



Update on Envision

May 2022

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 19 No. 5

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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From the Streets to Thriving

As we enter into more serious conversations about starting a women's Summit house in Lynden we will be **officially seeking a woman to fill the job of Women's Summit house Director/Coordinator**. Please be praying for us as to who that person might be, whether it should be part time or full time and that God's timing will be clear to us.

Street night always proves to be a worthwhile endeavor. One of our volunteers prayed one week for a man to get a job and then met him the next week, rejoicing that he had found employment. Another man at a bus stop heard the Gospel as he waited for his bus. When one of the volunteers asked us more about it, we realized that she herself did not know Christ yet, so we then walked with her and shared the Gospel with her as well. We share with many folks



in this way as we are out, one Lummi man heard the Gospel and how it related to one of his people's stories, another interacted with us as we gave him socks and discussed Christ and whether he is the Truth. A woman seemed out of her mind, but was able to agree with us concerning the Gospel even in the midst of her confusion. One of our volunteers had experienced homelessness

herself and took this picture. She noticed that this man had no belongings, no comforts. Another volunteer asked her about her experience of sleeping on concrete. **She explained, "it's not so much that it is hard, but it is cold."** We so appreciate your prayers for us as we go out on Tuesday nights. Consider going with us some time if you are so led by God's Spirit.

We also hope to have some of the ladies visit gals at the Agape Home and play games with them on Tuesday nights. Pray that this will be successful and maybe **a way for folks from churches to get to know some of the ladies that may be moving into the coming Ladies Summit house**. Cal Buys will be leading the first group to go there and see if this is something we can do regularly.

Board:
Elder/Pastors:
Mitchell Senti, Ben
deRegt

Treasurer/Elder: Dan
Obbink

Advisory Deacon:
Rustin Polinder

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!

On Easter Sunday we held our usual Jesus Study but many came from a boarding home for those with mental illness. It wasn't easy to facilitate as one man walked in circles the entire study, scheming on an invention to make himself a millionaire. Another laughed to himself every five minutes for no apparent reason. Folks struggled, but wanted a place to go and heard the Gospel. The mental health system is overloaded after covid with folks that are struggling more than ever. We have tried to take one of our friends to an intake appointment at 8:30am, but one of the local mental health organizations will only take the first two people in line and some had walked from Ferndale to arrive there at 5am in order to get an intake appointment. They had to turn away others who had been there since 5:30am, four or five left disappointed and waiting for the next opportunity two days later. This happened all three occasions we were there and our friend never was able to get an appointment. One man had come all the way from the Seattle area to get help. **Please pray that God will open doors for help for folks and that the Church will have wisdom to know how to help** as well.



Bernie Brower is pictured here on Street night talking to a woman who was staying at Base Camp (a shelter operated by the Lighthouse Mission). She explained to him that she had lost her husband and was homeless for several years. **He and others prayed with her, she wept and expressed appreciation for the prayers.**

We often express the importance of Belonging to our friends in the Ascent Program at the Lighthouse Mission. But it's vital that folks from the churches understand also its importance. We must not stay in holy huddles where we only interact with people we are comfortable with. **The LORD is calling us to enfold people who we would not otherwise have chosen to spend time with.** But we will

find great reward in getting to know them and praying with them. Eternal relationships are built into eternal treasures, we believe. Church must consider this when welcoming newcomers on Sunday mornings and what that may look like during the week as well.

Those who have graduated from the Ascent program at the Lighthouse Mission and entered out Summit houses are thriving in many ways, but also have times of struggle. Some wrestle with how to deal with newfound freedom, time and the prospect of working and responsibility. **Pray that God will grant peace to those who struggle and encouragement to those who are currently thriving** with vocation and participation in the life of their churches. Most are thriving, but for some that process take longer.

Our Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday: Street Night Tuesdays (5:30-7:15pm), starts at 1st Baptist on 110 Flora St.

Thursday: Men's group at Woods Barkley at 7am.

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

Sunday: Jesus Gathering at Hope in Christ on the 2nd Sunday of each month (5pm) Jesus Study at the Majestic all other Sundays (5pm)