

# Update on Envision

August 2020

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

Vol. 17 No. 8

## The Mission of Envision is to:

build authentic

community by:

- proclaiming the gospel
- and making disciples of Jesus Christ
- in Whatcom County
- especially 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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The Senti's blog is also on our website

### **Praises and Prayers**

On a July Street night, we were jamming again on the corner of Railroad and Holly St, and a young man joined us. We asked him if he'd ever heard the Gospel. He remarked that he believed it had something to do with being a good person, so we shared with him about Jesus. He said that he had never really heard much about Jesus, and remained open to our message. Pray that James (we'll call him) will come to know the LORD. We encouraged him to read the New Testament and hope to see him again soon. So many we prayed for that night just needed to know they were loved, to say a prayer with us, to be touched by the Lord. Pray the Gospel will keep going out on the streets of Bellingham and that folks will come to know Jesus! And pray that for those we jam with as well. Thank you for your prayers- they are being heard and answered friends!

The Sentis continue to pray and go into their neighborhood with Christ's love. Pray for us in that and consider doing the same in your neighborhood too.

We got the scrap book and are still waiting to hear about when and how the crib will be needed. We do have a benevolence fund, but some of you have expressed that you like to give to specific needs directly as well, so thanks to those who have.

Keep praying for Peter Rust and his outreach to Bellingham Technical College with us. Pray for literal and spiritual doors to open there for the Gospel.

We are still hiring for a new position related to our Summit House program: a Summit House Ministry Director would be a full-time salaried position. This position is for a community developer/ministry director that can engage the local churches in Whatcom County to meet the need of long-term discipleship housing for disenfranchised individuals who need help moving forward in their discipleship process. Through the development of Summit Houses this Ministry Director will work with local churches to not only disciple these men and women in one to three year housing programs, but help them thrive in the context of a local church and vocation. It will include fundraising and equipping communication with churches as well as closely working with us at Envision. Let us know if you're interested in applying and we can share the full job description. mitchsenti@hotmail.com or 360-392-0289 if interested. We look forward to what God will do in this county by His Spirit. We've had one interview and one inquiry for the job so far, so if you know someone interested please let us know. Three folks are inquiring and we are seeking God's wisdom for now. The program is on hold for now with three guys in the house, but we have others inquiring about entering the program and pray that they will. We hope for many to be ready for this kind of discipleship.

Continue to pray for those in baptism class. We hope to have a baptism on August 9 at the Jesus Gathering and an immersion affirming the baptism of another. Pray this will take place as well and for those being baptized to stay true to the LORD.

Also please pray for God to raise up elders and deacons among us that will bring stability to our house churches, Jesus Studies, and the Summit House. We also need a lady to help with the BTC SALT ministry (the Bellingham Technical College outreach).

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 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!

As part of that I would like to share a challenge. But first, consider that the present American church is being threatened by the temptation outlined by Jesus in Matthew 13:7. Satan's strategy is revealed in verse 24: to get us choked by the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches. It seems to me pretty obvious that the temptation we presently face is to try to get a bigger house, better car, better paying job, better position on the sports team for our kids, better looking bodies, better looking spouse, better reputation...and the list goes on. I believe firmly that many of us make our life decisions about vocation and lifestyle based on how much money we will make rather than doing the will of God as the bottom line. We can say it's because we want to provide for our families, but what if it goes way beyond that? We don't have much extra time; we're busy, lonely, tired, afraid or proud, depending on where we find ourselves on the unwritten ladder of status. We make lots of time for our families, for vacations, etc. But when it comes to doing God's will, does it often take second fiddle, or worse?

In that context, when Envision puts out an appeal to the church for help the usual response we get is, "I could never do what you guys do! You're so gifted." And we think to ourselves, we can't do what we do! We just took it on, learned as we went and get through



it by the grace of God. Could it be that God's Spirit has called folks to help, not only Envision but other similar ministries, and that some have refused the Spirit's promptings for various reasons? With that, I want to thank God and all of you for the generous support financially and in prayer that so many of you graciously give us. By no means do I exempt myself and my wife from this struggle. We all fight it every day in this culture. My prayer is that God would raise up workers for the harvest and that folks will heed the call. Let me know if you're interested and we could talk about how that might look for you. 360-392-0289.

We had our July **Jesus Gathering in the back** 

parking lot of Hope in Christ, seeing new faces and old. What a joy! Ted Gray is pictured to the left giving a message.

#### **Our Weekly Schedule:**

**Tuesday:** Street Night third and last Tuesday of each month (5:45-7:15pm), starts at 1<sub>st</sub> Baptist on Flora St. **Wednesday:** Jesus Study at Cornwall Park (5pm)

**Friday:** Prayer at the Light of the World Prayer Center (3-5pm)

Saturday: Jeff's Discipleship group at (10am), Jamie S's group at (10:30am). House church at the Gray's (10am)

Sunday: House church meetings at Rust's (10am) Jesus Gathering at Hope in Christ on the 2nd Sunday of each month (4:30pm) House church at Cornwall park all other Sundays (5pm)