

Dearest Friends and Family-

Hope you've all been enjoying summer!

This is a very different summer for us – it's the first summer since 1999 that we're home and not taking a work-related trip (we're calling it our "summer Sabbath")! Though we really love the experience of traveling somewhere new (or in the case of So. Cal last year, somewhere familiar), there is much to be said about staying-put! Some of our highlights thus far: rooting for Adina and her little league team, teaching Elliott how to stay afloat at the community pool, experiencing a firework bonanza in our neighborhood of South Omaha over the 4th, and having the opportunity to host many of our old friends from Word Made Flesh traveling through town for the mission's tri-annual staff retreat.

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are needed to see this picture.

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Adina fishing

Elliott at the "beach" (river)

Of course, even without travel, life never really seems to slow down. Thrown into the middle of the business is an exciting prospect - Mosaic Community Development may be on the verge of multiplication!

For the past several months, MCD has been praying and working very hard to possibly plant another drop-in center in a different part of downtown Omaha commonly known as Park Avenue.

For several years now the once family-oriented Park Avenue neighborhood has witnessed an influx of dehumanizing and destructive acts such as prostitution, drug trafficking, and gang violence. With the desire to be a light in this part of the city, a group of individuals (including Tony Jackson and Jesse Nigro – two MCD staff members) moved into the neighborhood to establish an "intentional community" known as Park Ave Community (PAC, see parkavenuecommunity.blogspot.com). With the already established presence of PAC, the support of the neighborhood association, and the urging of a few local churches, MCD's fit in this area appears at the moment to be a God-orchestrated one.

Please join us in prayer asking that we would closely follow our Father's leading. Though this addition has great potential in being apart of restorative change within a community desperate for it, it will be a major undertaking for MCD, requiring great resources and great faith. We are so grateful for your important role within MCD – we know that you are with us as we take steps into the unknown.



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