



E A S T S I D E  
M O S A I C

a catalyst for transforming lives

## CALL

I have been part of Braelinn Church from the very first core group meeting before the church began. Since then I have worn many different hats in leadership there. I noticed that my passion and perspective consistently gravitated to the total church health picture, instead of the one area of ministry for which I was responsible. I had growing affirmation of the development of the leading and teaching gifts. Through journaling and times of self-assessment, I challenged the process of reaching people and growing them into disciples. I found myself dissatisfied with our efforts to not only reach people far from God, but I ached for a deeper sense of community among believers. Braelinn Church has been very successful in many ways but I found myself more and more having the thought of what I would do differently. Not in response to any errors in the present system, it just seemed that God was putting a vision in my heart and a growing desire to lead.



I suppressed that for a while thinking it was all about me. Through the counsel and teaching of others, my own personal soul searching and crying out to God about my unsatisfied soul, I began to sense "permission" to think about beginning a new and different work. As I carefully cast that vision to others, including my senior pastor, it was affirmed over and over. As I allowed my self to dream and say it out loud I sensed God's pleasure and power in my life.

The vision has many facets but one of the most solid aspects of the vision is that I am to penetrate the world and culture of people that are far from God. At times I find myself almost more comfortable around lost people than long time believers. (However, I do have a strong sense of my need for community with other believers.)

At a first cursory glance, we asked, "Where are concentrations of those kinds of people?" The **Pacific NW, Marin County near San Francisco, and Intown Atlanta** were immediately a short list of places to pray about. We proceeded to initiate contact and see what doors opened for us while we continued to seek God's direction. Almost immediately, we connected with Bevan McWhirter of the NW Baptist Convention and Gary Irby of the Puget Sound Baptist Association and arranged for a visit to the Seattle/Tacoma area. We felt ourselves drawn to the culture of the Northwest and seemed to easily relate to people we met on our visit. As we explored, we became aware of the tremendous potential of the people, culture and market places all around. Ideas, innovations and values from the Puget Sound area are shaping the world culture right now. We began to ask ourselves, "What if?" The vision we have is for a new community of faith that impacts a much larger culture. If some of the forces and voices of Seattle were related to the living God, the potential for influence would be staggering.

We do not want to plant a community church that will reach a 10-minute drive in all direction; instead, we desire to be a catalyst for a movement that will continue to perpetuate itself and be like a wave that continues to sweep over the lands and the peoples of the world. Seattle, more specifically, the Eastside looks like a launch point waiting to happen. At this point I begin to close my eyes and actually see more communities of faith springing up and sending more and more people out into the movement.



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~~Barry Odom

## TEAM

### *The Odom's*

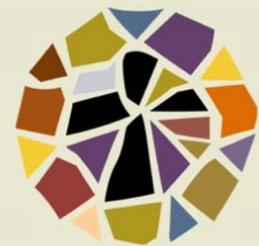
Barry was born April 1, 1960 in Atlanta, Georgia and has lived most of his life in the metro Atlanta area. He chose to follow Christ in 1972 at a Billy Graham Crusade and sensed a call to ministry at age 18. He is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.). Barry has served as a missionary in S.E. Asia with YWAM and was part of the founding core of Braelinn Baptist Church in 1987 where he joined the staff in 1989. Barry is passionate about leadership and creativity. He is the Lead Pastor of Eastside Mosaic.



Robin was born in Atlanta on May 13, 1962. She has a public relations degree (B.A.) from Georgia State University. Robin also has served with YWAM in Asia and has been employed as an office manager, marketing consultant and evangelism ministry associate. She has served on the Worship team and other leadership roles for most of the life of Braelinn Church. Robin and Barry were married on November 16, 1985. Robin loves to be with her family and friends. She loves people and has a heart to lead others to Christ and to see them find a place to belong.

Jeremiah was born on March 15, 1992 and Sarah, on January 12, 1995. Sarah enjoys singing and playing soccer, while Jeremiah is into extreme sports!

Barry and Robin have increasingly gravitated to people that were not connected to God and began to dream about how that fit into what God was doing and where He was doing it. Realizing their cross cultural gifts, they looked for places to join God in beginning a whole new thing. After exploring several opportunities, Seattle seemed to be a good fit. Their heart is to not just start a church but to start a movement.



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## TEAM

### *The Blackmon's*

Troy was born on July 23, 1968, in Galveston County, Texas. His mother led him to Christ at the age of 5. He graduated from Sam Houston State University with a B.S. degree in Electronic Engineering/Business. After he and Shanna married, they moved to Pennsylvania in '93 and Salt Lake City in '94 with a position as a sales executive. They moved to Atlanta in 1995 where they became members of Braelinn Baptist Church. He has served in various roles including small group leader and deacon. Troy worked as a business consultant with Chick-fil-A for five years. Troy and Shanna felt the Lord specifically call them to work with this new church plant in Seattle. He now steps into the role of Associate Pastor @ Eastside Mosaic.

Shanna was born May 17, 1971, in Hamlin, TX. She and Troy were high school sweethearts and at age 15, Troy led her to Christ. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Sam Houston State University in 1992. She is a highly gifted and talented dancer who has taught dance off and on for many years. She dreams of forming a Christian dance troupe that will impact the culture of Seattle.



Samuel was born on Dec. 20, 1997, Joel on Nov. 19, 1999, and Maggie, Oct. 12, 2001. They are enjoying having their mommy at home with them. Samuel and Joel love sword fighting and great adventures.

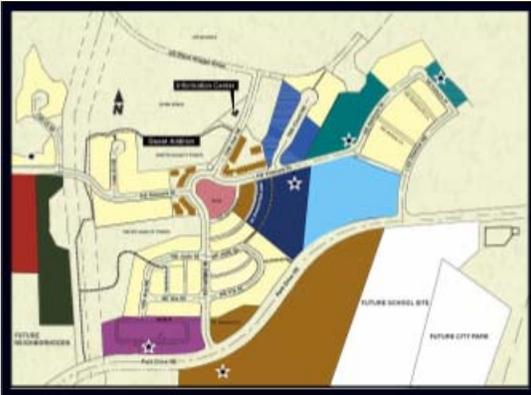
Troy and Shanna have been the most prolific multipliers of groups at Braelinn, ever! Troy has demonstrated a gift for developing other leaders and launching them out into ministry. Shanna has expressed her passion and training as a dancer and choreographer through worship and theater outreach. Both have been on a journey of discovering a new chapter that God is writing in their lives and are launching fulltime into vocational ministry.



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## PLACE

### Why Seattle?



**THE GREATER SEATTLE REGION** is perhaps the most under-churched metropolitan area in the United States. Approximately ninety percent of the population does not attend church. Less than four percent are affiliated with any evangelical church. Only one half of one percent are Southern Baptist.

**THE CITY OF ISSAQUAH** lies along Interstate 90, twenty minutes east of Seattle. Issaquah's strategic location has attracted many professional and high tech firms and large retail centers. Boeing has recently leased a

six-story office complex and is consolidating divisions of high-level technical personnel here. Microsoft is developing here a 152 acre campus, which will accommodate 15,000 employees, as well as Bill Gates' office.

**ISSAQUAH IS THE FASTEST GROWING** area in King County, according to local planners. New home development is progressing rapidly as a result of two new master-planned "urban villages," Issaquah Highlands and Talus. Demographics suggest that Issaquah and its surrounding communities will see 10,000 to 12,000 new households within the next ten years.



**FEW OF THE RESIDENTS** of Issaquah attend any church. There are only a handful of small and medium-sized evangelical churches in the area. Yet recent experience is suggesting that people here are ready to respond to God when His Gospel is presented through an authentic and culturally relevant church.



**SEATTLE IS SHAPING THE WORLD CULTURE** and will continue to in the future. Technology (Microsoft, biotech, and others), international commerce, environmental issues, outdoor recreation, music, world religions, and secularism are all strong forces that are based in this region. A Christian force that impacts these cultural keys will have influence on a global level. There could hardly be a better opportunity.



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## VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

Eastside Mosaic is a new community of faith; made up of many different, sometimes broken and fragmented pieces that together form a beautiful mosaic – a mosaic that is still being created as we pursue life transformation.

Imagine a community of faith that is made up of many different, sometimes broken and fragmented pieces. That is not difficult if we have been alive very long. But look further to a point where those pieces are arranged and connected in such a way that they form a beautiful expression of art, nothing less than a masterpiece. This “mosaic” is now something that did not exist before. It can only be seen, enjoyed and perceived as the pieces come together through the transforming work of the Master Artist.

“Eastside Mosaic exists to be a catalyst for transforming lives.”

This is our mission and the mission is about movement. Wherever people are, we desire to “move” them somewhere else; moving them to a place of committing their life to Christ and onto the journey of maturity. The idea is that no one stays the same. Transformation is always happening. Movement means being transformed from darkness to light and from simply being in the light to being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The new community of faith is shaped by these core values:

Love is the context for mission.

Structure must always submit to Spirit.

Relevance to the culture is not optional.

Creativity is the natural result of spirituality.

Community is the best setting for life transformation.

A balanced environment gives birth to new life.



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## PROCESSES

Concerning environment, the faith community should be a balanced “eco-system” where all of natural life processes for a church are functioning. These are the basic life elements of the faith community:

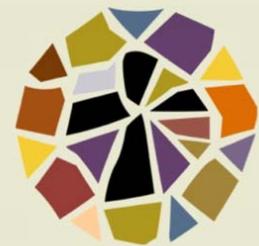
*Mission* – Mission is why the church exists. The mission as previously stated is ultimately about changed lives. Regardless of what edifice exists, programs are running, and crowds are gathering; if lives are not being changed, we have lost our mission and purpose. Mission is the very essence of the church. It is the only reason for us to exist – to be the vehicle for delivering the transforming power of the gospel to a lost and broken world. When believers come together without this, they are choosing to separate themselves from part of God’s nature and from part of their own design purpose. The element of wind is an appropriate metaphor for mission. The Great Commission is like a wind that gets the church moving. Without movement the air is dead and stale, not refreshing and empowering.

*Community* - We are made for community, as God is community in His nature. The primary connection factor for Christ followers in the new community of faith is that they actually be in community. Community is a place or a network of relationships where the individual knows others and is known, where she loves and is loved, where he celebrates and is celebrated and where they serve and are served. This seems to best be represented in our culture by the life of a small group. The vision of a new work is made up of various small groups of community where the Bible is held as our ultimate guide for belief and living; and where we continually hold it up to our own lives and each other’s; and through affirming, loving, teaching and challenging, the group grows together toward spiritual maturity.

*Worship* - Our true, spiritual worship is the offering of our lives to God for the transformation process. As the various smaller community groups gather for corporate, public worship, we celebrate and participate together in the offering up of our lives to God. In worship, we are acknowledging Him and we are saying to Him, "My life is yours. Shape me. Send me." The visual metaphor for worship is fire. The offering is consumed by the fire of God, transforming it and refining it to His purpose. The vision is that the community of faith will worship together with authenticity, passion and relevancy to the indigenous culture.

*Transformation* - The power to affect life change is found in and comes from the Word of God. The vision for a new community is for the truth about God and ourselves to be made known. Teaching is the activity of making the truth plain. Teaching is found throughout the new community; in the corporate gathering, in the small community groups, in equipping and mentoring relationships that produce other leaders. Scripture is the ultimate authority for what we are to believe, how we are to live and relate to each other.

*Serve* - Serving is the outward strategy for the church to affect life change inside the body and in the community at large. Another way to say this is “ministry.” It is what the new church does. The vision is releasing people to use their gifts to minister to others in building up the body. Ministry to outsiders is also the best way to show ourselves to be an extension of Christ and His ministry. Christ demonstrated a leadership model and an outreach strategy as He served others. A "no strings attached" ministry approach will authenticate and earn a hearing for the message of the new work.



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## SUMMATION

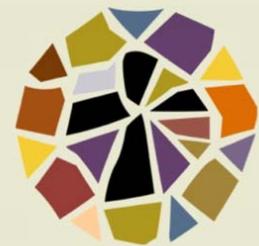
The mosaic, built around this mission, vision, core values and processes, has as its ultimate mission - transformed lives! Community is the atmosphere, teaching is the catalyst for transformation, worship is the response, and a serving ministry is our strategy. This balanced eco-system naturally gives birth to new life—individuals growing and reproducing in the lives of others, groups multiplying new groups and churches naturally giving birth to new communities of faith. New communities of faith are not just a responsibility or a growth strategy, it is the very essence of who we are, our ethos.

We would be different. Not for the sake of being different, but we would express ourselves to people that have maybe ruled church and God out of the picture because of past experiences or perceptions. The vision is that the church would primarily exist in the small group, community relationships, so that there is less dependency on a central "campus" where grace and growth are dispensed. We would commit to being relevant to the people of our community and to serve them without expectation of return.

And finally, at the very heart of this mosaic is a team of people clinging to God. I want to build a leadership team and be in community with them. We would look each other in the eye and being in one spirit and one heart about our mission, join hands, and charge up the hill together to expend our lives for the sake of the goal God has put before us. And most importantly, doing this would not feel like a sacrifice. Instead, it would feel like we were doing what we were created for. And others might sense our joy and fulfillment and be drawn to it.



Isaiah 43:18 & 19 "But forget all that – it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert!"



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## COST

There are several considerations in “counting the cost” of planting a church, particularly in the Northwest where so many people are skeptical of church. We have made four crucial assumptions necessary to reach our Ministry Focus Group in coming up with a start-up budget.

**Team approach** - As part of our planning for success we recognize the importance of using a ministry team to plant a church. Jesus never sent His disciples out alone but to work in teams. The team will consist of two full-time staff members in the early stages. The team concept, while more expensive, will enable us to reach more people and allow us to have a greater impact in a shorter period of time. This will be crucial to the short window of opportunity we will have with many of the skeptical seekers. It will also provide accountability, encouragement, friendship, and support, which will prove invaluable to a successful ministry.

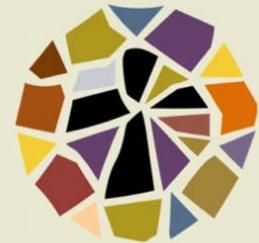
**Relevance** - Critical to the success of reaching our Ministry Focus Group is a relevant ministry. Planting a church in the “backyard” of one of the most technologically advanced areas in the United States and consequently one of the most affluent, will require that we be technologically and socio-economically relevant. The quality of our ministry must be characterized by excellence and be of value to the lost in order to compete with what they are already accustomed to and presently doing in place of church involvement. It is also important that our standard of living not be so different from our target group that we become unable to relate to them or vice-versa. It will be important to our relational effectiveness to live in the same community (not necessarily the same priced home) in order not to risk being thought of as an outsider or unable to relate to their financial issues.

**Children** - We recognize that no matter how positive an experience the parents will have their impressions (and subsequent return) will be determined by their children’s experience. We are committed to providing highly clean facilities and an engaging learning experience for the children as opposed to simply providing childcare. This will require that we “spare no expense” in creating and maintaining an excellent program for children. As Planter/Pastor Kevin Sullivan of the rapidly growing High Pointe Community Church states, “We can make mistakes with adults, but not when it comes to their children.”

**Felt Needs** - We understand that though our Ministry Focus Group is often misguided in regard to spiritual issues, they do have both real and felt needs common to all people. We are committed to bridging these needs with God’s love by offering different seminars and events (e.g., marriage enrichment, parenting classes) designed to meet their needs. If done effectively, we will have the immediate credibility important to our ultimately sharing God’s love with them. This will require our incurring out-of-pocket expenses that will not be entirely recouped with user fees. With Issaquah being a socially conscious group, we will also be able to connect with our focus group by engaging them with us in serving the community...providing us with the opportunity to tell them about the One who motivates us to do what we do.

<b>Personnel*</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>Space Rental</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
<b>Image &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>
<b>Outreach Events</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Core Development</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>
=====	
<b>2-Year Total</b>	<b>\$720,000 + Missions % from local offerings</b>

\*Planter/Pastor, Associate Pastor, Worship Leader, Children’s Minister, Administrator



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## PARTNERSHIPS

Eastside Mosaic is funded and otherwise supported through partnerships, giving the opportunity for churches, individuals, and other organizations to participate in starting a movement in the Pacific Northwest that will result in many new churches and transformed lives.

### Current Partners:

Braelinn Baptist Church – Lead church sponsor

NAMB – Flagship sponsor

L.A. Mosaic – Partner offering leadership development, cultural coaching, and core members

NWBC/PSBA (Embracing Seattle) – Local coaching, volunteers, and financial participants

Additional friends, family, marketplace relationships, churches, and agencies are considering participating in the partnership to plant Eastside Mosaic.



As the future unfolds, Eastside Mosaic will join this team and others in a continuing partnership to develop leaders and begin new communities of faith...planting churches, locally, nationally, and around the world.



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