



Update on Envision

July 2023

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 20 No. 7

The Mission of Envision is to:

- build authentic community by:
- proclaiming the gospel
- and making disciples of Jesus Christ
- in Whatcom County
- especially through Summit discipleship houses
- as a church missionary effort working in conjunction with local churches.

(Goals/Values and Budget Report Available Upon Request)

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More Stories to God's glory



Martha Kooiman is our new program coordinator for the Bethel Ladies House in Lynden. We're so thankful for her. She switched roles with Claudia Barbosa recently and now Claudia has moved to a volunteer position. We're also super thankful for Claudia's service in that position. That is why we've been looking for a new assistant to the coordinator. We're exploring a candidate presently, so pray for wisdom for us as a ministry, even as we see the Bethel house moving forward beautifully. It's also not easy, as one of our three gals recently relapsed. **But to see the ladies from local churches coming around these ladies is truly remarkable.** As one of the gals considers possible jail time from past mistakes years ago she said to us, "maybe it's God's will and I'll be able to witness to the other ladies there." What an amazing attitude of surrender. May we all learn from each other on this road of discipleship in Christ Jesus. And by the way, if anyone wants to donate a propane grill to the ladies house let us know.

Street night continues to go strong with 7 to 20 people coming regularly. Recently the ladies house put together pink buckets with items for women who are without housing. The gals in the house know what it was like to be homeless as a lady and so they've helped their friends from church go out and minister to

those who are where they once were themselves. It's an amazing testimony and no one knows it better than those who have been there. SERVE also took place at the end of June, a national youth movement with the Christian Reformed Church, and they always join our street night on the last Tuesday in June. So we will report on how that went in the August newsletter, but we trust God did beautiful things again! And in July **our street night crew plans to do a fun at the park event with oldies, Gospel music and preaching right downtown at Maritime Heritage Park on July 15, Saturday at 5:30pm.** Come and join us if you'd like to.

We also had an excellent discipleship partner training at Second CR Church in Lynden on Friday June 23 at 6pm. We hope to do more of these, including **addiction and mental health training in the Fall and Winter for anyone who is interested.**

The Summit House Thrift Store will have a soft opening in August! For now, drop off times are Saturdays from 10am-2pm at 410 1st St., Unit #5 in Lynden. For further information and info on volunteering: www.summithousethriftstore.org

We're also still looking for someone who would be **willing to donate a hedge trimmer** to the 2nd Church Summit house. Please let us know. And we're happy to announce that a new friend has moved into the 2nd Church Summit house, making the two men's houses full!

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!

Daikson Daidad officially moved into his new studio apartment in Burlington and some Lynden First Reformed church members donated and delivered some furniture to him in person (with a much appreciated plate of cookies to boot!) We're so thankful for all of those who have donated in so many ways to Envision and our friends in need.

And just as we shared Daikson's story, the next Summit house friend that has lived at the Hope in Christ house for over a year now is Jamey Smith. God has also done amazing things in his



life, especially over the last few years. Jamey lived on the streets in alcohol addiction for years. He grew up with an abusive step-mother and never fully learned how to cope with that until much later in life. After collapsing from alcohol, as his liver, kidneys and pancreas were shutting down, someone beat him almost to death with a metal rod down by a bridge near Maritime Heritage park. That's when his life began to turn around. A stranger called an ambulance and it brought

him to St. Joseph's hospital. He woke up with the sun shining on him in a hospital bed and suddenly realized, "there must be a God and he must have a plan for me." Indeed his doctor told him that one or two more hours under that bridge and he would have died there. He opened his life to God and found himself at the Lighthouse Mission where he entered the Ascent program. From there he entered a clean and sober house, but when that was no longer an option, his friends at the Mission told him about the Summit house.

We interviewed him and found out that he'd grown up Jehovah's Witness, but was now a believer in Jesus by grace and attended Christ the King Bellingham. We accepted him into the house and at first he seemed reluctant about our required church attendance because it reminded him of the rules he grew up with. But soon he realized our hearts were aligned with God's heart for him to have a lasting relationship with God and His people, so he not only attended Christ the King weekly, read his Bible faithfully, but soon started to lead a deep dive Bible study for Christ the King at Woods Coffee by Barkley theatre on Wednesdays at 4:30pm. He has gone through a lot of trials since coming to the Summit house, including his estranged father's death, a bout with covid, the flu and pneumonia all in one week's time, a torn ACL and meniscus, terrible neck, shoulder and back issues probably also requiring surgery, loss of hours and no way to pay for most of his expenses. But in all of it he has persevered in faith, kept a smile of joy on his face and encouraged others, including some of our new guests at the Summit houses. He is truly an example of one who has been made a disciple of Jesus and is now making disciples of Jesus himself. **Please pray for his health, protection, provision and strength and especially that he can reconnect with his adult children** who he longs to be in relationship with again.

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 Study at the Majestic (5pm)