



# Update on Envision

September 2016

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 13 No. 9

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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## Changes and Praises

Why do an experiment for six months with house churches instead of a larger weekly meeting starting in October? **Look to the left margin and recognize that our mission is to build authentic community in Christ first and foremost.** Part of building authentic community is to bring things down to smaller groups where stronger relationships can be built than in larger settings. What tends to happen at the Jesus Gathering is that a few people do a lot of work and burn out. What takes place at house churches is that the load is spread out more equally to everyone; there is less set up/take down, more folks with stability and more shared leadership. That kind of stuff fosters more community. We also notice that the Gospel is applied more personally to people and discipleship is more quality in a smaller setting, even though it can also be more messy. Pray that we can keep a "house church" located in downtown and for leadership for that purpose. We've so appreciated folks who've brought snacks to the Jesus Gathering on a monthly basis, week after week. We're excited to see how this experiment plays out and join us in praying for leaders for each group. For now the Jesus Study at Lincoln Square will become a house church and there will be one at the Senti's. We're starting a Jesus Study at Regency Park or a like location with the hope that it will also turn into a house church and there's talk of keeping one on Sunday nights at the Majestic. Most of our folks are low income and were previously disconnected from the church and many also have come to Christ among us. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support!

Here is another picture of Nick's baptism from July 17- what a blast that was!



One of the gals we've been praying for to have housing told us recently that indeed she found a clean and sober house to live in! **Now she can sleep safely and move forward as a believer in Christ.**

On a recent street night one of us got a sense that we should go down to the bay at a certain place, so after we'd gone through our usual route, when we were tired we took a long walk down to the beach. As we came near the beach the Spirit put on one of our hearts, "you'll meet a woman in a red shirt" and that we

should talk to her about Jesus. Sure enough, there she was with some friends digging through the rocks and sand, looking for something. **This method of evangelism is usually called a "Treasure Hunt"** in which the Spirit puts someone on the hearts of those who pray and they go to find that person in order to tell them that they are treasured by God. This gal had tattoos and was burly, so when asking for a sign to confirm that this was indeed the Spirit, the gal's friends

**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:  
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asked her, “What are you doing?”

She answered, “I’m on a treasure hunt!” So we approached her and told her that we had prayed and God had led us to her to tell her that she was treasured by God and that Jesus loves her. She was very, very moved and introduced us to her partner and friends. We told her we would pray for her and considered our job done. **So we walked on and thanked God, praying that these seeds that were planted would grow into fruition.**

On other occasions God gives us many opportunities to share Jesus, sometimes praying with folks who have come into difficult circumstances, like one lady who lives under a bridge until she can get back home to California after being robbed on a Greyhound or another friend who came to the Jesus Gathering after losing his job, yet he isn't drinking like the old days and will be on the streets for a while until he can find other work and housing. Pray that he will keep coming to the Jesus Gathering and also use his musical skills for the glory of God. Others who we see go backwards and forwards a lot, we pray will come out of addiction and be delivered so they can live quiet and godly lives in Christ. Two of them nearly got in a fight as we spoke with them, but we prayed and suddenly they changed their attitudes and walked on. But there is so much need on the streets, so little hope and so we are there bringing the Gospel as best we know how. Keep us in prayer that God may open doors for us for the name of Christ.

We have two possible Stephen Ministers to add to the team this Fall and help with Jesus Studies, street night and mercy ministry, but we did not anticipate that in the budget for this year. **We are asking if any of you have it on your hearts to give \$250/month for one of these men to join the team, starting in October** and giving for three months in 2016 until we can get them in the budget for 2017. Let us know by writing it on a separate piece of paper with your gift. If nothing else pray that we can add them according to God's will in Christ Jesus.

**Thank you to those who gave for the man to have a filter and fan for his home to keep his lungs healthy** according to doctor's orders. He is so thankful and we are with him also.

**Thank you to those who gave in memory of Fritz Roosma**, Mitchell's Grandma, to Envision! What a blessing and meaningful way to receive gifts for Envision Mission.

We planned to start the men's group earlier, but will now do so at the end of August, God willing. **One of our Stephen Ministers named Morgan West will be leading** with a couple other guys and we're excited to see it start up again. The Ladies meeting will start up in September. Thank you for praying for the discipleship of these guys and gals in Christ.

**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 Tim P's at 5pm- contact us for directions.

Friday: Ladies meeting at Woods once/mo. in summer Prayer at Prayer Center from 3-5.

Saturday: For summer: House church at the Senti's at 9:30am

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