



GROWING BRANCHES

HERE WE GROW...

As Christians, we are commanded by God to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Unfortunately, we can get caught up with the hectic schedules of our everyday lives, making it easy to lose focus on this straightforward directive. Thankfully, the same God who gives us the command also provides us with limitless opportunities to achieve it.

One such opportunity arose in early March when we at *New Beginnings* were invited as guest speakers at a Rangeview Optimist Club meeting in Aurora, Colorado. The club itself is made up of a variety of civic-minded volunteers whose purpose, among other things, is to aid and encourage the development of youth. The members are involved in several community projects including volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, coaching youth sports teams, providing food baskets to the needy and assisting disaster victims.

We were truly honored by the invitation to speak at the meeting on behalf of *New Beginnings*. The club members were extremely hospitable and eager to hear about our ministry and willing to find out what they could do to assist with our ministry. Residents Tara and Mia accompanied me to the meeting and were excited to share their stories and experiences with the club members. Both ladies did a wonderful job during their 10- to 15-minute presentations in which they relayed how having God in their lives has made all the difference. They also expressed the blessings they have received as residents at *New Beginnings*! Mia ended her speech with the following poem that she had written the previous night:

*Deep in the recesses of my heart and mind
I was once empty...then the CHRIST!
The same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
produced abundance which was plenty.*

By Sharing God's Word



by Heidi Olson,
Home Manager

Over and over drugs and reckless living tried to have their way, yet the Lord to me still whispered... "Let me in today"!

I was once a mother at her worst with much spiritual unrest.

*Part of the blessing of having Jesus,
is having New Beginnings and now...*

Hey, I'm Mommy at her best!!!!

What a magnificent blessing it is to be able to share the good news with others. May we continue to seek out the opportunities that God so graciously provides. 🌸



Love, selflessness, patience, sacrifice... what does motherhood mean to you? Psalm 127 tells us that children are a reward from the Lord and through them mothers are truly blessed! At *New Beginnings*, our purpose is to help single mothers with God's Word to grow spiritually, make God-pleasing decisions, be responsible citizens in society, and be competent and loving Christian parents. Our existing residents are in various stages of motherhood ranging from the expectant mother to a mother of a one-year-old child. We have included their thoughts on what motherhood means to them in this special Mother's Day edition of *Growing Branches*.

Mia's Motherhood Poem

From the flower of spring that unfolds,
to the nursery rhyme that I have heard or told...
I embrace the mother in me!

From the bedtime song I sing,
that leads me to tell my children we belong to Christ the King...
I embrace the mother in me!

From the butter that drizzles and sticks to pancakes,
to the remembrance of how long Granny's cooking takes...
I embrace the mother in me!

From the sin or struggle I thought was mundane,
to the reminder from God that it's the reason why he came...
I embrace the mother in me!



Hiyaw's Motherhood Article

What is motherhood? To me, it's the first time you experience the true meaning of love. It's the love that you have always wanted but didn't seem to ever be able to obtain. I felt that love after the initial shock had gone away about my pregnancy. I could see my stomach growing, and I felt happier as the days went by. It didn't matter to me that I was in a hard place because I knew God was watching over me. I knew too that he had given me a gift even though my gift had come at a bad time. It was okay though because I finally accomplished that sense of love I had searched for – for such a long time. Each day as I feel my daughter move inside of me, I fall even deeper in love because now I understand what my mother always told me...the love you feel for your child is the greatest love of all.

Ashley's Motherhood Article

Motherhood means to me caring, love and compassion. I want my son to grow up knowing who I am and having in mind that I am a good mother. I will always be there for him and have an unconditional love for him. I will never leave his side and will always support him through any trials and tribulations he may go through. To me, that is being a good mother. A trip down "Motherhood Lane" is not always easy, but it's worth it!



Left to Right: Mia and her daughters Ariel (baby) and Nayja; Heidi; Hiyaw (pregnant); Linda; Tara and Stephen and seated are Ashley and Jayden

Tara's Motherhood Article

In my bathroom the toilet paper is on the towel rack, the lid is down on the toilet, and all things around the rim of the tub are on the far wall. The living room couch is on the short wall off to the right of the TV (which I can't watch from that angle), and the recliner (which I do not sit in) is in front of the TV. The dining room consists of a table and two chairs. To the left there is a night stand and then a tall bookshelf next to the front door. I've done this to maximize space in the living area. "Why?" you ask. If you walk in and take a look at the unorganized mess and disarray, it will throw you off, but there is a method to the madness. I am a mother of a now-walking, one-year-old toddler named Stephen. He does chin ups from everything above his head, puts everything in his mouth that is not tied down or bolted shut, enjoys water in the tub or toilet, and has completely turned my life... right side up. All praises to God, the Maker of this small life, who seems to embody joy itself! 🌸

Easter in Heaven



Judy Schwartz

The announcement from Craig Schwartz read, "Let's celebrate her Easter in heaven!" Craig and Judy Schwartz served as the first house parents for *New Beginnings*. On Maundy Thursday evening Judy was taken to heaven at the age of 70 years.

At the right time God gave us the right couple to get *New Beginnings* off the ground. When we opened the doors in October of 1993 we had no model to imitate and no veterans to call on. Craig and Judy were God's gift to us. With their "take each day as it comes" demeanor they chartered this new territory. They literally got the ministry on its feet and then navigated the challenge of relocating it to its present location.

We extend our condolences to the Schwartz family and celebrate with them the victory that Judy enjoys in heaven. Through Judy and Craig the Lord touched – and continues to touch – many lives through the ministry of *New Beginnings*. 🌸

Our Loving Moms Give Back

by Christian Life Ministries'
New Day Center Director Sharon Kurtzhahn

This article was taken from the February 2012 newsletter, *Insight for Life*, our Christian Life Ministries' affiliate in Little Canada, Minnesota.

After returning from the CLR National Convention, I met with our Loving Moms group and shared the story of a mom named Tara and her son Stephen and how they were both helped at our Christian Life Resources' home for mothers in Colorado (*New Beginnings*). It was at this point, that several of our moms thought it would be a good idea to collect change in our baby bottles for other mothers in need. They chose to begin collecting change that very day and for the next four weeks for *New Beginnings*.

Isn't it amazing that those who themselves need help, so willingly want to help others? I want our donors to know, especially those individuals and congregations who helped our Loving Moms at Christmas time, that our Loving Moms saw a need and a way to help other moms and they took actions. A total of \$100 in change was collected and sent to *New Beginnings* shortly after Christmas. 🌸



Left to Right: Stephen, Ruth Petermann [CLM's Development Director], Sharon Kurtzhahn [CLM's Client Services Coordinator], Tara

Please Let Us Know...

Please take a few minutes to help us update any non-current address information so you can continue to receive this newsletter! This will help reduce mailing costs for wrong or non-current addresses (such as individuals who have moved or passed away) or duplicate mailings. Contact *New Beginnings* today – by phone, snail mail or email – to correct the mailing information. Thanks!

SHOP FAMILY TREASURES AND GIFTS!

**MOTHERS & MILESTONES
FATHERS & FAMILY SALE!**
Sale prices good May 1 - June 30



Sale \$9.99

Mother & Child Swing Ride Bronze-Finish Statue - Whimsical statue features a mother swinging her young child. Size: 9.5" H



Sale \$10.49

Family Framed Glass - Unique glass piece with verse Joshua 24:15 and framed in black. Size: 10" x 6"



Sale \$16.10 each

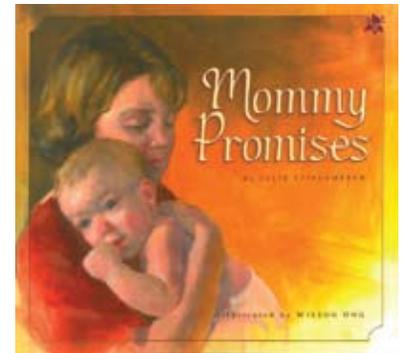
Digital Music Box - Beautiful box features frame for personal photo. Size: 8"W x 6"H x 2.5"D. Photo 6.5"W x 4.5"H (Choice of 6 songs: *I Can Only Imagine, How Great Thou Art, All of Creation, Above All, On Eagle's Wings, In Christ Alone.* Sold separately.)



Sale \$20.99 each

"Rejoice" and "Strength" Framed Animal Print Plaque - "Rejoice" Verse: *This is the day that the Lord has made. Psalm 118:24.* "Strength" Verse: *The joy of the Lord is my strength. Nehemiah 8:10.* Ebony frame with nail head trim. Size: 20.5" x 10.5"

Celebrate the special love from your mother with a thoughtful gift from Family Treasures and Gifts



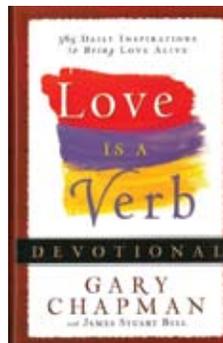
Sale \$5.59

Mommy Promises - Heartwarming book teaches about the special relationship between a mother and her child.



Sale \$33.25

Unity Wedding Candle Set - Beautiful white porcelain base holds all 3 candles in one unit. Bears the words "To love and to cherish, to have and to hold" in the oval, and "Forever and Ever from this day forward" in the background. Includes pillar candle & both tapers. Base is 9" across. Pillar is 10" x 3". Tapers are 10".



Sale \$13.99

Love is a Verb by Gary Chapman - A compilation of true stories - written by everyday people - go straight to the hearts of readers, Gary Chapman adds a "Love Lesson" to each story, showing readers how they can apply the same principles to their own relationships.

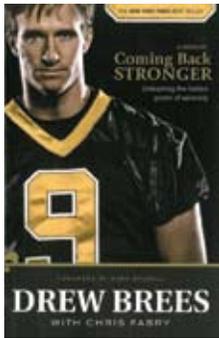


Sale \$4.89 each

Stretch Bangles - Elastic bracelets adorned with graphics and rhinestones in color coordinated 3 pack.

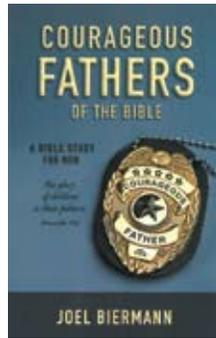
Check out our entire selection of sale-priced Mother's and Father's Day, Graduation, Anniversary and Wedding Gifts, and family-themed items at www.FamilyTG.com!

Sale prices good May 1 – June 30



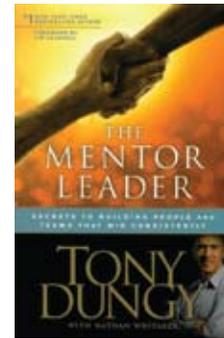
Sale \$11.19

Drew Brees: Coming Back Stronger - Inspiring message of hope and encouragement proves that through faith, with determination, and heart, you can overcome any obstacle life throws your way and not only come back, but come back stronger.



Sale \$6.99

Courageous Fathers of the Bible - Series of reflections springing from the lives of 12 real men we meet in God's Word. The fathers that will be discussed include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Job, Solomon, Joseph, Jairus, the Official, and the Prodigal's Father.



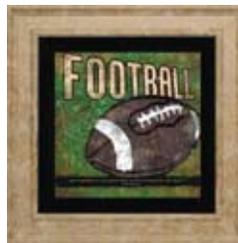
Sale \$18.99

The Mentor Leader by Tony Dunge - Tony reveals what propelled him to the top of his profession and teaches you how to succeed for your team, family, or organization while living out your values-by becoming a mentor leader.



Sale \$9.09 each

Survivor Bracelet - Rugged and functional bracelets made from 1.34 meters of real paracord with a metal dog tag and a handy snap hook.

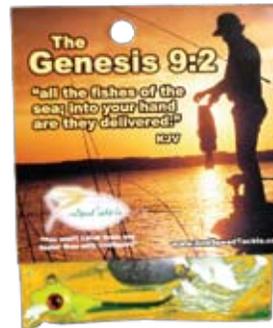


Sale \$27.99

Football Wall Plaque - Verse: *Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10.* Lightly white-washed wood grain frame. Size: 16" x 16"

Sale \$2.99

Spinner Fishing Lure ↓



↑ Sale \$4.20
Buzz Fishing Bait

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OR CALL 1-800-478-2719 TO ORDER

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New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

3070 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

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MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- 4 twin set mattresses and 2 full set mattresses
- 2 new black couch covers and 2 new black loveseat covers
- Vacuum cleaners for resident apartments



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

When mailing items, please send directly to *New Beginnings*.

4 TIMES A YEAR...

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

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US WITH YOUR GIFTS TO NEW BEGINNINGS.

- *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. Heidi Olson - Home Manager**
Ms. Linda Olson - Volunteer House Parent
- Mailing Address: **PO Box 423 • Aurora, CO 80040-0423**
- Telephone: **303-364-0890 • 1-800-720-MOMS**
- E-mail: **info@homeformothers.com**
- Website: **www.HomeforMothers.com**



A ministry sponsored by Christian Life Resources

***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.
- Please contact me about remembering *New Beginnings* in my will or estate plan.
- I would like to support this ministry on a regular basis. Please send me information on becoming a Clearly Caring Sponsor.
- I would appreciate a letter acknowledgment of this gift. I would prefer an email acknowledgment of this gift.
- I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

Mail to: *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*
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Christian Life Resources provides all fundraising, staffing and administrative services for *New Beginnings*.