



Update on Envision

December 2023

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 20 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 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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Another Wonderful Year in praise of God

Praise God it's been 20 years since Envision started as a ministry! And he's been faithful all along. Here are some of the things we've seen Him do this year:

The **women's house at Bethel Christian Reformed started operating in January!** Four ladies moved in this year, one got housing and another had to be exited, but the three ladies that have moved forward have worked, strengthened their church connections and grown in the Lord beautifully.

Envision launched BTC SALT Fellowship as a ministry of its own by the Grace of God to reach out to Bellingham Technical College with the Gospel!

And God led Envision to **focus entirely on Summit houses**, even changing our mission statement to demonstrate that. This year our theme for 2023 was **Truth**, especially in terms of living honestly in the light of Christ, being transparent about weaknesses and disappointments.

We celebrated the fact that **the first year program guys are still doing great over three years later!** And one of the second program year guys got an affordable place to live after completing our program as well from the Hope in Christ house. We shared the stories of God's faithfulness for all of them including Mark Tarbell, Andrew Sopojoy Campbell, Mark Anderson, Daikson Daidad, Jamey Smith, Randy Shirley and even the first lady that moved out of the Bethel house, Amy Landsiel.

Some of the guys from the Second church house have been able to move forward as well, though their stories took different turns than we expected. One moved into another Christian program in Burlington, another has moved back to family in the south, and we just heard news of another that is back in the Ascent program at the Lighthouse Mission.

God has provided vehicles for our guests, they've regained their license to drive, sometimes after decades of not having that. Many of them joined us on street night more than once, to share their stories and minister to those on the streets. The ladies even started a ministry called the Pink Bucket ladies. Folks donated grills, electric hedge trimmers, and sponsored our folks when they couldn't afford to pay themselves.

Northwest Baptist, who is looking at doing a men's house next year, also donated two lawn mowers to the ministry.

The ladies did volunteer work, one of them has been able to have visitations with her children there, and so many folks from local churches are coming by and blessing them with time spent, dinners, crafts, and love—it was just amazing!

Street night, Jesus Study, Men's group, Prayer gathering, and Hermeneutics classes continued into this year focused on bringing the Gospel and discipleship in Jesus. Mark Tarbell led the Jesus Study, while Jamey Smith led a Bible study for Christ the King church in Bellingham. Discipleship classes also took place at all the Summit houses this year, including Safe People.

Board:
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Mitchell Senti, Ben
deRegt

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Obbink

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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!

Aaron Speyer inquired and before we could even post the job he passed all interviews and has **accepted the call to be our Summit House Ministry Coach! What a blessing he has been, it's difficult to even quantify thus far.**

Street night continued weekly, led by Cal Buys, with up to 25 people coming each Tuesday. The bucket boys kept the work alive, but so many others have joined as well. SERVE also took place at the end of June **Summit house folks shared their stories with the students.** Game nights continued as well both at Ascent and Agape program from the Lighthouse Mission.

We so value our partnership with various ministries and churches, including 1st Baptist where we meet for Street Night. Hope in Christ, Second Church and Bethel Church sponsor churches for Summit Houses, and so many others including Love Inc, My Church, First CRC, Third CRC, First Reformed, Sonlight, Victory, Christ the King, Mt View, Spring Church, Northwest Baptist and more. God opened the door for us to do two trainings for discipleship partners at 2nd Church in Lynden. They also hosted an addiction training October 14 that involved a panel of local folks speaking on addiction.

We were privileged to be a part of **“Fun at the Park” with oldies, Gospel music and preaching right downtown at Maritime Heritage Park with our Street night crew and 1st Christian Reformed Church.**

Martha Kooiman became our new ladies program coordinator and Dolores Bosman her assistant. The two men's houses became full this year as well. **And one of our friends from the Bethel house got a full time job!**

God brought about The Summit House Thrift Store so quickly we felt like we could hardly keep up with Him! Drop off times are now daily from Tuesday through Saturday. Just ring the door bell in the back alley at 404 Front St (in the Alley) in Lynden. If you want to volunteer or need further information see: www.summitthriftstore.org Volunteers are definitely needed, especially Thursdays and Fridays! It opens at 9:30am and is open Tuesday through Saturday until 4pm. There are so many God stories just in seeing this get started.

The Senti's produced a new album called “Shorts”. We hope to have a celebration of those who have completed the Summit house program and what God has done in the next month or so. The staff also recently had a retreat with the theme of Truth, volunteers also joined on Saturday at Cedar Springs Retreat Center in Sumas, WA. It was an amazing time of fellowship, learning and refreshment in the Lord. Our biggest question: how do we help the church become a safer and more transparent place for our guests? At least one of the answers is that our guests bring that atmosphere with them.

Although the stories of transformation don't always go in the direction we hope, we certainly rejoice that **God is at work and in some totally amazing ways that both surprise and astound us.**

Our Weekly Schedule:

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

Thursday: Belonging Class at 11:30am at Lighthouse Mission <winter quarter>

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

Sunday: Jesus Study at the Majestic (5pm)