

# The Living Vine

## Fruit of the Vine

Winter 2007

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535 East 54<sup>th</sup> Street \* Savannah, Georgia \* 31405 (912) 352-9998 [www.thelivingvine.org](http://www.thelivingvine.org)

### Marie's Story

**I don't know much about my real parents.** My biological mother left my brothers and me with my father who was not mentally stable enough to take care of us. We were separated and placed for adoption when I was eighteen months old.

**My life with my adopted family wasn't so bad** at first. My father was a pastor and my parents already had two sons who I loved very much. But when I turned six, my dad had an affair and my parents got a divorce. My mom had a very difficult time and once again I was separated from my brothers.

Growing up in this type of situation was hard. I only got to see my brothers and my dad every other weekend, every other holiday, and two weeks in the summer. Meanwhile my mom started telling me things about my dad that made him look bad. Unfortunately I believed her and at times, I **didn't want to see him**.

When I turned nine, both of my parents remarried. Life with my step-father was difficult. He kept trying to tell my mom how to parent me. She in turn began physically and emotionally abusing me and I became afraid of her. My dad tried to get me out of the situation, but he kept being denied custody. It was not until I was 14 that my mom let me go.

That Christmas, I went back to see her and we ended up in a fight. When she started to hit me, I hit her back in defense. She called my dad and told him to come get me. Our relationship has not been the same since. **Let's just say, I have** ended up with lots of issues with authority.

Due to my distrust, I became very withdrawn from adults and my grades dropped dramatically. As soon as I turned 18, I moved out of my **dad's** house and into an apartment with a boyfriend who was eight years older than me. Things happened that I **really don't even want to** remember. I was so scared of what he and his

friends might do to me that I began drinking every night and became addicted to drugs, like ecstasy. When I discovered I was pregnant, my boyfriend seemed really excited, but four months later I miscarried and he became furious with me. Amongst other things, he told me it was entirely my fault and then he threw me out. For the next six months I slept in my car.

I became friends with a really nice girl who wanted me to go with her to work for the carnival. Since it was better than living in my car, I agreed. I guess you could say that I fell in love with one of the carnival workers. We were together for quite a while. I wanted to have the right kind of relationship this time, but instead I ended up pregnant. When my boss found out, he fired me.

Initially my friend wanted to help me. She took me to live with her family until things erupted between us. Once again I was afraid for my safety and I wanted to take care of my unborn baby. I called my parents and they sent me a bus ticket home. Two weeks later, I moved into The Living Vine.

The staff at the Vine has made me feel more at home and at peace than anywhere I have been before. I am in a safe environment where I am learning to trust the ones around me. I have also become closer to the Lord in the last few months. He is in my heart.

Right now, I am struggling with what to do. I believe what is best for my baby is for me to place him for adoption with a loving family. The father of the baby is now wanting to keep our baby. I am not comfortable with him raising baby Matthew. I would appreciate you praying for **God's will to be done for all of us**.

I wanted to say thank you for all of you who support The Living Vine. Thank you for caring about me and my baby. Merry Christmas!



Every time we send a newsletter, the staff is asked what they need to most effectively love and minister to the women in crisis and children in our community. What we receive is the following list-- full of dreams, practicality, and ways for you to personally minister to “the least of these.”

### ***Special Needs:***

Mortgage paid on new property  
Downtown Blessingdales location  
New Van for resident transportation  
Long term missionary housing (Ardsley Park area)  
Trailer and trailer hitch

Window Blinds: The Vine needs 40 white 2” faux wood blinds in order to secure privacy.  
Measurements: (1) 220 x 62, (23) 72 x 62,  
(1) 146 x 62, (2) 37 x 82, (1) 183 x 62,  
(4) 109 x 62, (7) 35 x 50, (1) 38 x 62  
Aluminum Mini-blinds: (9) 38 ½ x 52,  
(10) 27 ½ x longest length,  
(7) 51 ½ x longest length

### ***House Needs:***

All paper products, Blender  
Metal Workspace shelves  
13 Gallon drawstring trash bags  
Kitchen sponges, SOS Brillo pads  
**Light Bulbs: 60 watt, 40 watt fluorescent (48”)**  
Industrial vacuum cleaner with attachments  
Twin size plastic mattress covers  
Jumper Cables, Shower Curtains  
Battery Tester & 9V Batteries  
Liquid Laundry Detergent & Hand Soap  
Solid Colored Dish Towels  
2 Ladders (one extra-long)

### ***Service Needs:***

Lawn Care  
General Maintenance  
Roof repairs  
Ceiling Repair-water damage  
Vehicle Maintenance  
General Construction Project  
Lawn Mower Maintenance  
Volunteers to help with pick-ups

### ***Food Donations:***

If your church, store or restaurant has food to donate, please call The Vine at 912.352.9998.

### ***Gift Certificates:***

Office Max, JoAnn’s, Home Depot  
Kroger, Sam’s & Wal-Mart  
Christian book stores  
Tours for historic sites/museums  
Movie Theaters, Restaurants

### ***Bear Club:***

Wal-Mart gift cards  
Individual prizes & candies

### ***Classroom Needs:***

DVD/VCR combination  
2 new desk top computers  
12 office chairs  
Reams of Paper, Staplers  
Bright Dry Erase Markers  
Ink Cartridges: HP 21, 22, 94, 95 & Epson T048120 black & color  
“My Child, My Princess” by Beth Moore  
Videos: *The Ultimate Gift, Amazing Grace, I am David, The Cross & The Switchblade, Robber of the Cruel Streets* by George Muller, *The Nativity Story*, Nooma Videos

### ***Office Needs:***

3 new desk top computers  
Stamps, Blank RW-CDs  
Avery Labels 5160  
**Envelopes: 3 5/8” x 6 1/2” & No 10 with self seal**

### ***Grocery Needs:***

Cereal & Fruit Juice  
Canned Soups, Nuts, Chips  
Flour, Sugar, Snacks

### ***Personal Care Items:***

Teddy Bears-medium  
Shampoo, Conditioner, Brushes  
Body Wash, Deodorant, Q-tips  
Travel Soap Containers  
Mouthwash, Dental Floss

*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.*  
Matthew 25:40

## *Blessingdales Volunteers Needed.*

Many times people ask how they can best be of service to the Vine.

Blessingdales is a perfect location not only to help with a fiscal need but also to minister to the community around us with the love of Christ. Whether you are new to the Lord or **have walked with Him for years, you'll find an avenue to serve.** If you are interested and able to donate time to help sort donations, foster relationships with those in need and genuinely pour out the love of Christ to the community at large, we would love to work along side of you. Also, if you are willing to help pick up donated furniture, there is a need for your help. Please call us at The Living Vine at 912.352.9998 for information.



# *Blessingdales*



*Thrift Store*

*An Outreach of The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home*

*We praise the Lord for providing a beautiful new Blessingdales location. Rejoice with us, and make plans to stop by and see what all the excitement is about!*

## ***Announcing our New Location in Downtown Savannah!***

134 Houston Street  
Greene Square  
Grand Opening December 1<sup>st</sup>

Maybe we can put something here about a Christmas sale or information about calling for pick-ups.

### **Savannah**

2118 Bona Bella Ave.  
On the corner of Skidaway  
& Bona Bella

**912.355.4339**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri  
10 am-5 pm  
Saturday 10 am-3 pm

### **Garden City**

309 East Main Street  
Traffic Circle Shopping Center

Take 516 to Exit 8  
Next to All Size Outlet & Payless

**912.966.2242**

Tues-Fri 11 am-6 pm  
Saturday 11 am-4 pm

### **Pooler**

106-C S. Chestnut St.  
Between Hwy 80 E & W  
Near City Hall

**912.330.0220**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
9:30 am-5:00 pm  
Saturday 10 am-3 pm

*Volunteers and gently used donations are greatly appreciated.*

# Merry Christmas from The Living Vine

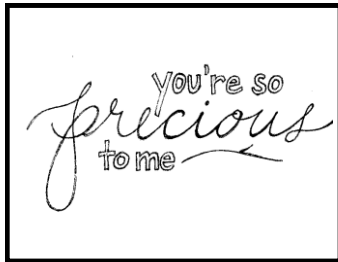
*Need gift ideas? Look below!*

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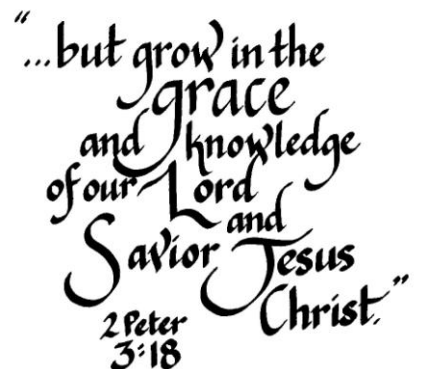
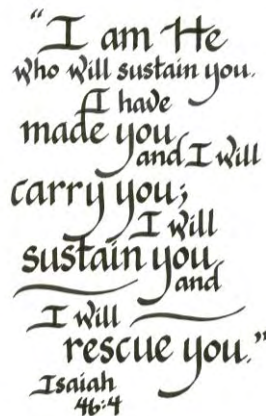
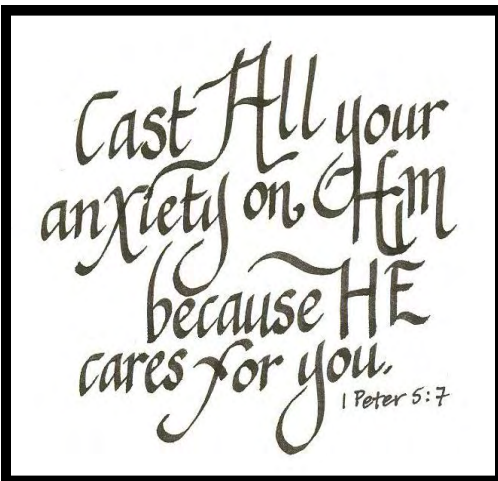
## Random Cards of Kindness

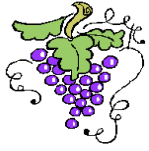
Support The Living Vine by giving a beautiful gift created with love by our missionaries. Greeting Cards are sold in packs of five for \$4.50. Framed wall prints are available for \$18. Displayed below are a few samples of what is available. Call The Living Vine at 912.352.9998 to place your order today.

### Greeting Cards



### Calligraphy Wall Prints





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*If you are available to help pick up donations, please call the Vine!*

The Living Vine  
535 East 54<sup>th</sup> Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

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



*Please be in prayer for  
Blessingdales Thrift Store's  
Downtown Location.*

**A LITTLE change  
can make a BIG  
difference!**

**So far, our baby  
bottle fundraiser  
has raised over  
\$41,000!**

*Please join the baby  
bottle campaign. Baby  
bottles are available at  
The Living Vine.*

**Call the Vine to see  
how you can help!**