



The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home

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 & succeed.

A Mother's Story

My name is Elaine. This story is not my story. It is God's story. May He use it to His glory!

I grew up in what at the time I considered to be a normal home, with two parents and two siblings in a middle-class suburban neighborhood. We attended church fairly regularly and I thought I had a pretty good, smooth and trouble-free life. I had some rebellious moments but my life was characterized by mostly doing the right thing. I somehow had the mindset that your life consisted of the following series of events: you were born, went to school and college, got married, had kids, worked for 30 years, retired, then rode off into the sunset and eventually died in your sleep. In step with this progression, I graduated from college, began a teaching career and got married.

For several years in my young adult life I had felt something was missing, as if my life was just not quite right. I didn't ponder this much, but it would come into my thoughts from time to time. It was during this season, through a set of circumstances only God could orchestrate, I heard the true gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. My head had always known the facts about Jesus but that day my heart found out that I needed a Savior and why. This was the missing piece. I knew *about Jesus*, but I didn't *know Jesus*. I didn't *experience Jesus*.

I began my personal relationship

with Him that day. I was 29 years old. That evening I told my husband these same truths about Jesus and he also began to know Jesus in a personal way. That was 1991.

Fast forward 20 years to 2011. Through God's grace my husband and I have remained married for 23 years and have four children ages 18, 16, 13 and 10. We know that God has selected us to leave a Christian legacy and we take seriously the charge to raise them in His ways. The Bible verse God made clear to be my life verse is Isaiah 61:4, "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; He will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."

Looking back over these years, my life has definitely not followed the path I described in the above paragraph. Our lives have endured several tragedies and hardships through which God has carried and sustained us. Although we have made many mistakes in parenting our children, stumbling more times than we would have chosen, our hearts' motive has always been pure; to send godly children into the world for God to use for His purpose and glory.

Our oldest daughter has had a pattern of rebellious choices spanning the last 4 years. In April 2011 we discovered she was pregnant. I now understand why it is called a crisis pregnancy. This sent our entire family into a tailspin. One of our

pastors once said that you can't schedule a crisis on your day planner because it is never a good time. And it definitely wasn't! I had a gamut of emotions that included anger, disappointment, fear, anxiety, sorrow, resentment and desperation. Our hearts were just ripped into shreds like when a wild animal devours its prey.

We felt our daughter was so very far from God and needed an intervention to avoid a real train wreck. We began to look for a residential placement for her with the hope that she would understand the gravity of her situation and the direction her life was taking because of her decisions. It was such an overwhelming and time consuming task; my initial list had twelve options on it. Although I couldn't see it then, God would show me over and over His faithfulness. One by one, He would close doors and windows as I called the different places.

Eventually, in His perfect timing He unmistakably led us to The Living Vine and He clearly showed us that Leigh was to live there. That would be the beginning of a series of God's fingerprints that He would imprint on this situation. Interestingly, although she said she did not want to go to the Vine, Leigh did get into our car to go without difficulty. I truly believe there was a part of her inside, which knew she needed the sabbatical The Living Vine offered. Continued: pg 3

Vine's Needs

Groceries:

Nuts: mixed, walnut, pecans
 Fruit juices, Decaf tea
 Baking supplies: sugar, flour,
 baking soda/powder, salt,
 chocolate chips
 Spaghetti Sauce, Condiments
 Snacks, Tortilla Chips, Salsa
 Whole Wheat Noodles, Crackers
 Canned Tuna (white Albacore)
 Fresh meats, bacon
 Breakfast supplies: healthy cereals
 eggs, syrup, pancake mix
 instant oatmeal & grits, bagels,
 Broths, Soups,
 Olive Oil, Cooking spray
 Potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions
 Bananas, apples, oranges

House hold items:

Smoke detectors, Bulletin Boards
 Ziplock bags: quart, sandwich,
 galloon, freezer
 (2) Kitchen trash cans: white
 4-8 yellow gold throw pillows
 Nonskid bathroom rugs
 (2) Vacuums, Steam Cleaner
 HE laundry detergent, dryer sheets
 Liquid dish & dishwasher detergent
 Stamps, No. 10 envelopes
 Permanent markers
 Stainless steel spatulas
 All paper products
 Trash Bags, masking tape
 Dental floss, deodorant

Large Vine Projects:

New carpeting
 New flooring: Kitchen/dining room
 Large dining room table & chairs
 Front door & threshold
 (2) Sofas for our living room
 Motion Sensors Lights replaced
 Reglazing/replacing tubs & tiles

School Supplies:

New desks & chairs
 Index cards, reams of paper
 Calculators, highlighters

Used computers able to do word processing

Gift Certificate for sewing supplies

Gift Certificates:

Wal-mart/Sam's, Home Depot,
 Office Max, Kroger, Lifeway
 Barnetts School Supply Store
 Gift Cards for Oil Changes

Baby Boutique:

Baby lotion, powder, oil, wipes
 Bath wash, baby shampoo
 Hats, socks, booties, baby mitts
 Towels, wash clothes, burp clothes
 Brushes, nail clippers, bibs
 Diaper cream
 Baby carriers, thermometers
 Avent bottles, pacifiers, baby bag

Volunteer Needs:

We have one time projects and on-going projects that are perfect for small groups and individuals.

One time projects:

Plumbing & Electrical skills
 Repainting ceilings
 Installing mini-blinds

On-going projects:

Half.com:
 At Blessingdales: scanning books to list using android
 At Vine: organizing our books

Gardening:

Calling all gardeners! We have an excellent plot at the Vine in need of an individual or group willing to help plant and maintain a herb and vegetable garden. We can help with watering and harvesting. But we need expertise to truly make use of this space to produce vegetables for our residents.

Couponing for a Cause:

This is a call out for coupons. In order to be as frugal as possible, we are looking for coupons for food, house hold items, cleaning supplies, etc. Please call if you have any questions.

Please call Kelly 352.9998 if you can assist with Vine projects. Please call Milly to help with half.com.



GoodSearch.com & GoodShop.com:

Simply select The Living Vine as your charity of choice and a donation will be made to The Living Vine!

Blessingdales Thrift Stores

2118 Bona Bella

Savannah #912.355.4339
 Tues– Sat: 10-5

309 East Main Street

Garden City #912.966.2242
 Tues– Sat: 10-5

305 W Collins Street

Pooler #912.330.0220
 Tues– Sat: 10-5

134 Houston St

Savannah #912.236.2034
 T- F: 10-5 Sat: 10-3

Volunteers and Donations Appreciated

After getting her a little settled in and saying our goodbyes I walked out the front door of The Living Vine with a sense of renewed hope for the first time in years.

As we navigated the next several months, we found that God had much in store to teach and show us all. These were uncharted waters for us and at times it was excruciating. It is agonizing to watch your child turn away from God and His best. We discovered that prayer was going to be essential in addition to the armor we would need to use as we learned how to be equipped and deployed in God's battle against the enemy. Indeed, there is a real, targeted attack by the enemy and his cohorts for the souls of our children. However, "for though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." (1 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Thus we prayed ...a lot! We prayed together as husband and wife; we prayed as a family. We prayed individually; we prayed in a small prayer group of friends. One of the many verses that God used to comfort is Jeremiah 31:16-17: "Thus says the Lord: 'Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for

your work shall be rewarded,' says the Lord. 'They [your children] shall return from the enemy's land. And there is hope in your future,' says the Lord. 'Your children shall come again to their own country.'"

The four months Leigh was at The Living Vine were at times tumultuous. We had many uncomfortable, seemingly unproductive conversations with her. Yet those months were also exhilarating as we saw God moving and working in her life. Through her spiritual growth classes she heard God's undeniable, countless, infallible truths. Gradually we witnessed the melting of her heart and a new desire to seek God's plan for this unborn child, God's child. We believe the familiar passage of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

However, in the verses that follow that there is even more depth and luster to this gem: "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord,

'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.'" (Jer. 29:11-14).

Only the word miraculous accurately describes how God communicated His plan for His child. Leigh selflessly and sacrificially placed her baby girl with an adoptive family in December. Even after the placement God would continue to affirm His plan and her obedience to His choice. Our prayer is for the seeds that have been planted while Leigh was at The Vine, will result in an oak of righteousness. I wish I could tell of all the wonderful intricacies of this weaving God has made of our two families, The Living Vine, Covenant Care and Himself.

I have infinite and boundless gratitude first to the Lord and second to The Living Vine ministry. Every person connected to this ministry, every act of service, every cent given and every prayer lifted up toward heaven is significant and noticed by our heavenly Father. I pray He will reward you richly and plentifully. Our family thanks you from the very depths of our grateful hearts. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." (Eph 3:20-21)

Recycling at Blessingdales

Scenario: You're spring cleaning--pulling old tablecloths, pillowcases, and sweaters from their moth-balled storage--and wondering, "Should I donate it to **Blessingdales** or just toss it?" You're not sure if anyone would be interested in buying the ivory napkins that have yellowed in the 24 years since you married or the blanket with the corner that was chewed by the dog, but the last thing you want to do is imagine how long it would take those items to decompose in a landfill. You ask, "Is there some way for these items to benefit a ministry I support or other people in need?" **The answer is "Yes!"**

In 2011, The Living Vine began working with Carolina Textiles, a recycling business that currently processes 12 million pounds of post-consumer textiles annually. If donated clothes, shoes, belts, linens, bedding, or toys are too worn or damaged to be sold in the store, Blessingdales can pass them on to Carolina Textiles where the items will be graded for donation to third world countries, creation of industrial wiping rags, or distribution to mills for reprocessing. Remaining waste products are used by a trash burning facility to generate fuel. This process benefits donors, the environment, and The Living Vine; **we are paid by the pound for the donations that we cannot sell in the store!**

We so appreciate your support of The Living Vine through Blessingdales, and we want you—the donor—to know that we are striving to make the most of your donations to serve the women and the planet that God has entrusted to our care. So when you wonder whether to donate it or toss it, bag it up and bring it on down!



The Living Vine, Inc.

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Visit us on-line: thelivingvine.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1332
SAVANNAH, GA

**Join us
for our
2nd Annual
Day of Blessings
February 25th**
Details below

Address Service Requested

Join Gideon's Army

***We are seeking
supporters to join
The Vine's
Gideon's Army.***

For a commitment of \$1000 annually, you can join the ranks of our Gideon's Army.

**Gideon's Army was
300 strong.**

It is our prayer to have 300 supporters enlist at \$1000 annually to help underwrite the cost of this vital ministry.

"And the Lord said unto Gideon, by the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand."

Judges 7:7

2nd Annual Day of Blessings

Saturday, February 25th, 2012

Location: The Link

Savannah Christian Church

9:30 am Early Silent Auction Shopping

10:30 am— 2 pm: Silent Auction, Lunch & Fashion Show

**Guest Speaker: Carmen Simpson
Owner, Extreme Makeover House**

Tickets: \$30

**Must be purchased by February 13th
Contact Viengkeo Johnson #912.401.9888
OR The Living Vine #912.352.9998**

**Seats are Limited. Please call today!
All proceeds benefit The Living Vine.**

"Our services are offered free of charge in the name of Jesus Christ to demonstrate His love."