



Update on Envision

November 2016

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 13 No. 11

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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God is Doing Amazing Things!

Mark your calendars for **November 11, Friday at 7pm at Sonlight Church in Lynden on Bender Rd. The Senti family is doing another concert** until 8pm and a love offering will be taken. We'll do a very brief update on Envision, but mostly we're just going to sing and let folks enjoy the music!

God is truly doing amazing things! A special **thank you to the donor who gave towards three months of our 4th Stephen Minister/Servant Jon Ng to be able to lead street nights** and do mercy ministry for us! 23 YWAM Lynden students have joined us every Tuesday night for street night. Jon is doing an excellent job of leading, dividing them into groups and sending them out after a short orientation time at the Majestic. Jon Ng's ministry is called Rising Hope and we have been so blessed to merge with them and have him lead street night, which he has been doing for 4 years now. Here's a little taste of how it's been going from Jon's desk:

"Tuesday night was stretching for our team as over 30 people set out on the streets to share the gospel to Downtown Bellingham. After praying and splitting up into teams at The Majestic, various groups were sent out to witness to others at First Baptist Church, Holly Street, and Maritime Park/underneath several bridges, which was where my group went... Our group finally found a traveling man sitting down with his backpack opened while rolling a cigarette... We stopped to chat with him and found out that he was quite a spiritual man who enjoyed the outdoors, but did not have a personal relationship with Jesus. A prophetic word came to me for the man which read along the lines of, "You have a brother who suffers from a previous marriage that failed due to adultery." Before blurting out what I had heard, I tested the word by asking the man a series of questions... One after the next, the man confirmed that what I had heard was true, so I asked him, "(W)hat if I told you I heard a specific word about your brother before you said anything at all and that God was speaking to me directly about him? What if he told me this because He wants to grab your attention and let you know that He loves you and your brother...?" The man was very excited to hear this and at the same time was not surprised, as God has lately been sending people... to share the gospel with him. But then others in my group began to speak up, the one with mercy spoke life and forgiveness over him and his brother. The one with encouragement gave him a word of encouragement that nearly brought him to tears. The one with helps and prophecy gave him her personal Bible that she was told by God to carry with her to give away that night. And the one with faith prayed a prayer of bold faith over him and his brother as we huddled together lifting them up to Jesus. It was a beautiful picture of the body working together as one to **show this man the depths of Christ's love for him that I believe planted a seed deep in the man's heart.** We really hope to see him again so we can continue to water the seed of the gospel that was sown. When we returned (the) other groups reported times of great connection with other homeless people, times of great faith stretching, and times of great humbling from the Lord as well."

We also got to pray with a woman who was totally desperate and afraid and has lived on the streets for years, took another man to his apartment who needed help walking and prayed with him **that he would be delivered from alcoholism**, as well as encouraging a man who was living in his van and his friend who was staying at the Lighthouse Mission.

God has also raised up four Stephen Servants (we're renaming them so that we honor the organization called Stephen Ministry- having come to that name from reading the Bible and our elders needing help with mercy ministry) who are leading the Men's and Ladies' group, the Jesus Study on Sunday night and the Street night!

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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Thank you for your prayers for leaders to be raised up for Envision. The Ladies' meeting is in full swing weekly again with Mitzie Crosser leading! One of the Stephen Servants, **Timothy Potter, will be going with Mitchell to India to learn from and encourage house churches** and an orphanage there. We want to learn how house churches do it overseas and also encourage them and raise awareness and funding for them in the ministry there. More details to follow around April/May 2017.

We have **more folks joining with us at the house churches who are new**, both at Lincoln Square and at the Senti home. We're even trying to do more fun things together as part of fostering authentic community in Christ like bowling and game nights.

One fellow from the Lincoln Square house church is in baptism class. He is older, just had knee surgery and his health isn't the best so **pray that he can finish and be baptized soon.** (Pictured right a shot of the Lincoln Square house church table worshipping with Rochelle as she plays piano at the Jesus Gathering.)



The experiment is going very well with the two house churches growing both in

number and quality of discipleship and folks are learning to give messages from the Scriptures themselves and overcome sin in their lives as they confess sin and pray for each other.

We have a **Jesus Study on Sunday nights now at 5pm** when we don't have the celebration Sunday Jesus Gathering once a month. The **Lincoln Square study is now a house church** that is very well attended and with new people coming too, led by Bernie Brower. There is an idea to have a meal on the last Wednesday of every month there provided by other local churches, so if you're interested in helping with that contact us.

We hope that the Jesus Study at the Majestic will someday turn into another house church and there is even another one just in the beginning of starting up as well which we will report more about as it becomes more developed. Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts as unto the LORD! **Pray for a lot of our folks who are moving at this time** and in transition personally as well as adjusting to the changes with the ministry.

Here is our weekly schedule:

Tuesday: Street night from 5:00-8:15pm starts at Majestic.

Wednesday: House church at Lincoln Square at 3pm.

Thursday: Men's group at Tim P's at 5pm- contact us for directions.

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

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

Sunday: The Jesus Gathering meets at the Majestic from 4:30pm-6:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Jesus Study at 5pm on other Sundays at the Majestic.