

# Update on Envision

**December 2019** 

**Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County** 

Vol. 16 No. 12

# 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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### Declaring the Glory of God!

Another year of God's amazing glory! Let us share with you some of those highlights: Most recently we had the opportunity at Lake Whatcom Center to witness the profession of faith of a man who had grown up as a Christian in Indonesia, become a Muslim and moved to America, and now has recommitted his life to Christ. A small group of believers joined him there and it was a joyful celebration of Christ's power.

We also remember this year joining 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Bellingham **for two baptisms involving folks we'd developed relationships with in sharing the Gospel** on street nights. God also brought our dear friend Missy to Him this year and she has now taken the lead in our media ministry. He also brought Shane to Himself through one of our men at the Summit house and **Shane was baptized** this year. Two more fellows are looking towards baptism as well.

While Mitchell has enjoyed painting houses with John Krane Painting once a week, we give God glory for providing for his family and those who also work with Envision including Bernie Brower, Jon Ng, Mitzie Crosser and Rochelle Senti. **Thank God for you all and your generosity** towards us as a staff and those we work with!

One of the most exciting things about this year has been the **formation of the Summit House** through Jon Ng's Rising Hope ministry. Not only was Jon Ng hired by the Lighthouse Mission to do street ministry along with Envision, but he also was used of God to start this men's discipleship house, which has had four men living there consistently and we've seen much growth in them all. Transformed lives are what discipleship is all about, and faithfulness on the part of the saints to do the work involved. Not only do we praise God for what He's done but we also look forward to what He will do with this in the coming years. **We praise God for study leaders** like Jim Stitt and others from My Church and Abundant Life Church who have given of their time to help these dear men.

God also provided a new intern for us named Jamie Sweet from Trinity Western University, who works with us in discipleship materials and hopes to help more with discipleship gatherings. Do keep him in prayer for good health so that he can do that which God has called him to do. Also, we praise God for Jeff Groethe leading a discipleship group of his own and also a Jesus Study at the Drop in Center (Lighthouse Mission) this year! We thank God for providing leaders for each study who were willing to volunteer. We had to say goodbye to Glenda who led our Jesus Study on Samish Way, but her reconciliation to family was so important in the LORD's eyes and in ours. We saw a lot of that this year; a real focus on covenant family.

We also said goodbye to friends like Shannon Williamson who had been an active deaconess with us and directed Love INC. She is now training to become a Navy Chaplain. We said goodbye also to folks who went to glory, even Mitchell's Dad, Gale Senti, and also our friend Keith Botkin, a friend from Lincoln Square Apartments.

Although the Senti's vacation was a little tough due to their Grandpa's passing and their waterline breaking, there was no better time for those things to happen and Mitchell got an

#### Board:

### Elders and their wives:

Mitchell and Rochelle Senti, Bernie and Mary Brower

Elder/Pastor: Ben deRegt

**Treasurer/Elder:** Dan Obbink

Advisory 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!

opportunity to preach in the Church in Zuni, New Mexico as well.

There were **opportunities to share the Gospel galore again this year**, a woman expressing a prayer to know Jesus at a Jesus Study, a Deist hearing the Gospel and receiving a Bible, folks with disabilities, folks on the streets, through music, too many to share in one newsletter! We praise God and thank you all for praying for those opportunities as well.

We had two outreaches as Western Washington University, weekly outreaches on the streets, in neighborhoods, in workplaces, at the Drop in Center at the Lighthouse Mission where the Spirit seemed to fall on us even as we sang and shared!

Folks were helped in practical ways, whether through housing, help with auto repairs, gas, meals, and moving needs, counseling, sponsorship for guys to move into Summit house, in addition to the relational aspect of just being there for folks. These things are all from the LORD. Folks could also use their gifts in ministry, at house churches, in Bible Studies.

We prayed for a local porn shop to shut down and shared the Gospel with the folks who ran it and it turned into an Antique shop! We had friends from India come and share with us what God is doing there and helped put on a dinner for missionaries who live there also. Folks joined us for prayer weekly on behalf of the poor at the Light of the World Prayer Center. We started a clothing drive for the Summit house. But it was not we who did these things; it was the LORD in us.

God used local churches to help us also: **Bethel Christian Reformed Church put on a picnic** in the summer for our people to come together at Boulevard Park, the Veltkamp family put on a Christmas feast for us and the Gospel was shared there. Local schools also partnered with us: **Lynden Christian Middle School gave 500 pairs of socks**; Bellingham Christian gave socks/kits as well. And 2<sup>nd</sup> Christian Reformed also did a sock drive for us! Through their generosity we were able to hand out socks on street night and then pray for folks as well. Hope in Christ and Third Christian Reformed Church helped us put on concerts for our new CD "Wake Up Oh Sleeper" and also raised thousands of dollars for Envision this year.

God used Mitzie Crosser not only with hospitality ministry, but also to start a "Life's Healing Choices" series for our Sunday night group. She has also worked tirelessly, taking folks into her home and visiting our friends at Agate Heights. We thank God for her!

We continue to have "Multiply Bellingham" meetings hosted at Hope in Christ through Envision that encourage and explore Kingdom multiplication and house churches in Whatcom County. What a blessing that has been!

There is so much more we could share but we praise God for all his works and pray next year will be as much a blessing and more!

### **Our Weekly Schedule:**

Tuesday: Street Night last Tuesday of each month from 5:45-7:45pm starts at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist on Flora St with a Jesus Study at Drop in Center at 6pm. College outreach 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at noon-location announced on FB and e-mail.

Wednesday: (House church at Lincoln Square at 3pm.) Jesus Study at McDonald's on Samish at 4:30pm. Friday: Men's breakfast at Overeasy Restaurant at 6:45am. Prayer at the Light of the World Prayer Center from 3-5pm.

Saturday: (Jeff's Discipleship group at Jeff's at 10am)

Sunday: (House church at the Gray's at 10am. Jesus Gathering at Hope in Christ at 4:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. (House church at the Majestic at 4:30pm all other Sundays.) Monday: Prayer at LOWPC from 10am-12pm.