



Growing Branches

Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*

Denver, Colorado | Summer 2010

Parenting 101 By Liz Seelow

“How do I raise my child?” This is an often-asked question here at *New Beginnings*. The challenges of discipline, bed times, feedings and play time all make the list as residents work at developing their parenting skills. Adding to the challenge is the fact that many of the mothers do not have stable backgrounds or role models to draw from.

The number one challenge for the women is the aspect of discipline.

“Should we spank or use time outs?”

“When they act up at dinner should we remove them from the situation or just ignore it?”

Many of the mothers are hesitant because the “discipline” they received as children, teenagers and even as adults was inappropriate by any standard. Unwarranted abuse both verbally and physically is what they are most accustomed to. The residents acknowledge that this is not the path they want to take with their children. However, they simply don’t know from experience what is appropriate and where to draw the line. Many will do the exact opposite of what they saw as children. They take a passive approach in which the only reaction to their child’s bad behavior is to say “no.” The result is a defiant child who doesn’t listen. It doesn’t take long to realize that this approach does not work.

Another significant challenge facing the mothers is bedtime. Loving parents, like the *New Beginnings* residents, hate to see their children cry, but experienced parents know that letting them cry may be the only way to develop and maintain a consistent bedtime. It becomes frustrating for the mothers when they have no time to get tasks done, because their children aren’t in bed at an appropriate time.

Thankfully, we are blessed with wonderful house parents. Ray and Joanne Solofra are truly models of Christian parenting. They raised eight children of their own and generously impart the wisdom of experience to our residents. The mothers value the training they receive from Ray and Joanne as they work to become effective Christian parents.



Joanne and Ray Solofra

First-time parenting is a daunting task for anyone and those who have been there know that success comes after considerable trial and error. The women at *New Beginnings* are gaining valuable experience as they strive to do what is best for their children. We pray that with God’s help they will meet the challenges of parenting successfully! 📖

Letters From Home

My name is Tara Pouppirt. I am 29 years old. I have a beautiful baby boy name Isaac whom is going on two years old and lives here at New Beginnings with me. I also have my handsome man Dawson whom is 11 years old and stays with my parents till I am able to fully support him.

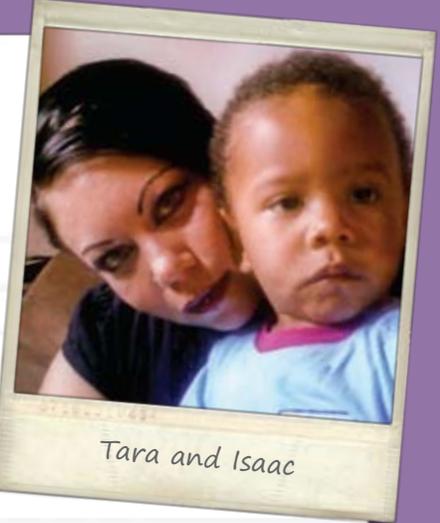
It took me a long time to wake up and see the lives that I had been destroying. I've struggled for a very long time with drug addiction and hatred for myself. And whereas I've always had knowledge and love for God, I just chose to put my selfish ways first. After leaving my oldest son behind with my parents my life went into a downward spiral. It still took some time after having little Isaac, and almost losing him or losing myself, to wake up.

I remember God's voice in my head telling me that if I didn't change ASAP, I was going to end up dead, alone on the streets. So with that, I picked up the phone and called the Arapahoe House to put myself in rehab. On August 29, 2009 I was told that myself and Isaac would be joining my two month rehab treatment on Aug 31, 09. I was so happy I called my father with tears of joy for the new beginning of our lives.

After successfully graduating the Arapahoe House, Isaac and I moved to a shelter where I continued to progress positively in life. New Beginnings was a place I was determined to be accepted to since I heard of it in rehab. I came for my interview and for 3 weeks straight I called back over and over again with anticipation for our new home.

Since being here at New Beginnings I have reconnected with God, my family, my kids and myself. I have a job that I enjoy getting up for. For the first time in my life I know that we will be okay. I realize I don't need to fear failure as long as I've got God. Although there are things from my past that I will struggle with for the rest of my life, no longer will I let those things weaken and conquer my soul. Proudly I can say I have been 10 months sober and counting and for once in my life I am proud of myself and can look my family in the eye and see that they as well are proud of me. I say thank you with my heart and soul to God and New Beginnings for showing me such warm love.

Sincerely,
Tara and Isaac



Tara and Isaac

Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- Baby Wipes
- Large Frying Pans and Cooking Kettles
- Donations Towards New Carpeting (To Replace Worn Carpets)

For a complete list, go to:
www.HomeforMothers.com/pdf/wish_list.pdf



A Father's Love By Liz Seelow

The family is God's own institution. The Scriptures clearly teach that marriage is a life-long union between one man and one woman. The Scriptures also show us that children are the greatest blessing that God bestows upon a husband and wife. God's family portrait stands in sharp contrast with the picture that society paints. Sin changed the picture. In some cases it's distorted beyond all recognition. In other cases the picture is incomplete. The single-parent family is such an incomplete picture. It's like a puzzle with a missing piece. These families face unique difficulties and challenges but, as you'll see, the challenges can be met successfully. It is possible to provide a loving and nurturing environment for a child in a single-parent family.

This is demonstrated with the single mothers here at *New Beginnings*. What needs to be shared with the residents is that they can complete the picture in a God-pleasing way. The piece required to complete the picture is essential for all families – not just single-parent ones. It is Christ who completes the picture. While the residents here may have a child whose father is not in the picture, they are not “fatherless” in the spiritual sense. Because of Christ they, and their children, have the most supportive father anyone could ask for: their Heavenly Father.

The women find the encouragement in the Word to keep Christ at the center of their families. A Christ-centered family will succeed. Through daily devotions they are constantly reminded about a great love that they can count on. The love of an earthly father may fail, but their Heavenly Father's love is constant and rock-solid. Christ's perfect life and death have reconciled them to God. His resurrection is the guarantee. The unconditional love of our Heavenly Father is reality.

This can be a hard truth to grasp, especially for residents who have never experienced a loving male figure in their life. Thanks to the Holy Spirit's work in their hearts, the comfort and truth of the Father's love increases day by day.

The single-mother family may seem less than ideal to many people, including the women here. Yet, it can succeed. A Christ-centered home is a place where imperfect parents, even single ones, are able to provide a loving and nurturing environment for their children. And it's all thanks to our Heavenly Father's love. 📖



An Envelope by Any Definition

Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary defines envelope as “a flat usually paper container.” Every issue of *Growing Branches* contains a flat paper container.

Merriam-Webster's second definition is “something that envelops” such as “the envelope of air around the earth.”

New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers could be described as an envelope based on that second definition. It is a place that physically envelops its residents. *New Beginnings* is a building that envelops and provides shelter for the mothers and their babies. *New Beginnings* is, of course, infinitely more than that. It's a ministry that envelops the residents with the love of Christ.

Every woman who comes to *New Beginnings* comes for a reason. Each one comes needing a place to live and a place to start their broken and troubled lives over again. But the real new beginning is the one that every

sinner needs. Each mother and baby hears that Jesus paid for their sins – even the sins that brought them to our door. What a privilege that *New Beginnings* can provide a place that envelops them in the Savior's love!

That brings us to the flat paper container you found in this newsletter. When you use this envelope to support this ministry, you are helping to ensure that *New Beginnings* will continue to provide shelter, parenting skills and other essential life skills. Most importantly, you are ensuring that the message of Jesus Christ envelops the moms and babies with its lifesaving comfort.

It's really quite amazing what a humble flat paper container can do when it's placed in the hands of God's people. Thank you for enveloping us with the love of Christ! 📖





New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

3070 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

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HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$55,000 IN 2010!

On average it costs \$28,000 to provide for the needs of each of the six mothers and their children at *New Beginnings*. Your congregation can touch more lives than ever this year with the "Change for Life" program.

**TOTAL DONATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1:
\$15,631.37**



Contact us at 800-729-9535 or info@christianliferesources.com for more info.

New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered home for single mothers and their children. It is affiliated with Christian Life Resources. The home has been serving residents since 1993. It is supported entirely by the generous support and prayers of those who are committed to sharing Christ and reflecting His sacrificial love.

Contact: **Ms. Liz Seelow - Home Manager**
Ray and Joanne Solofra - Volunteer House Parents
Telephone: **1-303-364-0890**
1-800-720-MOMS
E-mail: **Info@HomeforMothers.com**
Website: **www.HomeforMothers.com**



A ministry sponsored by Christian Life Resources

4 times a year...

You receive *Growing Branches*.
It contains a "Most Needed Items" list.
It includes an envelope for your monetary gift of support.
We seek your support through this periodical.

Please consider helping us with your gifts to New Beginnings.

***New Beginnings* appreciates your prayers to our gracious God on our behalf.**

We also appreciate your gifts. Would you consider helping us out?

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Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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I would like to support this ministry on a regular basis. Please send me information on becoming a Clearly Caring Sponsor.

Mail to: *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*
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CLR provides all fundraising and administrative services for *New Beginnings*.