



Update on Envision

June 2016

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 13 No. 6

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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Experiments, Excitements and Exhaling Prayers and Praises

Experiments: We've announced to our Jesus Gathering friends that **we are doing an experiment starting in October**, Lord willing. We're going to have the Jesus Gathering once a month at the Majestic on the 1st Sunday of the month. During the week we're going to continue to have a house church at the Senti's on Saturday, but we'll also have another house church at the Lincoln Square Apartments in the downstairs area. We're moving our Jesus Study to Regency Park Apartments and hoping that it can also turn into a house church.

There will be other opportunities for our people to worship in a larger setting during the week, like New Song which meets at the Prayer Center and is open to all churches on the third Friday of every month. And we might even join Hope in Christ for their once a month evening service.

We're going to try this from October through December. Then we're going to do our once a month Jesus Gathering at Hope in Christ from January to March. And we'll continue those house church meetings through that time. Then in April we will reevaluate as to whether we want to continue moving in the house church direction or go back to a weekly Jesus Gathering service. **Please keep us in prayer as we try this experiment.**

Our reasoning is that **the Jesus Gathering is not sustainable for our staff**, especially as some of our folks look toward retirement and we want to encourage real discipleship, which we find to be effective in house church settings. It's also part of decreasing programs and increasing relationships. Obviously every change has its disadvantages too though and so that's why we're doing it as an experiment for a limited time. Thank you for your prayers and support, friends. Also feel free to contact us with any questions: 360-392-0289

Excitements: We had a wonderful Celebration at Overeasys Restaurant on April 23 with friends from supporting churches, music from the Senti family and we even raised \$1,268.00 for Envision with the love offering. Thank you to all who came!



In our last newsletter we shared about a fellow who got into treatment off the streets. **He is now in a Christian clean and sober house in Spokane and going to a great church there, looking for work and loving the Lord!** Not only that but one of the young men he led to Christ returned to Bellingham and has been attending the

Jesus Gathering regularly and growing in his faith. The Lord works in mysterious ways. Thanks for your prayers for our friends.

Also one of our dear friends who joins us on street nights and is part of the Jesus Gathering was recently bitten by a rattlesnake on a trip to his brother's funeral. His rapid recovery has been miraculous and the LORD has spoken to his heart about trusting in Him and His purpose for him. **Keep praying that he can move forward**, even as he grieves his brother passing and fights with depression.

Board:

Elders and their wives:

Mitchell and Rochelle Senti,
Bernie and Mary Brower

Treasurer/Elder:

Dan Obbink

Deaconess:

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

We've had some amazing opportunities on street night recently, especially when we've been singing on the corner of Railroad and Holly and at Maritime Heritage Park. At one point homeless friends were gathering around us and singing with us, jamming on guitars and we started praying for folks. One couple was really struggling and felt like God sent them to us for comfort and encouragement in their faith. While we share the Gospel with folks in personal relationships often it's also fun to share as we pray with people or as we sing. Two gals listened to one of our songs and started to cry, receiving comfort from the LORD. As we spoke the Gospel to another man, he resisted us at first but came later and talked with us more. **Keep praying for these Gospel opportunities to bear fruit.** Another of our homeless friends has been coming to the Jesus Gathering each week and blessing our socks off as **he shares what little he has with others on the streets** and tries to work with his hands to provide for himself.

We had the opportunity this past month also to **celebrate Passover** and consider how Jesus fulfilled the feast. One of our Stephen Ministers helped with the food along with volunteers and a wonderful couple from the Brower's house church led the Passover Seder. (See pictured left)



We so appreciate our supporting churches for bringing snacks faithfully, giving financially and praying for us. Victory church in Lynden is also supporting us with financial help and snacks on Sundays, which has been wonderful.

Sometimes Mitchell gets the opportunity to do **jail ministry** with guys who have been a part of Envision in some way and to encourage them in their faith, so **pray that this continues to be a blessing**, even in letters written and visits given.

Exhaling Prayers and Praises: **One of the biggest needs we see on the streets is for folks to get housing who are homeless.** Sometimes even when they have a voucher for housing there are no places available. One woman made too little to rent at an apartment complex and too much with her son's help to qualify for subsidization. Another woman is 68 with a disabled son, stays at the Mission, but needs a place. She's on the list for the Agape House, but it will take some months before they have an opening. We hear story after story and it's difficult sometimes not to be discouraged for them all. There are many ideas in the works for housing in Bellingham with the church taking the lead. We'll see how God leads Envision to be involved in the future. One great story we heard on a street night: we prayed for a gal to get housing so she could have surgery and have a place to recover. Ironically after we prayed her fiancé abused her, which wasn't good but exposed something that was already there and then she got shelter at a women's shelter, so now she has a place to live and recover. **Pray that she can have surgery soon.**

Check out the next newsletter for the explanation of an experiment we're going to try this year with the Jesus Gathering in the Fall.

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.

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.