

Second Mile Church | Info Meeting

August 16, 2008

www.secondmilechurch.com

+About the Church Planter

- Luke Simmons and his wife, Molly, moved to Arizona in the summer of 2002 so that they could be involved with the ministry of East Valley Bible Church and be equipped for pastoral ministry and church planting work. Luke joined the pastoral staff of EVBC in 2004 as the Gilbert Area Pastor. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and is currently pursuing a master's degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. Luke and Molly have a daughter who is almost two years old and are expecting a baby girl in October.

+We are targeting the Queen Creek/Williams Gateway area. Why?

- Second Mile Church will be a doctrinally and philosophically distinct church in this community (reformed, missional, gospel-centered, Bible-sufficient).
- With the recent completion of the Santan Freeway (AZ-HWY 202), the Queen Creek/Williams Gateway area is one of the most exciting growth areas of the Phoenix metro area. In addition to this new highway, this area also has significant railroad access and the growing Phx-Mesa Gateway Airport, making it a prime area for growth in terms of residents, industry, and commercial business. Also, the growing Arizona State University Polytechnic campus and Chandler-Gilbert Community College Williams campus make this a stimulating community for technological and academic growth. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) projects that by 2015 there will be over 21,000 students at these campuses and that by year 2030 the Gateway area will “have 165,000 residents, nearly 68,000 students at institutions of higher education, and jobs for 94,000 people.”¹

+What commitment to Second Mile looks like

Launch team = the group of people who are actively working to make Second Mile Church get started on the mission. Commitment to the launch team will typically involve these things:

- **Come** to a missional community and other gatherings.
- **Go** to your network of relationships with friendship and hospitality (cultivate an incubator with at least 2 non-Christians that you are constantly investing in).
- **Bring** your friends to prayer meetings, worship services, or social events with your community.
- **Give** your financial resources to support this mission.
- **Serve** in at least one “official” capacity that helps make Sunday gatherings happen.

NEXT STEPS: *Fill out the Communication Card before you leave tonight.* Feel free to contact Luke (602-751-1449, luke@secondmilechurch.com)

¹ From the Urban Land Institute's “Williams Gateway Area” report. Available at www.uli.org

+Some Real Challenges for Those Leaving Existing Churches:

- “We used to be told that the number one indicator of a new church’s success is how many people they have when they start. Now we say, the number one problem you’ll have will be based on bringing too many people with you. Why? Because a good majority of the Christian world...has good hearts, but they hate change, they’ve gotten used to being provided for, and many will take too much of your time and energy to keep on mission with you.”

(Hugh Halter and Matt Smay, *The Tangible Kingdom*, p. 27)

- “In our experience with core groups, we have seen many solidify to the ultimate detriment of the church. We’ve heard comments from core group members such as ‘Pastor, why do we need to invite all these other people? We have such a great thing going. Why ruin it?’ And, ‘Pastor, how are you going to meet my needs if so many others start coming?’ Obviously you don’t want to develop a group that is going to be focused on their own growth rather than on sharing God’s love with the community through your new church.”

(Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas, *Launch*, pp. 143-144)

- “82 percent of the unchurched are at least ‘somewhat likely’ to attend church if they are invited...*More than eight out of ten of the unchurched said they would come to church if they were invited...*The next obvious question is: Are Christians inviting non-Christians to church? The heartbreaking answer is no. Only 21 percent of active churchgoers invite *anyone* to church in the course of a year. But only 2 percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church.”

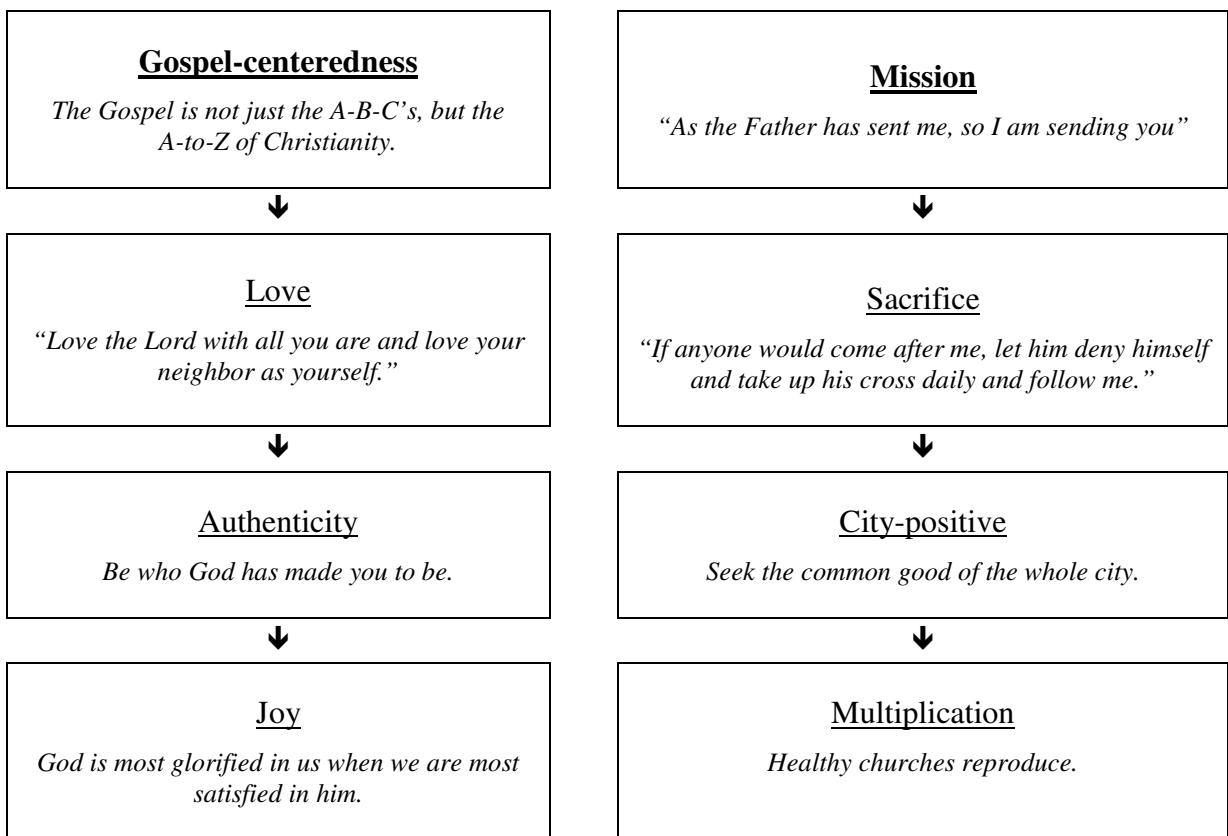
(Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door*, pp. 24-25)

+Leadership Structure

- In the future, Second Mile Church will be governed and led by a team of qualified elders/pastors (these terms are used interchangeably in the Bible). Until these men are identified, tested, trained, and installed, Second Mile Church’s sole pastor will be Luke Simmons. He will be accountable to an initial oversight group made up of men from East Valley Bible Church and Second Mile Church.
- In addition to providing financial oversight and budget approval, this group will hold Luke accountable in his personal life and to achieve the goals and mission of Second Mile Church.
- The initial oversight group will not be expected to provide hands-on ministry oversight or shepherding to the Second Mile Church congregation.
- The initial oversight group will come to an end upon the installation of additional elders.
- Second Mile Church will also be part of the Acts29 Network, which is a network of churches from around the nation and world that assists called and qualified church-planters through assessment, coaching, training, and friendship by connecting them with like minded leaders.

+Mission, Vision, & Values

- **Mission Statement:**
“To be a church that embodies Jesus’ message and mission in every sphere that God sends us.”
- **Vision Statement:**
“To saturate the Queen Creek/Williams Gateway community with Gospel-centered churches who work to love and transform the community.”
- **Core Values:**
The following values are key elements in living out the above vision and mission. They flow out of two primary values: 1) Gospel-centeredness and 2) Mission.



+A Church Of Missional Communities

- A missional community is a committed group of people who are living out the mission of God together by demonstrating the gospel in tangible ways and proclaiming the gospel to others (believers and unbelievers). Simply, this is an ordinary group of people doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality.
- Missional communities are the central activity of Second Mile Church. While Sunday gatherings are important, missional communities are the heartbeat of the church and will be the vehicle for most of the church's ministry.
- Thus, we will be doing the activity of church—building community, serving others, reaching out in friendship to non-Christians, learning and doing the Bible, and praying—even *before* we start meeting for weekly Sunday gatherings.

+What about children and students?

- Demographic studies show that more than 25% of our target community are ages 5-19, which means that we must consider the needs of children, students, and parents.
- During Sunday gatherings, we will provide a safe, fun and educational experience for children birth through 5th grade.
- During the week, children and students will have the opportunity to be integrated into the life and rhythms of missional communities.
- Students (Jr. High, High School, and College) will be encouraged to participate in the regular flow of church life, but will also have some informal times for ministry together.