



Update on Envision

July 2015

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 12 No. 7

The Mission of Envision is to:

- build authentic community by:
- proclaiming the gospel
- and making disciples of Jesus Christ
- within the downtown culture of Bellingham
- as a church missionary effort working in conjunction with local churches.

(Goals/Values and Budget Report Available Upon Request)

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Ministry Needs

We believe it's important to let our supporters know that Envision has had some financial needs in two ways. First, we've been running at a \$4,000 loss average each month since January of 2015. Because we've had a good cushion of money, that hasn't been a major problem, but we cannot continue operating that way beyond 2016. So of course, we need to see where we can spend less, and yet we want folks to know that giving has also decreased in the last six months. **We know the LORD will provide**, but we thought it important to share so that if you are praying and the Spirit prompts you to give you have that opportunity.

The second issue we want to inform our supporters of is that our rent and benevolence have gone up. We'd like to describe some situations that some of our regular attenders find themselves in (and if you wish to give to one of these specific situations, you can do so as well):

- 1- Two of our longtime friends have been having difficulty with employment and so they've had difficulty paying their rent as well. They've put applications in for jobs almost daily with little success. Recently they were hired for a painting job together and that should be enough to cover rent, but they will have more expenses, such as phone, utilities, gas for the car, and work-related expenses. They both have food stamps and medical care, but \$200 for each of them would go a long ways in helping them move forward as they start work. Pray that when this job is completed, they will have other painting opportunities. **We praise God they've found work and that He provides** their daily needs and ours.
- 2- Another man is in his 50's, has been diagnosed with disabilities by doctors and deals with daily excruciating pain, though he never complains and is always thankful. He would very much like to work as a delivery man with his motorcycle, but needs a couple of things to make that happen: a good quality helmet, a wind-shield, a trunk for the back to carry things, foot and hand protection, and eventually a weather suit as the weather gets colder. **Donations towards helping him get this job**, which is his if he can get his license and the proper equipment, could run anywhere between \$200 and \$1500 towards the benevolence fund to help him.
- 3- Another married couple with their daughter that have been a long time part of our church plant have come into difficulties and are looking for proper housing. He is going to school and she is working, but \$200-\$400 towards rent would help them get started with quality housing either renting a place or a quality RV. **We praise God that 3rd CRC in Lynden has already responded to this** and two other needs listed here, but if people still want to give towards them the opportunity is open.
- 4- One of our long time regulars is requesting **a standard size bedspread with sheets**, a pillow and pillow case as her present bedding does not fit her bed properly and she has to wash it at the facility over and over, because it does not belong to her but to the care facility she is staying in.
- 5- Another person is getting housing out of a woman's shelter and will need help with her application fee of up to \$40. Since we are beyond our benevolence budget already for the year in what we've helped people with, we'll even make this small request known to our donors. She has also been a part of our church for some years now, as well as her older father and husband.
- 6- There are always ongoing requests as well, so any donation to the benevolence fund would be used to help **folks that are willing to move forward** and not be dependent but work with their hands wherever possible, or emergency situations that our regulars find themselves in.

Board:

Elders and their wives:

Mitchell and Rochelle Senti, Bernie and Mary Brower

Treasurer/Elder:

Dan Obbink

Deacon:

Linda Hammingh,

Bookkeeper: Karen Kooistra

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

We appreciate your generosity so much! (Mitchell doesn't see how much each of you gives, but he sees who gives.)

If you'd like to make a donation, please send checks to: Envision Mission, 710 E. Sunset, Bellingham, WA 98225

7- If anyone wants to give towards our Stephen Ministry, not only would it go to help support Heath Oberlander in his mercy ministry work, but we may also be able to give a stipend to another young man named Thomas Hannah so he has the **time to develop a men's group** and help keep our ministries alive and thriving.

Future Vision



(In the picture above Deborah Reese narrates the David and Goliath play at the Jesus Gathering.)

Our leadership is coming to the conclusion that the Jesus Gathering is not a sustainable model for a church plant to establish itself as a church in the near future, so we are praying for wisdom as to how best to move forward. As rent increases, so also do the needs of our people. And we've realized that a healthy church cannot have only one demographic, especially mostly folks in crisis and coming from homelessness and/or mental illness. **We need to foster a healthy, mature culture of Kingdom citizens** that can model how to move forward in Christ as a church body, although we've had many beautiful things happen there.

One of the more effective ways we've seen that happen is through the house churches. Thus we've wondered if we can build on that more. We find that discipleship happens in living rooms more effectively. **Could Envision plant a house church plant** or be part of doing that with other groups that have a similar vision, but a wider demographic? These are the kinds of questions we're asking and praying about and we'd like you as our supporters to join us in that. Envision will always look for ways to reach into downtown Bellingham culture as a mission church working in conjunction with local churches, but how do we best disciple folks in that setting? Keep us in prayer for wisdom on this and we'll keep all of you updated on where it's heading.

We're still praying about a men's group and a third house church, but we hold those things before the LORD with open hands. We're very excited that one of our older friends in the church plant, Ted Gray, who has an internet radio program called "Air Mail From God," has started a Bible Study at the Lighthouse Mission on Saturday mornings before he comes to house church with us. **Some of the folks from that study have started to come to the Jesus Gathering and the house church** meetings.

We continue to praise God for the opportunity to pray with folks and present Jesus on Street night. Open mic will be taking a break this summer until August 27. The Jesus Studies are going strong, as is the Ladies meeting and prayer meeting on Fridays. We're going to take a break from the college group for the summer. But the LORD is working in people's lives, growing them in Him. **We've had the opportunity to help another friend from a women's shelter into an apartment** who is a part of our church and we hope to help her best friend do the same very soon.

Keep **October 24** open on your calendars for an encouraging evening with the Senti's sharing some music at a church by the old Sehome Theatre called "My Church" at 6:30pm. More details to follow. Blessings!

Here is our weekly schedule:

Tuesday: Street night from 5:15-8:15pm at Woods on Bay and Prospect.

Wednesday: Jesus/Bible Study at Lincoln Square at 3pm and the Woods at 7pm.

Thursday: No Open mic until August 27, 2015.

Friday: Ladies meeting at Woods from 12:30-2:30pm. Prayer at Prayer Center from 3-5.

Saturday: House church at the Brower's at 8:30am and at the Senti's at 9:30am

Sunday: The Jesus Gathering meets at the Majestic from 4:30pm-6:30pm.