else, who am I to say no. Everything didn't magically get better when I started to give regularly. In fact, for the first time in my life, I have been unemployed and looking for a place to live. But God is so good and has given me a good attitude. Even though the amount I'm able to give isn't what it used to be, I am so grateful and blessed to give what I can to a church that God has used to bless me in so many ways. My church is my family!

–Marie Chessman, Mars Hill member

GROUP GROWTH

Number of Active Community Groups at Mars Hill Church



“THE MOST INCREDIBLE EXAMPLE”

I attended an incredible wedding this year. I didn't know much about the bride's story, but I did know the man escorting her down the aisle was not her father; he was her Community Group leader. “Who gives this bride in marriage?” asked the pastor. With members of the Community Group looking on as groomsmen and bridesmaids, her Community Group leader responded, “Her church family.” I have been involved in Community Groups for over six years at the Ballard campus, but this was the most incredible example of living life together that I have seen.

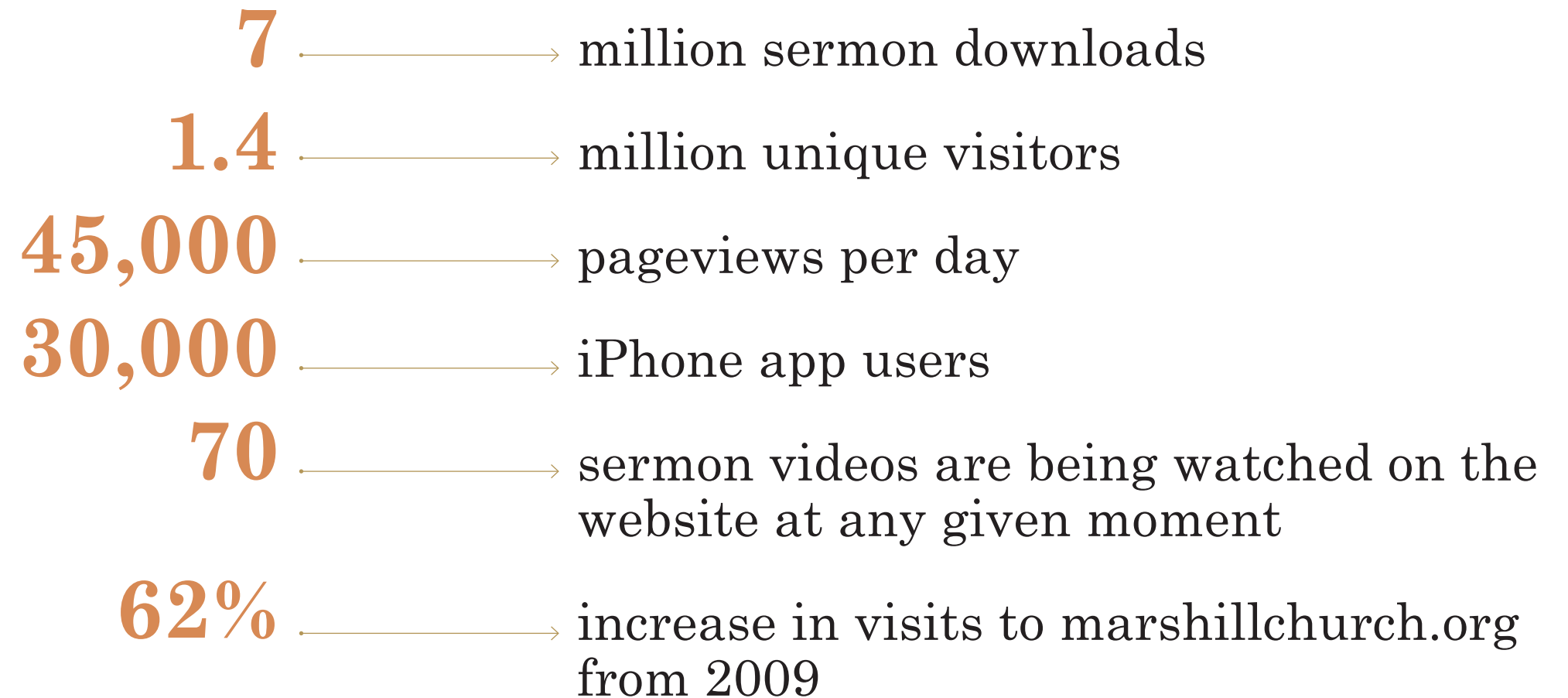
–Adam Christiansen, Mars Hill deacon

MARS HILL CHURCH WEBSITE | 2010 STATS

“100 MILES FROM THE NEAREST CHURCH”

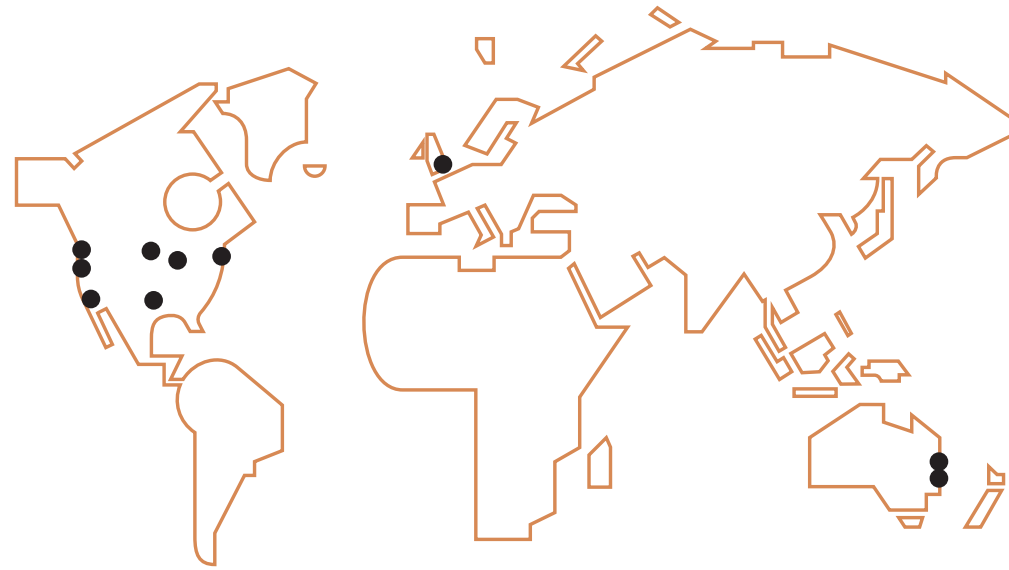
I am a teacher on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and I cannot even begin to describe the suffering I see all around me on a daily basis. However, as I sit in my classroom preparing lessons for my students late into the night, I listen to sermons from the Mars Hill Church website. I can't express how much God has used Mars Hill to bless and encourage me, as I fight the spiritual battle all around me. I am a minority, single, and 24 years old, living 100 miles from the nearest evangelical church. It can be easy to feel alone. The Mars Hill website has enabled me to overcome spiritual isolation.

—Brittany, South Dakota



Most Website Visits by City

1. Seattle (365,162)
2. London (90,127)
3. Sydney (79,626)
4. Los Angeles (47,646)
5. Portland (37,031)
6. New York (32,662)
7. Chicago (29,611)
8. Minneapolis (29,278)
9. Dallas (28,686)
10. Brisbane (26,686)



Most Website Visits by Country

1. United States (3,599,782)
2. United Kingdom (329,822)
3. Canada (305,685)
4. Australia (173,834)
5. South Africa (39,214)
6. Germany (37,394)
7. Brazil (27,035)
8. New Zealand (21,715)
9. Singapore (21,149)
10. Netherlands (20,471)



Most Popular Resurgence Articles in 2010

1. Why Christians Go Postal Over Facebook, Jay-Z, Yoga, *Avatar*, and Culture in General
By Mark Driscoll
2. Why *Fast Company* and Sam Harris Need to Do Their Homework
By Justin Holcomb
3. The Six-Second Kiss
By Jani Ortlund
4. How I Pastor My Family
By Justin Hyde
5. Eight Godly Precedents Set by John Piper Taking a Sabbatical
By Mark and Grace Driscoll
6. Missional Mothering
By Jani Ortlund

Read them all at theresurgence.com

“SO MANY SOLDIERS WANTING TO KNOW WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS”

Recently we have gained much exposure and rapport among young soldiers, new Christians, and a ton of curious non-Christians. All the books you sent are being put to good use. One of the chaplains is even using the Vintage Jesus DVD’s for a Wednesday night Bible study. *Death by Love* is going to a soldier that was contemplating suicide. *Porn-Again Christian* and *Pastor Dad* are getting handed around from soldier to soldier. I have three pre-Christian soldiers that are working through *Doctrine* with me one chapter at a time. It was actually their idea. The conversations we are having are incredible, so many soldiers wanting to know what we believe about Jesus and why.

—CPT Nathan, US Army, Afghanistan

“GREETINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD!”

I am writing to thank you all for the hard work and dedication you put forth for the sake of furthering the gospel. I am an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter working for the National Science foundation and the United States Antarctic Program. I am currently stationed down at a research base here in Antarctica.

Being that we are in the most remote place on earth down here, it is an extreme blessing to have such easy and free access to such solid, Scripture-saturated teachings. Thanks again for the work you all are doing for the expansion of the kingdom! Blessings and peace from a brother in the far south, and praise the Lord for his hand of blessing: Mars Hill on all seven continents!

—Joshua, Antarctica

Most Popular Mars Hill Blog Articles in 2010

1. How to Honor Your Wife
By Mark Driscoll
2. The World Is Filled with Boys Who Can Shave
By Mark Driscoll
3. 18 Lessons from 18 Years of Marriage
By Mark and Grace Driscoll
4. History of Halloween
By James Harleman
5. Pastor Mark’s Date Night Tips
Compiled from Twitter
6. This Is What Mars Hill Believes about Men and Women
By Phil Smidt

Read them all at blog.marshillchurch.org

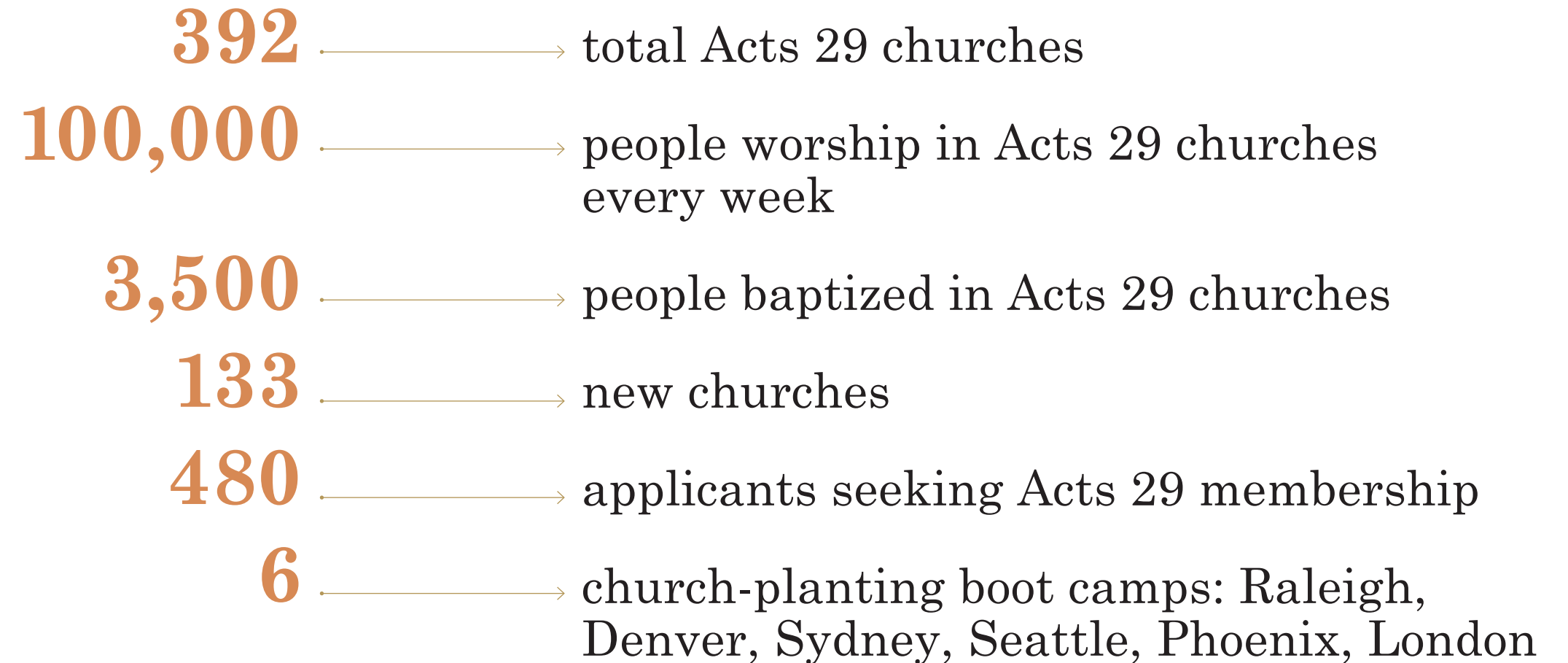
“THIS VISION OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION”

The Painted Door launched in April 2010 on the near west side of downtown Chicago. I previously served as an elder at the Shoreline campus, and our new church has benefitted greatly from Mars Hill’s far-reaching influence and credibility. Despite not knowing a single person in Chicago, I was able to gather more than 100 people at launch, and The Painted Door has since grown to more than 150. People are hearing the gospel, getting baptized, and learning to follow Jesus.

That early momentum has allowed The Painted Door to lease a 6,000 square-foot permanent facility on a busy section of Chicago Avenue and open it up for community events, including a local art auction and concert that raised thousands of dollars to combat human trafficking. A project is underway to add a full-time coffee shop and events venue that will also house The Painted Door’s Sunday worship gatherings.

Pastor Wesley Oaks, who previously served as an elder at Mars Hill Downtown Seattle, has recently joined The Painted Door with a vision toward planting another church in Chicago. Mars Hill’s financial support and spiritual oversight are enabling this vision of church multiplication, spreading the gospel throughout one of the nation’s greatest cities.

—Mark Bergin, *The Painted Door, Chicago (thepainteddoor.org)*

ACTS 29 NETWORK | 2010 STATS

Learn more at acts29network.org and facebook.com/Acts29

MARS HILL CHURCH OTHER FUND BREAKDOWN ¹

July 2009–June 2010

	ACTUAL	
Campus Fund Giving: \$1,458,000 (total)	Ballard	\$205,000
	Shoreline	128,000
	West Seattle	90,000
	Lake City	152,000
	Bellevue	598,000
	Downtown	95,000
	Olympia	18,000
	U-District	49,000
	Federal Way	33,000
	Albuquerque	77,000
Other	13,000	
Global Fund Giving	\$1,209,000	
Military Ministry Giving	\$28,000	
Churches Helping Churches (Haiti)	\$702,000	
U-District Legacy Project ²	\$68,000	

“MONEY WAS MY GOD”

Before I met Jesus at age 19, money was my god. I couldn't wait to get rich, so I racked up debt by spending money on myself. When I learned how to worship God with my money rather than worshipping my money as god, Jesus' grace changed my life God works through his people (the church) to reach others with the gospel. If we use our money wisely and give faithfully, more people will meet Jesus—and we will love him more.

—*Jamie Munson, executive pastor*

MARS HILL CHURCH ABBREVIATED INCOME STATEMENT

Fiscal Years July 2008 - June 2010

INCOME	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Unrestricted Giving ³	\$10,335,000	\$11,930,000	\$14,496,000
Restricted Giving ⁴	1,192,000	1,131,000	2,684,000
Miscellaneous Income ⁵	453,000	539,000 ⁶	1,003,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,980,000	\$13,600,000	\$18,183,000
EXPENSES			
General and Administrative	\$2,826,000	\$3,499,000	\$4,362,000
Church Operations, Facilities, and Programs	2,897,000	2,357,000	3,487,000
Staffing	5,185,000	5,615,000	6,759,000
Missions (Acts 29)	1,058,000	1,200,000	1,378,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,966,000	\$12,671,000	\$15,986,000
Excess Revenue Over Expenses ⁷	\$15,000	\$930,000	\$2,197,000

¹ - Includes some restricted and unrestricted donations.

² - Legacy Project fundraising took place during FY 2011 but is notable for inclusion in the annual report.

³ - Includes all General Fund giving plus other unrestricted giving.

⁴ - Primarily Campus Fund giving.

⁵ - Resurgence, rental income, sale of unused assets, bookstore, etc.

⁶ - Gain on sale of The City not included in this analysis.

⁷ - Excess revenue includes restricted (Global Fund and Campus Fund) and unrestricted giving, much of which is earmarked for planned expansion.

MARS HILL CHURCH ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET

Fiscal Years July 2008–June 2010

ASSETS	6/30/2008	6/30/2009	6/30/2010
Operating Cash	\$996,000	\$4,649,000	\$5,059,000
Land, Buildings & Improvements	23,813,000	24,273,000	24,772,000
Equipment & Furniture	5,857,000	6,256,000	6,872,000
Miscellaneous Assets	356,000	1,198,000	820,000
Depreciation	(3,412,000)	(4,941,000)	(6,413,000)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$27,610,000	\$31,435,000	\$31,110,000
LIABILITIES			
Other Current Liabilities	\$1,681,000	\$3,197,000	\$2,157,000
Long-Term Liabilities	16,219,000	14,064,000	12,592,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$17,900,000	\$17,261,000	\$14,749,000
NET ASSETS			
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$230,000	\$453,000	\$20,000
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	9,480,000	13,721,000	16,341,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$9,710,000	\$14,174,000	\$16,361,000

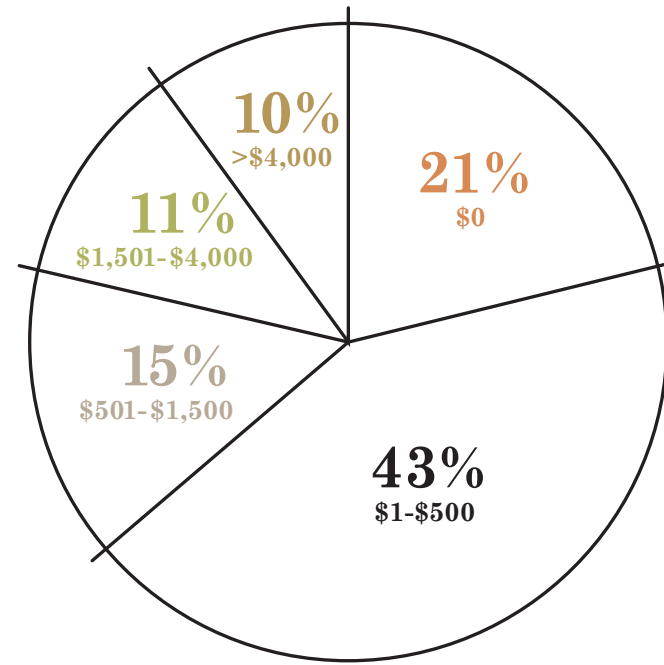
ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Mars Hill Church exercises extensive financial controls, including an annual audit from an external CPA firm. To date, all of our audits have received the highest possible rating according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- Each campus is expected to be self-sufficient in meeting its specific financial obligations, including its special projects and capital needs.
- Each campus participates in funding shared resources that benefit the entire church.
- Email giving@marshillchurch.org for additional information.
- **To learn more about what we believe about money, giving, stewardship, and financial accountability, pick up a free copy of Pastor Jamie's book, *Money: God or Gift*, at any Mars Hill campus.**

MARS HILL CHURCH ATTENDEES BY ANNUAL GIVING RANGE

Calendar Year 2010

The top 21 percent of givers made up 86 percent of all of the 2010 donations. Among those who contributed nothing, some were non-Christians or visitors. As long as Mars Hill continues to grow at the present rate, these ratios will likely remain static as new attendees join while present attendees mature spiritually. The goal is not that 100 percent of attendees would give over \$4,000, but that all Christians would learn to give regularly, generously, and sacrificially, each according to their means. Because giving is an act of worship and love for Jesus, we don't expect non-Christians to give. Therefore, since we want non-Christians to continue coming to Mars Hill Church, there should always be some \$0 givers. Christians who give \$0 may need to repent, but non-Christians who give \$0 should feel welcome as guests.



For help building a budget and overcoming debt contact the Financial Coaching Ministry: money@marshillchurch.org.

MARS HILL CHURCH CAMPUS BREAKDOWN

July 2009–June 2010

MHC	ANNUAL GIVING / ADULT	AVG MONTHLY GIVING / ADULT	DONOR HOUSEHOLDS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE (TOTAL)	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE (ADULT)
MHC	\$1,948	\$162	9,532	8,149	7,036
Ballard	1,691	141	4,147	3,201	2,966
Shoreline	2,726	227	761	747	559
West Seattle	2,738	228	890	732	601
Lake City	2,945	245	322	302	222
Bellevue	2,432	203	1201	1,211	972
Downtown	1,816	151	802	727	671
Olympia	1,416	118	266	250	197
U-District	348	29	306	223	223
Federal Way	1,540	128	446	345	284
Albuquerque	1,380	115	391	412	341

“PRAISE THE LORD THAT HE WORKED IN MY LIFE TO BRING ME TO FINALLY ACCEPT JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR ON AUGUST 29, 2010.”

My spiritual journey started in the summer of 2009. I am ethnically Turkish with a Muslim family background. I had been without a job for over six months and my marital relationship was on the rocks, and I ultimately went through a divorce a few months later. As I felt an emptiness in my life, my thirst for spirituality grew. I realized that I really did not have a relationship with God. I began praying intently, asking God how I could have a relationship with him and to show me the way.

It was soon afterwards, in July 2010, that I met Donald Johns at Starbucks. He had a Bible with him, and he said he worked for Mars Hill Church. I asked him about Mars Hill and from there we had a two-hour discussion about his church and the Christian faith. He asked to meet again and so my journey learning about the gospel and understanding Jesus began. Donald invested a lot of time and effort to guide me in my journey of spiritual discovery. We became friends and I felt I could trust him.

Donald usually had his Bible with him and he regularly read to me from the Word. I was somewhat of a skeptic and seemed to always find something to doubt or challenge. But then I began to realize that my skepticism was actually interfering with my spiritual growth rather than enhancing it. I needed to

understand the real message. It was time to find the truth and connect with the story in the Word of God and the good news.

By August, I felt strongly drawn to Jesus. I felt his love and the need to repent. Praise the Lord that he worked in my life to bring me to finally accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior on August 29, 2010. I felt a spiritual transformation and fulfillment. The emptiness was gone replaced with joy. God's amazing grace and love filled my heart. I found Jesus and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit realizing I was saved!

I have been blessed with wonderful fellowship and have expanded my knowledge of God through his Word. Donald and I now meet every Saturday to study the Bible. I go to a group meeting weekly and have attended church on a regular basis. Having been a believer now for just a few months, I find that my walk with the Lord is exciting, yet challenging at times. But I take comfort that I will not be forsaken and that Jesus will always be in my heart, and the Holy Spirit, who indwells me, will gift me with wisdom, and discernment, and prepare me for eternal fellowship with God. God works in amazing ways, and I am so blessed that he has been so patient with me and brought me into his kingdom.

–Teo Yatman, Mars Hill Bellevue

WE
ENVISION

DEAR MARS HILL CHURCH,

October 11, 2010, was my fortieth birthday, which coincided with the fourteenth birthday of Mars Hill Church. According to most cultures, including those in the Scriptures, I am officially no longer a young man but simply a man. And according to most statistics, my life is roughly half over.

By God’s grace, I’ve enjoyed more in half a life than I could have even asked for in an entire lifetime. At the age of 17 I met my high school sweetheart, Grace. At the age of 19 Jesus saved me and spoke to me shortly thereafter, commissioning me to (1) marry Grace, (2) preach the Bible, (3) train men, and (4) plant churches. At the age of 21 we were married, and at the age of 26 we officially launched Mars Hill Church.

God has been nothing but gracious and good to me. The evidences of his grace fill my life. Subsequently, I am a very blessed, happy, and content person, driven to steward all the grace he has poured out as best as I am able with the great people he has given me to serve with.

What you’ve read in this little book is meant to help us as a church to navigate the next season of our life and ministry and steward God’s grace to us. Unlike the Bible, our priorities are not inerrant and our plans will change as we learn, repent, grow, and mature by the power of the Holy Spirit. All of this is more of a general map—not specific steps—to help us prepare for what Jesus our

Senior Pastor may have for us in the next season. I wrote a letter like this some years ago, when we were hoping to become a church of 10,000 people. By God’s grace we have arrived there, and now we need to see what comes next.

Underlying everything in these pages is a deep love for Jesus, a deep love for the Scriptures, a deep love for our church, a deep love for all churches that love Jesus and the Scriptures, and a deep love for lost people. These deep loves are what motivate us to, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22–24, “become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.” Simply, we want to do all we can for the gospel, and so we run.

As we enter a new chapter of our church’s history, I do believe it is important that I address a relevant question that people can understandably feel awkward asking. It goes something like this, “What happens if Pastor Mark is hit by a bus some day soon? What is the succession plan for the end of his tenure at Mars Hill Church?”

This is a very fair and prudent question that I have spent much time considering. I have studied pastoral transitions, visited aging Christian movement leaders around the world who are handing off their ministries, and built entire case studies on some ways I have seen emergencies and successions go poorly and well.

First, I don’t plan on going anywhere. My family and I are very loved, content, blessed, supported,

and encouraged at Mars Hill Church. We have always felt a strong sense of calling to the church and are honored, humbled, and excited to be a part of our church. My plan is to give my whole life to one God, one church, and one woman. I do so gladly because I love what I do, love those I work with, love our people, and love what God is accomplishing. While the season of life I am in is sometimes accompanied with discontentment in men, I find the Holy Spirit is giving me the highest levels of gratitude, contentment, and vision that I have ever had for our church and its mission.

Second, I plan on living a long time. The genetics in my family on both sides are strong and I have many relatives who are mentally sharp well into their late eighties and early nineties. Furthermore, with the aid of a good doctor, great personal staff, and some wellness-related life changes in recent years, I hope, by God’s grace, to have many more fruitful years.

Third, if an emergency were to occur whereby I could not continue in my current role, the plan is simple. The Mars Hill campuses would remain a network of supportive churches with each existing as a separate church in the Acts 29 Network. All of our campus pastors are already members of Acts 29, and rather than preaching their current roughly 25 percent of the year, they would simply take their pulpit live the majority of the time and we would discontinue the use of video. Those campus pastors who humbly acknowledge that they are not called to preach the majority of the time would receive on their campus elder team one of the more seasoned and skilled preaching elders from Mars Hill to shoulder the preaching load. We most likely would not try to replace me with one central preacher

using video. The only exception would be in the unlikely event that one preacher was agreed upon by the Executive Elders, the Board of Directors, the campus pastors, and the entire council of elders as the man the Holy Spirit had chosen to continue my role as the primary preaching pastor with video campuses. This scenario is not impossible, but very unlikely for a variety of reasons. The campus pastors and other elders love our people and lead our mission. Should something unexpectedly happen to me, I would be very relieved to know they were continuing to lead as they presently are.

Fourth, if I live a long time, my transition will take place over a long period of time. In the coming years (which I pray are many decades away), when I am physically or mentally no longer able to preach as often as I do currently (roughly 75 percent of the Sundays a year), I will begin a transition from my current preaching load by backing off a bit each year so that over the course of five to ten years I am no longer preaching but other elders are carrying more and more of the load. This will allow me to help develop that preaching team and help them transition well by being set up for success.

With the long season in view and our present priorities in place, I prayerfully hope to labor by grace for God’s glory, others’ good, and our joy. We will see what he has for us in the next season as we prepare for a great harvest.

*It’s All About Jesus,
Pastor Mark Driscoll*

www.marshillchurch.org

