



Update on Envision

Dec. 2015

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 12 No. 12

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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Once Again God Has Been Abundantly Faithful and Gracious!

It's been a wonderful year in the LORD and we get to share the highlights from the year in this newsletter. To end things well we want to do a sock drive, so **if you want to donate socks bring them to one of our events**, especially the Jesus Gathering on Sundays. If you want to bring them to Hope in Christ you can drop them off anytime the office is open, usually 10-3pm Tuesday through Friday. Thank you all so much. Last year we so enjoyed giving out the donations we received to our homeless friends and sharing the Gospel/praying with folks as opportunities arose. Blankets would also be welcome, but mostly just good quality socks.

Our February newsletter stated that this would be a **year of change and a year of rest**. That has certainly been true in many ways. It began with Jim and Jan Crouse moving on from the Council and a change in our mission statement. The Senti's went to Disney World for vacation, as well as Colorado and open mic took a break for the summer.

Tommy Hannah agreed to lead our Men's Meeting on Thursdays, which was **just amazing in spiritual growth and discipleship**, something we've wanted to do as part of our vision for the year. Some have even joined our fellowship who were disconnected before through that ministry.

Heath Oberlander became our Stephen Minister to relieve the elders of a lot of the mercy ministry needs and what an excellent job he has done this year as well! **Many folks have been helped** with moving, groceries, rides and other mercy needs who could not have helped themselves.

We desired **to see folks from open mic connect to the Jesus Study and that happened** in more than one case. Folks rejoiced in years of sobriety among us, healings, victories in marriages, and in setting boundaries for the sake of obedience to Christ. One of the best things this year was to see **people growing in discipleship!**

After one gal came to know Christ and started baptism class so did six other folks, two of which have made profession of faith in Jesus at the Jesus Gathering, others are still in process. We pray for them to finish well and others to come to know Jesus and start that process as well.

So many donations were given: blankets, bed spreads, help with housing, work, and moving expenses. The responses from our donors this year to these needs was overwhelming! Cars were repaired, medical needs taken care of, and rental fees; all for folks who legitimately needed help to move forward. We tried our absolute best to steward those funds wisely and trust that God gave us the wisdom we asked for thanks to you. Your prayers have been the most powerful gift in this ministry that can sometimes take its toll on us at Envision.

One of our leaders has taken in a woman suffering from various illnesses and oppression to recuperate. We also praise God that **new workers joined us on street night** on many occasions from various churches in the County.

The Senti's were able to perform featured acts at open mic and a fundraiser that **raised over \$11,000** at My Church on October 24. Other fundraisers were such a joy as well, including a garage sale at Hope in Christ Church and special thanks to the Bridge, a new church that did a fundraiser for us also.

We had the **opportunity to start a college group this year** with folks who had a heart to help us with downtown ministry. Four to seven folks came regularly and what a joy that was! Although we haven't picked that up again this year some of those folks have become a real part of us since.

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

The Senti's blog is also on our website:

www.envisionmission.org/senti

The **Ladies meeting has been going strong in discipleship and fellowship on Fridays** with Linda Hammingh leading along with Mary Brower and Rochelle. They even did an outing to see the tulips this year. It's amazing to hear the stories of spiritual growth from that group, holding each other accountable and encouraging each other in life changing ways. The Jesus Studies also have been strong this year, one at Lincoln Square and the other at Woods Coffee on Prospect St. **Some who didn't know Jesus have been coming** and for others it's a great midweek check in to stay in the Word of God.

We had so many opportunities to share the Gospel, especially on street night. There were so many stories it would be too many to share, but some that stood out were the man who had a **vision Jesus Christ as God after we prayed for him**. We so enjoyed **opportunities to pray with the management and residents at the Villa Hotel** on Samish! And one fellow who joined us in singing when he'd been drunk, **has now become a part of our church** and is growing strong as a disciple of Jesus. Pray that more of these folks will not only come to faith but also be connected to the Body. Yet we rejoice because the Gospel is preached clearly and many are in the valley of decision because of it. HalleluYah!

Deborah Reese wrote and directed a play for the Jesus Gathering from the Bible called David and Goliath which was played by various folks from the church. Ted Gray, who has an internet radio program called "Air Mail From God," started a Bible Study at the Lighthouse Mission on Saturday mornings. **Many volunteers have contributed so much** to the ministry it would be hard to recount it all. We love when folks brings snacks to the Jesus Gathering, to open mic, and help set up/take down.

We even got to do a **church picnic put on by many friends from Lynden churches on July 19**, at Maritime Heritage Park. And by the time this goes to print Bethel CRC in Lynden will have hosted a **Thanksgiving service at the Jesus Gathering** on November 22. We hope to have a Christmas service in December. So many have made these things possible.

Envision had the joy of **hosting a meal at 1st Baptist for their Loaves and Fishes ministry** to the homeless recently. We already do street night on Tuesdays, so it made sense to do this once when another church couldn't. Mitzie Crosser led the charge and it looks like we may have more opportunities to do it.

We had a **wonderful wedding this year at the Jesus Gathering** and many amazing testimonies of Jesus' power in people's lives there. We've heard many testimonies of family reconciliations especially.

Open mic's attendance has picked up, though we're taking a break from it next year and going to visit other open mics. Then we may resurrect it again after that, but it's still been a great place for building what we hope will be **eternal relationships**.

The Senti's will be gone for the month of January. Please keep praying for the staff during that time. Also keep praying about that **open door to do house church** at the Lincoln Square apartments.

If someone wants to give specifically for our friend who needs affordable housing just **let us know** on a separate piece of paper. We hope to have had a baptism by the time this newsletter goes to print as well, but we'll let you know in the next newsletter. We trust the Lord will have provided a more **up to date computer** for our office by that time as well. We're sending a letter with a few pictures for January 2016 while the Senti's are gone!

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: Open mic at 7:30pm at the Majestic. Men's group at 5pm at the Majestic.

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.