



The Link

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Update on Vintage Church

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It has been a year and a half since Vintage Church opened its doors, but in reality we are 2-3 years in from when the seed of a church plant in the SBA was first planted. It has been great to see how Vintage has progressed and developed over this time. For those unfamiliar with Vintage Church, it is a church plant of Calvary Baptist and our approach to church planting has been slightly different than conventional church plants. Most church plants will start with a group of 20-30 people sub-planted from the original church. Our goal was not to create a duplicate of Calvary, but rather a new unique community of people seeking Jesus, wanting to be equipped and disciplined. Because of this we started with a small core group. Regina has always been a place where 'church hopping' has thrived, and although it benefits neither church, nor those transferring, it is difficult to ignore. Our goal with Vintage was not to seek out transfers, but rather seek out people who don't know Jesus, people who were looking for answers, and people who were slowly finding their way back to church after years of being away. With this approach we could truly have a more genuine community that was seeking answers for who God is, and who He calls us to be. This has led to us to be a part of some amazing transformations that God has been doing in the hearts of people.



- Pray for Good Spirit Bible Camp and many other Christian camps. Pray for many to accept Jesus as their Saviour.
- Pray for those attending Triennial in Edmonton in July.
- Pray for our Pastors
- Pray for all levels of government: Civic, Provincial and Federal.

Continued on page 2

Update on Vintage Church...continued from page 2

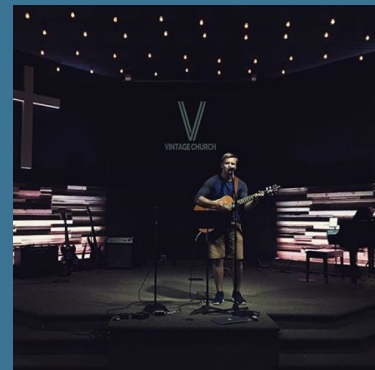
Over the past year, we have seen a lot of firsts at Vintage: our first baptism, our first baby dedication, our first Missions Outreach, and people coming to know Jesus for the first time. One of these 'firsts' was our outreach started by Vintage called 'Sandwiches to the Streets'. A ministry that delivers food, clothing, and the Gospel to the poor and powerless of Regina's inner core. The last Sunday of every month people from Vintage gather to make sandwiches and soups, put together care packages, and Gospel messages for families, children, and those in need. On average, *Sandwiches to the Streets* delivers care packages to over a hundred homeless and needy in downtown Regina. Over the last year the relationships built with people God routinely instructs us to care for in the Bible: the poor, the widow, and the orphan, has blossomed into people hearing the story of Jesus and His saving grace.

As a pastor this has been encouraging on so many levels. The fact that this ministry was started by us giving the statement "where is God calling us and how do we respond?" is encouraging as a small community. This was not Vintage saying 'we need a ministry' but rather saying 'how can we come alongside individuals where God is calling them?' To us this is important because it is not us 'doing' ministry because that's what churches do, but rather us going where God is calling because He has put it on the hearts of the individuals in our community.



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As we look to the future and where God is calling us, we wait with anticipation to see what unfolds. As an SBA, the conversation of Church planting is important, and while that may be a different article for a different issue of this newsletter, it is still important to note. It is often thought that church plants must be done by large urban churches and that church plants are not feasible for smaller churches or rural



churches. If Vintage has taught us anything about this, it would be that there is no specific paradigm for church planting, and so much rests on looking at your own context and seeing where/how God is calling you to expand. For Calvary it was creating a separate unique community in the northwest part of Regina, but for each of our churches it will be something different. It's time to start the dialogue within our individual churches about church planting, it's time to be innovative in understanding our contexts and how we can actively reach new communities, both rural and urban. It's a discussion happening in the NAB and all of its regions, and I believe it's a discussion that is strongly rooted in church doctrine and is a part of the very nature of who God is. A God who sends his people to save those who are lost.

Over the next year we are excited to see where God is prompting us to serve and equip.

