

connections

Working Together to Grow the Kingdom

LEADERSHIP NETWORK®

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Bringing the Word to the World

CREATING EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES

FEATURED CHURCH:

Mars Hill Church

LOCATIONS:

Seattle, Washington area (Ballard,

Shoreline, West Seattle) and

worldwide by Internet

ESTABLISHED: 1996

SERVICES: 7 weekly

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 4,750

Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington, makes a ministry out of teaching people how to minister. In fact, the church is named after a place where the apostle Paul ministered to a lost population.

The original Mars Hill, or "Areopagus" in Athens, Greece, is where the apostle Paul appealed to the philosophers. He spoke blunt truth with courtesy to the idol-worshipping masses. Paul met the people where they were and challenged their ideas with the truth of one God who created all things. As a result, many were intrigued and saved.

From this Biblical story comes the inspiration for Mars Hill Church. Its three founders, Mark Driscoll, Lief Moi and Mike Gunn, felt it was important to rise up in the center of a city to intrigue and save people.

Now in its 10th year in Seattle, the church is located in a lively and creative city center that bustles with young people. And since Seattle has only an estimated eight percent Bible-believing evangelical population, church leaders find strength and inspiration from Paul's story.

MAKING MISSIONARIES

Mars Hill wants to take the message of Christ to Seattle and the world by equipping church members to be missionaries in their individual walks of life.

"Everyone is a full-time missionary," says Executive Pastor Jamie Munson, so it is the church's job to provide the congregation with education and tools to do the job.

Mars Hill does this through a combination of strong pulpit teaching and community groups, bolstered by classes and seminars ranging from apologetics, marriage and ancient Greek to evangelism and parenting.



Churchgoers learn the importance of using their natural talents for Christ in daily life.

The church itself is a missionary in the sense that it has played a part in creating healthy churches all over the world through its church planting program, Acts29. Initiated by Mars Hill Lead Pastor Mark Driscoll and elders of the church, Acts29 has planted or brought new life to more than 100 churches in the United States and internationally.

SPREADING OUT AROUND SEATTLE

Mars Hill is starting “the process of going from one campus to multiple campuses,” says James Harleman, Mars Hill Elder and Administrative Pastor. The first test campus was launched in Shoreline, Wash., in January 2006. It’s located just 15 minutes north of the original Ballard campus and has sustained its 400-person attendance through the transition.

Mars Hill’s run at multi-siting has been successful in attracting new people from the area. Many attendees of the Shoreline campus are first-timers to Mars Hill altogether.

ALL CAMPUSES ARE THE SAME CHURCH STRETCHING ITS ARMS TO MULTIPLE LOCATIONS.

Jamie emphasizes the equality of each campus: “We try hard to avoid the misconception that Ballard is the main campus just because that’s where the pastor is preaching live.” He says all campuses are the same church stretching its arms to multiple locations.

West Seattle will be home to Mars Hill’s third campus, set to launch October 2006. It will be located 15 minutes “southwest of the heart of Seattle,” Jamie says. Sunday services will include one service with a video sermon and another with a live sermon, taught by Pastor Mark on location, furthering the notion of equal campuses in different locations.

WHAT LEADERSHIP NETWORK MEANS TO ME



As a member of Leadership Network’s Multi-Site Churches Leadership Community, I was able to attend the first Leadership Community Meeting

during the transitional time of Shoreline’s development. It was an excellent getaway to help clarify our direction and even establish the vocabulary and vision we would use to train others, enabling us to distribute and delegate leadership as we expanded.

—James Harleman, Administrative Pastor, Mars Hill Church

FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON FRESH AIR

Mars Hill makes exceptional use of Seattle’s gorgeous natural surroundings with Mars Hill Outdoors, a creative ministry that combines nature, fellowship and worship.

The Web site www.marshillchurch.org/outdoors offers weekly fellowship activity opportunities—like kayaking, hiking, scuba diving and camping—all in God’s outdoor splendor. It’s a great way to encourage a nature-friendly population to get to know the church. This kind of creativity, harnessed for Kingdom use, is turning hearts to God.



“Outdoors” participants find fellowship on the slopes.

BUILDING FOUNDATION

Mars Hill is an elder-led, reform-style church. It consists of 15 pastors or elders. Soon, they will add 10 additional pastors to fill specialized needs.

And although a popular trend at other churches is to teach on the abstract to draw crowds, Mars Hill stands firm in straight Biblical teachings. They believe this is the foundation for growth in the church and in the individual lives of churchgoers. A visitor can expect to hear part of a teaching series on a particular book of the Bible on any given Sunday, with an occasional topical message or series.

Past sermons are available in online archives. It’s the wealth of solid Biblical information found in this online trove that explains why there have been “literally millions of sermon downloads” since the recent launch of the Web site’s podcast option, Jamie says. “Thousands are downloading from places like Europe and Japan,” he adds.

With all of Mars Hill’s programs, the church could use some more room. There are plans to expand into northeast Seattle, and Mars Hill is letting God lead the expansion.

“We’re growing tremendously,” says James. “It’s all the favor and blessing of God.” **LN**