

Growing Branches



Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*

Denver, Colorado

December 2005

Vistas

By Rev. Doug Bode

Whether or not you were a fan of John Denver, you probably equate his song “Rocky Mountain High” with the state of Colorado. It’s “way up there!” Not only is Colorado “high” in terms of elevation, it’s also “high” in terms of popularity. Winter, spring, summer, and fall, people head up into “the high country” in droves. From breathtaking scenery to sheer excitement on the slopes, Colorado ranks high on the scale of destinations to visit.

I personally remember the thrill-of-a-lifetime hike to the summit of Mt. Elbert. At 14,433 feet, it’s the highest peak in Colorado and the second highest in the lower-48 states. There was nothing higher in the area, and the vistas from the top were awesome!

However, no matter how wonderful it can be at the top of that peak, something usually comes along to spoil the view. Hikers have to be careful to leave the summit by noon, because a sudden thunderstorm may blow in. With lightning dancing all around, the vistas aren’t so great. A case in point is our once-magnificent view of the Front Range from the front door of *New Beginnings* which was obliterated a few years ago (new housing was built across the street where a nice golf course was supposed to go!).

So also can something happen to ruin the view of life we once had. Sickness, sudden tragedy, heartbreaking loss, a continuing problem with drugs and alcohol, or an unexpected pregnancy can seriously affect one’s view of life. In the interviews we hold and the residents we accept at *New Beginnings — A Home for Mothers*, it is almost universal that something went terribly wrong in the lives

of these women. What once was a fairly good life might seem to come to a sudden and screeching halt. The view from where they stand isn’t all that great; in fact, it’s just plain lousy.

Thank God He didn’t view His creation the same way. What better news can be shared with these young mothers than the fact that when our first parents believed Satan’s lies and fell

headlong into sin, our gracious and loving God didn’t turn away from us. Instead, He looked for a solution to His creatures’ problem. What we share with our residents is the wonder of wonders that our heavenly Father looked to His own Son to solve sinful mankind’s horrible predicament. He would send His own Son to become one of us so that Jesus could live the perfect life we couldn’t possibly live and die innocently to pay our horrible debt.

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Struggles and Strength

By Rev. Doug Bode

Life is a continuous struggle — from birth into this world to its last moment. Between life's beginning and end are many difficult choices that take place each day. The residents of *New Beginnings — A Home for Mothers* are living testimonies to that fact.

These young women must make the choice between giving birth or giving in to the temptation of the “quick fix” promised in abortion.

Thankfully, our residents have resisted the “quick fix” temptation. Many face the future of having a new baby whom they must care for and see their dreams of a future filled with a college education, a wonderful career and home turn into a nightmare.

For those who feel they can't parent a child (at least at the present time) there is the choice of placing their child for adoption. Although certainly “the loving choice,” it is still a tremendous struggle for these women to make that decision. At *New Beginnings* many residents waver back and forth between their natural maternal instincts and the difficulties parenting would mean for them. Some residents are just not mature enough at their young age to be a good mother.

Another element in the “parent or place” decision are the feelings of the young mother-to-be's parents and the baby's father. Grandparents on both sides are sometimes the “forgotten” parties in an adoption decision, but they are also a key element. Often the baby is their first grandchild. Despite the initial dismay

and disappointment at the impending birth, some grandparents actually look forward to having that new grandchild in the family. Sometimes subtle pressures are even placed on the young mother to parent her child for that reason alone.

From an adopted child's viewpoint, a child who is adopted is made to feel less valuable or worthy than a natural-born child. However, we are assured of the tremendous value and worth of adopted children through our status with our heavenly Father. Because of our sinful nature and inherent sinfulness, we were by no means his natural children! Yet God loved us so much that He still wanted us in His family and made it all possible through the

birth, life, and death of Jesus, His one and only Son. The observation has even been made that Jesus could also be called an adopted child. His earthly father, Joseph, likely would have treated him as his adopted son.

The concept of adoption, though a difficult but loving choice to make, is a viable option for residents of *New Beginnings — A Home for Mothers* to consider. The option of adoption also presents the opportunity for relief from the struggles of an unplanned pregnancy.

We can also find our strength in the Child of Bethlehem. We might not picture the baby Jesus as a

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New Beginnings
A Home For Mothers



Rev. Doug and
Charlene Bode,
House Parents

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real symbol of strength. After all, He was just as needy and dependent on His mother as any other child born into this world. Yet He grew up to be not only our Savior from sin but also our daily strength and stay in life. Who can ever forget His offer and promise: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)? Who in his right mind and genuine faith would ever forget or neglect such an offer of divine strength in the midst of daily struggles?



Me, Mommy, and Jesus

Did you know that is the name of a short video on *New Beginnings*? It's the true story of one of our residents and her life at *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. This video is available to you from Christian Life Resources. Please Call: 1-800-729-9535

The Bible does not reveal much about Jesus' upbringing or His childhood. But, wonder of wonders, He did grow up to be our Savior from all the guilt and punishment of our sin as well as our Strength for the daily struggles of life.

If we can share even a little bit of that knowledge with our struggling residents, we feel fortunate and thankful.

In their day-to-day struggles, they may feel neglected and even abandoned. But they are never alone. Through the blessings of Christian faith and the reality of adoption into God's family, that older Brother is always with them to be their daily Strength and Stay in all the struggles of life.

With your help, it is our privilege to continue to point our residents to Him whose first coming to earth addressed and solved our greatest problems. At His second coming (or whenever He takes us home to heaven) all the struggles of this life will be well worth all the glory and honor we will have at His side in eternity.



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To our residents Christmas is often a commercial holiday, a break perhaps from the routine of school, or maybe a little time with family members. With devotions and decorations it's great to share with them the real meaning of Christmas: the wonder of wonders that Jesus' view of us in grace compelled Him to enter life at its very humbling bottom. The Source of life and Lord of all creation made Himself utterly dependent on a human mother. In a short time we will again celebrate the birthday of Jesus, born in a lowly manger, born to live, die, and rise again to be our Savior.

The views of life our residents have had aren't all that high or great. However, because of Jesus' supreme sacrifice for us, one day we too will be exalted with Him. By His grace we will be lifted up and given a place in heaven. There the vistas will be far greater than anything Colorado has to offer. Then nothing will come along to spoil the view at the very top.

Until that day comes, however, we can do nothing better with our lives than to live in thankful and joyous service to our gracious Savior. As the shepherds and later

the magi praised him with voice and with gifts, so we Christians now serve Him by serving others in need.

It's tough to climb over all those obstacles our residents have encountered in life. A second chance, a fresh start, a "new beginning" in life — it's all about mirroring the love of God in Christ and giving these women a new vista in life, a new view of life for themselves and their young families. That's why *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers* exists. For that new vista for them we need your ongoing prayers and support.

From *New Beginnings* with its new vistas — God's blessings for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Find out more about
New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers
go to
www.homeformothers.com**



New Beginnings

A Home For Mothers

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Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 3539



The most needed items at *New Beginnings* are:

- **Diapers (sizes newborn, 1, 2 and 3)**
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Heavy-duty frying pans**
- **Vacuum (1 needed)**

Most needed items at

NEW BEGINNINGS



New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered home for single mothers and is affiliated with Christian Life Resources, Inc. 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.

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New Beginnings appreciates your prayers to our gracious God on our behalf. We also appreciate your gifts. Would you consider helping us out?

Yes, I (we) would like to make a contribution to help **New Beginnings**:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ other \$ _____

Name _____

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- ☐ Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. **Phone:** _____
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