



Update on Envision

February 2016

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 13 No. 2

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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Vision 2016

What is the vision for 2016? Here's it is in three parts:

a- More relational – Our strength as a ministry has always been relational ministry and we want to encourage that even more in light of our mission statement, which includes authentic community as its core value. We want to create more margin for life together as a community. We want to have more get-togethers, like bowling and dinners. Sometimes we get so busy we can't even do those things at all.

b- Less programs - In order to create more margin for life together we need to eliminate programs that keep us busy through the week. Some things that are good can be the enemy of the best. That's why we've decided to let open mic go, at least for now. Some of us will attend and participate in open mics that exist in the community presently, such as at Cafe's and if we go to taverns we'll be sure to order soda pop, but we believe ministry can even happen there. One of the other things we're looking at changing in 2016 is the frequency of the Jesus Gathering. We'd like to only have it once or twice a month as a celebration Sunday for the house churches that exist to come together and have a potluck, sermon, and worship!

c- Shared leadership – we'd like to have our house church movement multiply beyond two house churches and to help those house churches be even more effective in discipleship. That will require raising up more elders and also training for more ministry leaders, maybe even some more Stephen Ministers. Too much tends to fall on a few and we're looking for ways to spread that burden out more. The Jesus Gathering can be very draining for our staff, but house church tends to be more balanced, so we're hopeful that it will continue to be an effective means of discipleship.



Our Christmas service was a great success. Folks from small groups at 3rd CRC decorated the church beautifully and our friends, who invited their friends joined them at tables for a great Christmas celebration. **One of our regulars who was there is considering baptism**, so pray that he will make that decision soon. "My Church" gave \$20 gift cards to everyone there and we gave out items compiled by Fisher Elementary School in Lynden. What an amazing blessing and a merry Christmas!

Street night will continue and going to other open mics. **Jesus Studies will continue to invite folks that don't know the LORD and are seeking.** So we want to also keep our edge on outreach as a ministry. In the future we plan to expand on music ministry even more.

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



Here's another picture from the Christmas party in December at the Jesus Gathering. **There, too, the Gospel was preached** and God's grace given abundantly.

The **sock drive** has also been very successful. Evergreen Christian School's 3rd and 4th grade class donated 70 pairs of socks. Fisher Elementary School gave us 180 socks with other items as well. Hope in Christ has also donated and many folks on the streets have received prayer as well as socks with much appreciation. While we no

longer need donations of socks, we **are so thankful to those who gave!**

In the last couple months we've had many more opportunities for the Gospel. We recently asked the question of folks, "What is the Gospel?" One man who has come to the Jesus Gathering for many years, but not yet believed said, "I think Christians say that if we don't believe certain things and do certain things we'll all burn in hell forever." We explained the Way of Christ more fully of course and shared God's desire to have a relationship with him. He shared his struggles and when asked how the Gospel might apply to those current struggles he said he still didn't know because he did not understand that Gospel. **Pray that he will have the spiritual blinders taken off his eyes.** There was another person at the same table who asked for help bringing her stuff outside to the front of the church. She was stumbling as we helped her there and brought her stuff with her. We asked if she needed to go to the hospital, but she said there was nothing more they could do. When she sat down we asked her what she thought the Gospel was and she said she just wanted to die and go to heaven. We rejoiced with her that she believed in the LORD and knew the forgiveness of sins, but asked her if the Gospel had anything to do with what she was going through currently. She began to weep, asking why God had allowed her to go through so much and exclaimed that she didn't know how the Gospel was relevant to her right then and there. So we asked if we could pray for her and prayed for healing and a revelation of His love for her and she received it with joy. We saw her again the next week and helped her bring her things to a medical clinic and she was already doing better physically and let us pray for her again. We also got to explain the Gospel more fully to the man we talked to the week before. **Pray for her also to know Christ's love, even in this life.**

One another street night a woman approached us who had known us from the old coffeehouse days, desperate for the light of Jesus, homeless and crying in despair. We prayed for her and she received **prayer that she could awaken to faith in Him** and hope in Him. **Pray that she will and can connect to the Body of Christ again.**

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: 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.