



# Update on Envision

December 2022

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 19 No. 12

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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[www.envisionmission.org/senti](http://www.envisionmission.org/senti)

## See Again What God Has Done!

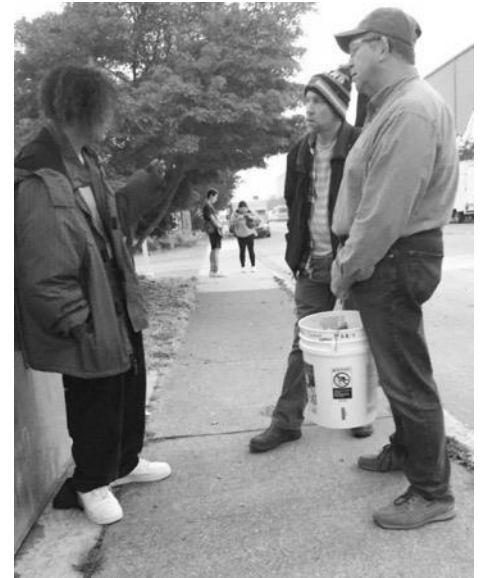
Let us share with you some of the things that God has done this past year so you can rejoice with us:

Just a reminder- **Our Christmas concert will be at Second Christian Reformed Church in Lynden on December 2 at 7pm.** It will likely last until 8:15pm, so feel free to bring kids.

Also, the audience will be welcome to along with us for many of the Christmas carols. ☺ We trust by the time this goes to print it will have been a wonderful time for all involved!

We are happy to announce that **Bethel Christian Reformed Church has approved hosting a women's house for graduates of the Agape Home!** Praise God for His works.

The biggest thing we see every Tuesday on Street night is the many opportunities to share **the Gospel with those on the streets.** Whether sharing Bibles and explaining the Word to folks that were interested or handing out socks and praying for folks who struggled in various way or helping in practical ways like fixing a car on the spot, God opened doors for the Gospel over and over again. Our friends known as the "bucket boys" led by Cal Buys led the charge every week along with many others, sometimes up to 30 people in one night going two by two. We'll never forget the lady who proclaimed, "prayer works!" to those around her as she testified to those bucket boys' prayers- glory to the God who we pray to! Some folks have even told us that they had never heard the Gospel before we explained it to them. We'll be Christmas caroling again this December right along with our Street outreach. (Rob and Mitchell pictured left sharing on Street night)



Some of the group also led **game nights at the Lighthouse Mission's Agape Home** and sometimes the Ascent Program in order to build relationships with guests who live there. We hope those relationships will translate into a trust that could become long term as people move into Summit houses in Lynden and Bellingham.

Our staff had an amazing retreat at Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Center and our theme is "**Strengthening the Church**". It was totally restful and rejuvenating for our souls.

**Baptism class has been going strong** with the man who came to Christ recently as well. The Belonging Class at the Lighthouse Mission has also been a blast to teach with Spring Church. Men and women from the programs there have attended and graduated, more ready to learn what it means that their new friends are at church. Men's group has met faithfully every Thursday morning with few exceptions. And the Jesus Study still goes strong every Sunday night at 5pm with folks being made disciples of Jesus, even led by one of our Summit house friends on one occasion.

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Mitchell Senti, Ben  
deRegt

**Treasurer/Elder:** Dan  
Obbink

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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!

One man who was beaten and **left to die under a bridge is now leading a Christ the King Bible study on Wednesdays** in the late afternoons, a Summit house resident as well. Thank you to those who have sponsored men at the Summit houses so that they can stay there when they couldn't afford it. Thank you also the discipleship partners who have come alongside them every week, doing life with them! The men have gotten jobs, been plugged into churches and are thriving in so many ways. Even with many struggles many of the men have gone forward in beautiful ways. They've gone with us on street nights as well, encouraging those who volunteer there with their stories.

The Bellingham Technical College outreach has had small group gatherings from the beginning of the school year, reaching out to students with events and gatherings at lunch time in the cafeteria. **What a blessing to share the Gospel there as well and encourage students to be witnesses on their campus.** Peter Rust has championed that ministry and hopes to have it become its own non-profit by next year. They set up tables, met hundreds of students and now have student leaders for the Christian club on campus.

Happily we hired **Missy Taylor as a Stephen Servant and Claudia Barbosa as our Women's Program Coordinator.** These ladies have already served so well this year. Thank God for them both, helping folks in practical ways and developing the vision for the Women's house as well.

Though the Jesus Gathering no longer meets on Sundays, the last meetings happened this year and were hosted by Envision Mission. What memories we had there, but **now the house church network is launched on its own** without needing Envision to host.

**Some of the Summit house men have shared their testimonies in churches** and with those who joined us from 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Reformed Church's SERVE groups on Street night- hosting youth groups from four different cities across the country. 56 students joined us that Tuesday night to learn about street ministry and join us in the work.

**Thank you to all who have given in different ways,** whether a used grill, towards the benevolence fund to help folks with phones for work and appointments or rental costs and gas costs.

Some have received gifts from the Holy Spirit as we prayed with them, others **returned to Christ after years of being astray,** others simply needed a helping hand. We lost some friends to fentanyl, but also gained the opportunity to share the Gospel through their losses.

One man realized the need for in person fellowship in the Church was the key to overcoming his anger struggle, another man who we prayed for to get a job would often get into fights in his drunkenness on the streets. God not only provided a job for him, **but made him a security guard in the same downtown streets where he had once been a disrupter** himself. As we prayed for a lady in a wheelchair to experience healing grace she had remarkable pain relief and praised God with us for His love.

We're still looking for an affordable place for one of our friends to move in to towards the beginning of next year. Let us know if you hear of anything. **We also would love to help our first lady applicant to get a vehicle** as most of her appointments will be in Bellingham.

See previous newsletters for our weekly schedule