

Doug Murren Official Biography - The Murren Group Team

Doug Murren long one of the innovative voices in the church continues to lend his optimistic outlook for the cause of Christ. Doug has been a Bible College President leading a start-up school and to everyone's surprise it grew to several hundred students. He he was a Bible Smuggler, arrested by the KGB of that day, shared Christ with a large group of Jewish "refusniks" keep contact with that community. And subsequently became an internationally known evangelist and church trainer, church planter, mega-church planter leading a church from ten people to an aggregate of 8000 people. His passion for people without Christ was demonstrated in that he saw 17,000 conversions and were usually baptizing 40 to 60 people every weekend..

He has written musicals that a many as 50,000 attended yearly. He has written several widely sung choruses and songs. He is the author of 18 books including three major sellers, one a finalist for the gold medallion award titled Churches That Heal. He has guided or led in the start of 139 churches, trained over 450,000 leaders in evangelism in Australia, Canada, South Africa, Belgium, France, Norway, Denmark, England, Russia, Poland, Haiti and several other nations. And he has pastored small medium and mega churches over forty plus years of ministry. And he has coached leaders in virtually every denomination and network in the US and Australia as a personal strategist.

He was awarded a honorary doctorate degree by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. And has been an adjunct professor in six major seminaries in the U.S., Canada and Australia. He is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University. And managed graduate work in theology and sociology.

Doug grew up in a small agricultural town in Washington State. Doug had his run in with the law. He joined into the mythical hippie years of the late 60's. He found his aggressive personality and curiosity were a problem. He met Christ at that time as a college student. "My first church experience drilled into my heart four life long passions. One, that the church was primarily about evangelism. Two, that as a believer you didn't just observe but everyone gets into the game. Three, the assignment of the church is to replicate churches and leaders. Four, that to know God is to be surrounded in a life of wonder and awe."

Eastside Foursquare Church was a forerunner in the use of media in worship and in outreach. As well as multiple campus sights. Doug is also by many considered one of the fathers of the seeker church movement. The church held ten services a weekend and asked people to miss services once a month for seven years. Doug was given a daily radio show for 18 years at rush hour. which was a favorite in Seattle. And he has for decades held a rigorous speaking schedule in virtually every denomination and network in the country.

Doug resigned from the church he founded Eastside Foursquare Church in 1997 to write and pursue more of a “macro assignment in the church at large.” He decided some distractions were needing attention and he was really not called to just lead a mega church for the rest of his life. And later admitted that he even had concerns about the conventional model and pastor-centric approach.

He designed strategies to start 300 churches in five years for one large denomination in just one state and many more. And personally guided as many 14 church starts at once. He trained leaders and bi-vocational pastors along with veteran pros in evangelism in five nations and 53 organization.

In 2006 he and Lori decided to slow it down and spent four years taking a church through turbulent times in central Idaho. Once things were righted they began praying for their next assignment. And through a series of events they landed in Orlando, Florida developing a series of church plants.

Doug found a great connection with the Free Methodist denomination in 2002 in which he was ordained. Doug remains an ordained elder in good standing with the Free Methodist Church.

It was in 2014 that Doug and Lori decided after two prophetic confirmations and an open door at their home church in Tampa to begin a ministry certification program called Praxis Ministry Certification. The school has sites or developing sites in Tampa, Orlando, Baltimore and beginning in Seattle, WA. And there are plans to put the entire certification into an online format in 2016 to 2017. Praxis is quickly becoming one of the elite pragmatic training sources in the country. The certification is not theological training nor for professional ministry ordination. It is a practical digital age format dealing with issues of communication nuances, marketing, systems approaches to church life, strategic planning and many more very practical areas.

Along with the Praxis program Doug leads the Murren Group Alliance which is a coaching and consulting firm. The firm boasts up to twenty-three very substantial coaches and consultants at a time. Doug is usually coaching at least a dozen churches at one time himself.

Doug has for thirty years been the “go to guy” for understanding the spiritual make-up of the Baby Boomer generation. Two of his books on this topic became huge sellers. He recently with another organization began a new Track in Praxis called Legacy. Boomers are likely to have 40 years of retirement. Doug says – “the church is not prepared for a generation living that long in retirement or moderate employment.” The program is for people 50 and older. And it’s intent is to guide marketplace stars and heroes to leaving a legacy for Christ.

Doug's focus has shift toward seeing 100's or 1,000s of 100 member bi-vocationally or unpaid pastor led churches. His conviction is the great Methodist leader Francis Asbury may just have possessed the holy grail for church expansion and we have missed it.

Doug has become an avid spokesman for the need to replace customer based church with Christ surrendered churches, replace cute and trendy with a return to awe and wonder in God. And finding more effective ways of gathering people for worship and service than our conventional formats that are not showing the fruit they once did.

Doug's major project in 2016 is the start of a network of three churches in Seattle, Orlando and Baltimore. All one team. All meeting only one Sunday a month for gathered worship with other iterations a month. And as in Seattle's strategic plan working with a "secular" group to rid Seattle of homeless schizophrenics helping them get back into normal society via a mobile clinic and a network of support.

One observer said, "It is amazing the number of key churches and leaders that Doug has guided into greatness but no one knows. It's his absolute passion to not be known most of the time for what he does."

Doug and Lori are members of G2G Church in Tampa, Florida pastored by Bishop Aubrey Shines. Doug works as a volunteer in marketing and outreach and in general service for Pastor Shines when he is home. Doug says, "I taught as a pastor that every believer needed a proving ground and point of connection to Christ's church that is real and tangible. So I practice what I preach. I choose to just be a regular guy in my home church when I am home."

Doug and Lori have four children all in the Seattle area. Matthew Murren, Raissa Schneider, Douglas Johnson and Alexandria Johnson. And they have five grandchildren. Lori misses Seattle. Doug doesn't so much. And Doug's best friend next to Lori is his ever present blue heeler named Hoover. You won't spend much time around Doug without a Hoover story.

If you would like to contact Doug Murren you may email him at murren.consultation@gmail.com. He is also found at several Facebook sites. The Murren Group - Praxis with Doug Murren - The Baby Boomerang - G2G Northwest - Baltimore Vista - G2G Orlando - Doug Murren.

Or feel free to call him on his cell. He says he always answers. 407-982-6985.