



Update on Envision

July 2019

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 16 No. 7

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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Praises and Prayers

The Lord is definitely on the move through Envision; as I write this I'm very thankful. For years we've been praying that various porn shops would shut down and they have. It started back in the late 90's when my Dad and a friend of his prayed that one would shut down and it did within two weeks. We prayed over another and the same thing happened, and then another. So after that I would have youth groups pray over one that was located right next to the Lighthouse Mission and within a year, it also shut down. But we've been praying for one in the downtown area for many years and it seemed nothing was happening. Finally we noticed it had changed into an antique shop and we went in and starting to get to know the people there, let them know we were praying for them and even sharing the Gospel with them. They recently told us that they are phasing out all the porn books from the back room of the store and we rejoiced! Let's keep praying that this stronghold will be broken in our community and that people will see one another in purity and in real love through the power of the Christ Jesus Himself.

Our street team has enjoyed doing a Jesus Study at the Drop in Center and they often go on from there and continue to share the Gospel on the streets. In one case, at Maritime Heritage they shared with a man who appeared at least partially drunk. At first they wondered if sharing would do any good, but as they shared Christ he seemed to sober up and interact more and more with them, finally asking, "Where are you guys from? Can I join with you?"

That reminded me of a man who is now my neighbor across the alley because we used to share with him on the street when he was partially drunk. I rejoice because now **he has housing and is going to church regularly.** I asked him his story just the other day and didn't know that he had successfully owned a theatre with his wife, but when she died he began drinking and thus became homeless. I realized once again the thin line between my friends without housing and us who are housed. Still the Gospel is the thing that transforms!

At the Jesus Study that meets at McDonald's we shared with a homeless couple and they joined in with us, we helped them with food and now realize that they are camped in the woods behind one of our house churches and as we get to know them we hope to invite them to join us. Another man that was there, who also recently went through grief, **has now found housing** with the Jesus Study facilitator who rents rooms to folks that are ready. What a blessing this man has been already both to the facilitator and now to us.

We continue to do **baptism classes with various folks**, just finishing with one fellow who we used to pray with all the time on the streets and now he is set to be baptized at 1st Baptist at the end of June. Another fellow is finishing soon, just as a friend of ours just started. They should be baptized in August.

We really enjoyed doing another outreach at WWU, this time with not as much desire for New Testaments, but many excellent conversations about Jesus Christ and life in Him. **Pray that these opportunities may continue to abound for the Gospel to spread through Envision** and that many will be saved and baptized in Jesus' Name!

Board:

Elders and their wives:

Mitchell and Rochelle Senti,
Bernie and Mary Brower

Elder/Pastor: Ben deRegt

Treasurer/Elder: Dan Obbink

Deacon and deaconesses:

Rustin Polinder,
Shannon Williamson and
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

Our vision: to seek the face of Jesus!



Below is a picture of our friend Keith Botkin when he was baptized some years ago. He recently passed away in prison of natural causes, but we remember him fondly. **At the Lincoln Square house church just a few weeks ago he expressed a clear faith in Christ Jesus!**

We also got to be a part of a wonderful **Pentecost Service at Hope in Christ** along with Middle Eastern, Chinese, Hispanic and even our Anglican Christian friends with a hearty celebration of God's Spirit working throughout the nations of the world. What a privilege!

I also got the chance to be part of "SERVE" hosted by 1st Christian Reformed Church in

Lynden, leading worship and also helping lead students on the streets for one of the nights. It has been excellent to be part of helping students from 4 youth groups from around the country to learn to serve Jesus and find their purpose in Him.

The Senti's will be on vacation from July 8-August 8, so if you can't get a hold of them during that time, you'll know why. Keep them in prayer during that time. The Sunday night Jesus Study is on break for the summer as well, but Mitzie will be visiting friends up at Agate Heights and hosting house church, and Jesus Gathering as usual during that time. Praise God for her being on staff with us, as well as Bernie Brower and Jon Ng.

If you still have clothes for the Summit House clothing drive let us know, even if they aren't the best quality- because the folks in charge of the house need to sell a storage container full of clothes to a non-profit recycling company in order to raise the money. They will even come and pick up the clothes from you if need. Also if you're interested in **donating towards the Summit house please write checks to Envision Mission and be sure to put "Rising Hope" on the memo line.**

We'd still love to start a Jesus Study at Washington Square Apartments, as we have a new believer there and another person open to Jesus as well. **We would just need a willing individual to agree to lead one and we could train too.** We also are seeking more help with the Lincoln Square house church, so let us know if you're interested. And if anyone is still interested in helping to co-facilitate an open mic for Jesus on Sunday nights during the summer, let us know as well. Many thanks to Bethel CRC in Lynden- please see note in schedule below:

Here is our weekly schedule:

Tuesday: Street Connect from 5:45-7:45pm starts at 1st Baptist on Flora St. Jesus Study at Drop in Center at 6:10pm.

Wednesday: (House church at Lincoln Square at 3pm.) Jesus Study at McDonald's on Samish at 7pm.

Friday: Men's breakfast at Overeasy Restaurant at 6:45am. Prayer at the Light of the World Prayer Center from 3-5pm.

Saturday: (House church at Mitzie's at 10am- Discipleship group at Jeff's at 10am)

Sunday: (House church at the Gray's at 10am.) **The Jesus Gathering will meet at Boulevard Park on July 14 with a picnic hosted by Bethel CRC from Lynden from 4:30pm-6:30pm**

Monday: Prayer at LOWPC from 10am-12pm.