



# Update on Envision

September 2023

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 20 No.

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)

**Envision Mission**  
710 E. Sunset  
Bellingham, WA  
98225

**Office Phone:**  
(360) 392-0289

**E-mail:**  
mitsenti@  
hotmail.com

**Website:**  
www.envision  
mission.org

The Senti's blog is also on our website

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

## Updates and prayers

**The Summit House Thrift Store will have a soft opening in early September!** For now, drop off times are Saturdays from 10-2, at 404 Front St (in the Alley) in Lynden. For further information and info on volunteering: [www.summithousethriftstore.org](http://www.summithousethriftstore.org)



**One of our friends from the Bethel house got a full time job!** We're so proud of her after so many disappointments in searching. God has provided something that will help her give back to those who are going through struggles she used to have herself. Her roommate has also been working in the raspberries thanks to one of our discipleship partners from Second Church in Lynden. She also got to go to a fun weekend with one of her clean and sober programs she's involved in. We specifically prayed for her to learn how to have fun in sobriety and God answered!

The stories of transformation don't always go in the direction we hope or even expect that they will. Sometimes our definition of success has to look and feel different, but God is always at work. Sometimes, honestly, there can be tragedy involved too and that is always hard to deal with. But we'd like to spend the next few months sharing stories that haven't turned out like we expected and yet we want to share how we see God at work nonetheless in smaller ways: One of our friends came through an entire year at the Summit house and at the end of his stay he found it very difficult to be alone without drinking. He always struggled to feel secure, and so would often exaggerate or even tell lies if it helped him look better in other people's eyes. That sense of self worth and shame can often manifest in hiding things from those that our friends love the most, even us who work with them. And such friends are masters at manipulation because it is how they survived life for decades, usually since childhood. Thus after many attempts to go to 'Detox' and treatment we recommended he go back to the Lighthouse Mission where he would face these childhood struggles head on. But it got too difficult to face, so he chose to go back to the streets without addressing those struggles. Again, we attempted to help him do 'Detox', but he refused treatment. Then he found himself hitting bottom after going to the hospital with an overdose. It was after that, he finally chose to come back to his church for help since they had reached out to him so faithfully and lovingly. Some even took him into their homes. But when he asked about the Summit house we still encouraged him to explore his deeper issues first. He then agreed to go to a program not far away that also does a rehabilitation process similar to the Lighthouse Mission. **We are so excited that he has humbled himself and been willing to face those things again. Please pray that he finds healing and will be ready either to return to us or a similar program so that he can move forward in all the ways God has enabled him to hope for.**

**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!

It doesn't always end like that. We also have seen folks refuse to address their issues, run away and die of an overdose. Since the theme for our ministry is truth, we want to be honest that this does happen sometimes, while it is a minority of the time, we can't rescue people from their own choices. But we can encourage them, pray for them and give them every opportunity for change. We must always remember it is their journey, not ours, and they stand before their own master. We are fellow servants with them and cannot change those choices. **Yet we always have hope and we always believe our faithfulness to share the Gospel and give those opportunities are more than worth the cost.**



Here's a picture of many of our Summit house friends at a recent **Envision picnic**- what fun it was- with Miles cooking burgers and Martha organizing.

On street night this past month our friends had many opportunities to share the Gospel, even with a couple former Jehovah's witnesses on the streets. The crew also got a chance to share it with a friend they've encountered many times but hadn't yet been

able to talk about Christ much, so many answers to prayer there. **Thank you for praying that the power of the Gospel will kick-start our street friends into wanting more and trusting God** and others that more can be had for them.

**Please pray for some more solid lady candidates for our Bethel Church houses.** There are only two ladies there and a third who has stayed connected to us, but we'd love to see a third lady join the guest-roster.

**Please also mark your calendars for our addiction training on October 14, 2023 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Christian Reformed Church on Front St.** It's an all day event on that Saturday. RSVPs to the contact info on the left margin would be helpful so we know how many will want to stay for lunch. The training will be hosted by our friends from New Earth in Burlington. If you've had family with addictions or just want to learn more about how to best make disciples of folks that struggle in that area, please join us.

**Our Weekly Schedule:**

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

**Thursday:** Belonging Class at 11:30am at Lighthouse Mission.

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

**Sunday:** Jesus Study at the Majestic (5pm)