

New Life on “The Vine”

Dearest Friends and Family-

It’s March! My (Christian) favorite time of year! As if March Madness wasn’t enough (GO Arizona!), this time of year marks the beginning of spring. For all of you who continue to live in our old So Cal stomping grounds, spring may not mean a lot to you (70° is just as nice in December as it is in May!). For us Midwesterners, however, the term stirs something deep in our souls. We long for the warm sun to envelop our skin and break the hard ground beneath us – we long for new life around us again, which seems to somehow call us to new life again as well.

This year the arrival of March presents us a timely opportunity to share about the new life we’ve seen Jesus break forth within some of our friends here at MCD, specifically within a new, exciting ministry recently developed called *The Vine*. *The Vine*, officially launched last month, is a “neutral ground, small group” to the poor, marginalized, and at-risk communities in the city (intended largely for people with whom relationships have already been developed via our other existing MCD ministries).

MCD exists in partnership with a number of churches both within and outside of Omaha; we strive at great lengths to connect those we serve with these churches, nonetheless, many of our friends at MCD are not yet ready to take that step through a church door. With the hope that these same friends might be more willing to participate in spiritual discussions on “neutral ground,” an in-house partnership with a local church was established. Now within the same “safe” MCD walls where they already share meals and life with us, men and women can take a first step towards becoming integrated within the body of Christ. Prayerfully, over time, trusted relationships will be built between these friends and members of healthy churches who participate in *The Vine*, and that step through a church door will be made.

It’s only been two months since its inception and we’ve been very encouraged by God’s work in and among us. One of our newer MCD friends who currently resides at the local homeless shelter and fighting towards sobriety has been talking “endlessly” to all of his friends there about his “amazing” experiences so far in *The Vine*. (The discussion topic the first night he joined us was the concept of “suffering” found in Romans 8. What a powerful thing it can be to hear about suffering from someone who’s suffered so greatly.) Another older friend of MCD who has earnestly been seeking after God with us shared a poem to the group he wrote just weeks ago regarding the fear which keeps him from falling wholeheartedly into the arms of the Father. He gave us permission to share it with you. We’ll close our March letter with it in the hope that it too stirs something deep within your soul which longs for the spring of new life.

With great love and gratitude,
Christian, Sonya, Adina, & Elliott Gray



(Please turn page for closing poem)



Day in the Life...

Afraid of Love, for who could love a man like me?
Afraid of faith, for who could trust what can't be seen?
Afraid of hope, to believe in things that may not be?
Too ashamed, to admit I cannot see,
The light that's right in front of me,
Destined to a life of misery.

Afraid to jump, to make the leap...
Is there anyone to catch me?
I'm not for sure, but I will pray
that the light of God will be sent my way.

I want the fire, I want to see
What all my friends are telling me.
That the truth of Christ will find me here,
That sin and evil will fall apart.
I will repent and God Almighty
Will set my spirit free.

- Sean King