

Reflections from the Vine...

Having worked with women in crisis pregnancies for nearly 19 years, not much surprises me anymore. So many of our residents have had such horrific things happen to them that the staff has to guard their hearts in order to function. Often girls will say things in an attempt to shock us and I sometimes pretend to be dismayed or appalled for their sake, but usually I am not even slightly surprised. With this being the case, I thought I would share the one situation that left me completely stunned.

Jana moved into the Vine the first day we opened, September 1, 1996. Though very cordial, Jana was so laid back it was difficult to read her. Her emotions seemed muted, probably due to the sexual abuse she had suffered as a child. She, like many of our residents who have been victims of rape and molestation, would sleep fully clothed, even wearing boots to bed.

We desperately wanted God to heal her. The problem was that Jana did not know much about Christianity and was not too interested in finding out more. Though the Vine currently has an extensive spiritual growth program, it had not yet been established. So with a great deal of negotiation, I finally got Jana to agree to read the Book of John. I told her that she only had to read one chapter a day, but before she read it, I wanted her to pray, "Okay God, if you are for real, show me yourself in your Word."

Several weeks went by when Jana stopped me in the hall to ask me a question. As an afterthought, I asked her if she had finished reading the Book of John.

Jana, in her usual lackadaisical manner, responded, "I'm almost done."

I, being oh so cynical, thought to myself, "Yeah, sure she's almost finished. I bet she has yet to even open the Bible."

As I turned to open the door to my room, Jana called to me, "Miss Joanie."

I looked back at her and said, "Yeah?"

Her next words stunned me. Jana looked at me, and in the most matter of fact voice said, "I can't believe they killed him."

I was left completely speechless. She didn't know they killed Him. How could she not know they killed Jesus? Does she know He is raised from the dead?

I stood frozen trying to wrap my mind around what it must be like to find out for the first time that the most loving person to have ever lived was brutally executed as a criminal. After several moments I was left with only one thought. I looked at Jana and said, "I can't believe they killed him either."

Before long Jana gave her life to the Lord. It was one of the most amazing transformations I have ever witnessed. She began reading her Bible all the time. Countless times I found the light on in her room in the wee hours of the morning. I'd stick my head in the room to tell her to go to sleep only to find her studying Galatians or Ephesians. Jana's friends from Sunday School would tell me how impressed they were at her knowledge of the Bible, frequently turning to her for words of wisdom. She stood out even amongst kids who had grown up going to church every Sunday. We are so proud!

The Living Vine has been home to over 200 young women since we opened in 1996.

For many, this is their first safe & loving home.

Testimonies from some of our "Vine girls"

"Here at The Living Vine I have seen how God's family is intended to be."

"God has healed my broken heart from the things that have happened to me."

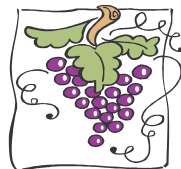
"I have accepted the Lord as my Savior. He has answered so many prayers and has changed my life."

"I have reached a place of healing and I am finally willing to be made whole. This time, I am going to do it right; this time I am going to serve God with my whole heart!"

"I thank God daily for The Living Vine because I am scared to think where I would be today if I didn't have this safe place to come."

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:5



The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home

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E-mail: thelivingvine@hotmail.com

www.thelivingvine.org



Our Home



Our Living Room



*Each of our bedrooms is
uniquely decorated.*

The Living Vine

Christian Maternity Home
Savannah, Georgia



Impacting two generations by allowing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to shine hope into the lives of women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

A place to grow,
A place to change,
A place to prepare
To love, live, and succeed.

John 15:5

The Living Vine Christian maternity home was created to minister to women in crisis pregnancies. Our vision is to provide a safe and loving environment for each mother and her unborn child. We have established a program that provides food, clothing, and shelter, and offers each woman the opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a personal way, build godly relationships with others, and learn the principles of a disciplined Christian life.



Residents spend a minimum of fifteen hours a week in the home's learning center focusing on spiritual growth and intimacy with God. In addition, each afternoon the residents participate in an individually tailored program designed for their personal growth. Courses include:

- ◆ Childbirth education
- ◆ "Baby Think It Over" parenting skills
- ◆ Anger resolution
- ◆ Educational options, including home schooling and GED preparation
- ◆ A sewing & knitting class
- ◆ Life skill development

The home also provides:

- ◆ Individual and family counseling
- ◆ Adoption referral



"Some people want to live within the sound of chapel bells, but I want to run a mission a yard from the gates of hell." John Wesley

Why We Need Your Support

The Living Vine's entire annual budget is raised through private contributions from individuals, churches, and civic organizations and grants. No money is received from state or federal funds.

How You Can Help

Prayer

Please pray for The Living Vine on a regular basis. Pray for our staff, our Board of Directors, our guild, our fund-raising efforts and especially for the young women and babies whose lives are touched by this ministry.

Financial Gifts

All donation are needed and appreciated. Special occasions for giving may be the birth of a child, the memory of a loved one or to honor someone you hold in high esteem. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. The Living Vine tax I.D. number is 58-2088326 under section 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Join The Guild

The guild is a fundraising and support network of this ministry. They host birthday parties for the girls, volunteer at Blessingdales, help with our annual auction and much more. The guild meets at 6:30 pm the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Vine. For a \$25.00 annual fee, you can become a member of the guild entitling you to a newsletter, annual events calendar and an opportunity to fellowship with others and serve the needs of The Living Vine.

Blessingdales Thrift Stores

Support the ministry of The Living Vine by making tax deductible donations to Blessingdales Thrift Stores. Volunteers and gently used items are greatly appreciated. All proceeds benefit The Living Vine. We now have three locations for your shopping pleasure. For more information, call 912.352.9998.

How You Can Give

Seed Sower



Monthly Gift of \$10 \$25 \$50
 Other _____

Vinedresser



\$1,000 +
 \$83.33/month \$100/month
 _____/month

Keeper of the Vine



\$5,000 +

Master Vinedresser



\$10,000 +

I will remit directly to The Living Vine. Please use my credit card as indicated.

VISA MasterCard Discover American Express
 This is a one-time gift. This is a monthly gift.
 Please charge my account on the
 1st 15th of the month.

Account # _____

Name on Card _____

Expiration Date _____ Today's Date _____

V Code (3 digit security code on card) _____

Signature _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____

(W) _____

Please make checks payable to:

The Living Vine, Inc.

535 East 54th Street

Savannah, GA 31405