



# Update on Envision

July 2024

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 21 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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[www.envisionmission.org/senti](http://www.envisionmission.org/senti)

## Praises, Celebrations and Prayers

Thank you all so much for your generous response to our needs. **May it be credited to your heavenly account as a sweet offering to the LORD.** While we may still need help as the year goes on, we can now certainly make it through the summer and into the Fall financially. We've also received funds for two new full size mattresses. Praise God!



Recently the ladies of the Bethel house hosted a dessert appreciation for discipleship partners and volunteers from Bethel and other local churches involved. The ladies themselves put together the desserts and decorated the room for the event. Aaron Speyer shared, as did Aleta and her discipleship partner, Pam. Everyone enjoyed the evening immensely, even shedding tears as folks

shared more vulnerable experiences. At the end one of the ladies exclaimed **“best party I have ever had sober”**. Soon after that Amber celebrated her third year of sobriety. The picture above shows this joyous event. Amber is moving out soon and will need: a small coffee-table, trash can, Swiffer mop, broom, dustpan, bathroom rug, small dresser, hangers toilet brush and plunger--if anyone wants to give towards those things

We hope to host an appreciation barbeque for volunteers, discipleship partners and anyone connected to the Thrift store at Berthusen Park on **July 18, Thursday night at 5:30pm**. If you are in that category be sure to bring a side dish, drinks or dessert that complements burgers.

We hope to have a celebration of completing the program for some of our guys and ladies at the end of September or beginning of October. We will serve dessert, have some music and encourage folks to give towards the ministry. **Please consider hosting a table for that event!**

We've had discipleship classes both at the Bethel house and the Hope in Christ house. The Hope in Christ house is doing a discipleship class from the book of Matthew and the Bethel house is doing an AW Tozer study led by Aaron Speyer. 2<sup>nd</sup> house has had three folks move into housing, **two who had completed the program** and one who hadn't quite yet but we supported his opportunity for housing in a healthy and affordable environment.

**We plan to have a work party on a Saturday in July/August** to help get the house turned over from its previous renters. If you're interested in helping please let us know. And if anyone wants to help us pay the monthly rent, \$1600/month, please let us know as well. We understand that is a big commitment.

**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!



We recently went on Street night with Grace Baptist church's youth group and they went out with Miles Davis again on Thursday night. What a blessing to have them with us and to continue to share the Gospel and helpful items with those on the streets. The whole group is pictured left singing at Railroad and Holly with one of our homeless friends preaching the Gospel to us. We'll also share more information about the SERVE week that happened at the end of June in our August newsletter with 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Reformed church

and two other youth groups from other places.

**Pray also about whether you could give \$250 or \$500 to help someone with one month's program fees.** All the houses have a person that could use the help. We also need \$1000 for a new oven for the Bethel house. **The Summit Thrift store could use more volunteers, especially on Saturdays.** Let us know if you're interested in these things.

**Here's the latest from Aaron Speyer's desk:** Spring was in full swing and just as the abundance of new life is sprouting all around us, so is the theme of my reflection of the month, "Newness in Christ". 2nd Corinthians 5:7 speaks to this succinctly when it says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." **This past month a couple of our house guests exemplified this transforming evidence of the Holy Spirit being alive and well and at work in their new lives, in ways more dramatic.**

One of our men had been in a relationship with a gal for a few months and things were moving along quickly, yet there seemed to be a real connection between them. But, just about the time they were discussing pre-marital counseling things changed without warning. For whatever reason this gal decided she couldn't commit to furthering the relationship and, in an instance, she vanished, ghosted our guy, and left him reeling. **The evidence of new life displayed in our broken-hearted guy was how he handled his pain.**

Our other man experienced the sudden and violent loss of one of his young nephews due to a gang shooting that took place over a thousand miles away! His own childhood story emerges from such a background of "hood life" and he'd known **and feared that others within his family might meet a similar fate.** Bringing together the dynamics of these two men's responses to unexpected pain, while still acknowledging differences, we can identify significant themes: great loss, confusion, and suffering. The powerful evidence of changed lives, being displayed in our broken-hearted men is how they've been handling grief. They've genuinely and earnestly sought the Lord for their comfort, strength and hope. They've not been seeking other gods/ idols, past addictive behaviors to cope/ replace their dependence on Christ. They haven't isolated, relied on their own thinking, sought counsel from worldly advisors. **They've been vulnerable, reaching out to godly, supportive people to receive help, process pain, timely help, wise counsel, prayer, the reinforcement of accountability and true hope.**

**Our Weekly Schedule:**

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

**Wednesday/Thursday:** Discipleship class at HIC house at 6:15pm and Bethel house at 5pm.

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

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

