

Mark 4:20 says “the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams.”

Just recently I came across this familiar scripture verse. This time it produced a new connection: it struck me just how beautiful and rich our E3 vision statement really is. Encounter. Embrace. Embody Christ in Life. In Community. In the World.

Maybe you feel a little like me, in that I’ve desired and committed to and tried my hardest to embody Christ. Yet more often than not, just felt disappointed or guilty in not having lived into it fully. I’m discovering, perhaps for the first time, that the goal is not to just jump to the finish line. There is value in the process, and there is joy in starting at the right place. It’s becoming clear to me that this is a very organic process: we cannot embody Christ without first encountering Christ and then embracing the message Christ brings us. The experiences we have will drive our growth, develop our faith and produce energy for a life of love.

Again I am reminded of the song we sang during Communion at the November MCA gathering: “We become what we receive.” Yes, let us now hear, embrace and produce a harvest of unconditional love and freedom—naturally, wholeheartedly and profoundly—for this is God’s desire for us.