



GROWING BRANCHES

Update From *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*
Denver, Colorado

APRIL
2007

“I Will, and I Ask God to Help Me”

By Rev. Gary Schult

“Will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God, who speaks to you through the call of his Church?”

“I will, and I ask God to help me.”

“Will you give your solemn promise to serve God’s people in the ministry that has been entrusted to you?”

“I will, and I ask God to help me.”

Those were just two of the vows spoken by Pastor Gary and Janice Schult on February 18 at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado. The same words were spoken by Pastor Doug and Charlene Bode six years earlier. These vows are spoken by each new set of house parents at *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. They are very serious and solemn words that express a willingness to serve the Lord and His kingdom in a task that would be almost impossible to carry out were it not for the help of the Lord.

Sometimes the work at *New Beginnings* is not seen as a ministry or even something that would require the abilities, experience, and training of an ordained pastor and his wife. In fact, it would often seem that the wife is the one more gifted for the work than the pastor. Yet, with those words came the solemn reminder that it is God’s call to husband and wife, pastor and spouse, to serve His people with His Word. The call is God’s desire that His children (the mothers and the children at *New Beginnings*) are fed by His Word and, if possible, with His Sacraments.

The house parents, the residents, the infants are all sinners before a holy and righteous God. Yet they also stand before the God of grace and mercy where they find peace and rest for their souls. It is the task of the house parents in particular to lead in comforting and encouraging one another in just such peace and rest. For six years Pastor Doug and Charlene Bode carried out this ministry and faithfully served God’s lambs in Christian love, bringing His peace and love to hearts that were aching

from sin’s ravages. Though patience is tried and challenges abound in the effort to turn around sin-ravaged lives, those vows continue to ring in heart and ear: *“I will, and I ask*

God to help me.” For six years the Bodes did their work, and God enabled them in that work, as a current resident testifies...

“Dear Doug and Charlene, I just wanted to say an extra thanks for all that you have done for me and my daughter. Thanks for helping me with some life issues, and helping me grow in my faith. I know you have helped many ladies just like myself. I just want you to know that I truly recognize all that you have done for me and for all the ladies at New Beginnings. God bless you both.”
– Kaylee

As the new house parents, Pastor Gary and Janice, take up those same vows and the same tasks at *New Beginnings*, please pray that their ministry will be guided and blessed by God just as He blessed the ministries of those in the past.

**The call is God’s desire that
His children are fed by
His Word...**





DO NOT DISPOSE



By Rev. Gary Schult

“Rrrrrr!” “Ka-chunk! Ka-chunk!” “Rrrrrr!” “Boomp!” Every week it’s always the same. One becomes accustomed to it as a ritual for living in affluent America. The ritual is called “trash pickup.” This ritual takes place once items have lost their value and usefulness. Once the bottles are emptied, the content of cans is consumed, newspapers are read and then used to wrap refuse the ritual takes place. These useless, valueless items find their way into the dumpster and are then disgracefully loaded into the trash hauler’s truck and taken to the dump.

It’s not only bottles, cans, and dirty diapers that are treated with such disrespect and disdain. Sometimes lives are treated as nothing more than valueless refuse, suitable only for the ritual of “Rrrrr!” “Ka-chunk!” “Ka-boomp!” The growth, the embryo, is robbed by definition of its dignity, being redefined into something that has neither life nor value to others. It is often of little moral significance to many in today’s world whether that “growth” continues to exist and find some purpose in life’s future, or if it is discarded as in the ritual of the dumpster.

Thankfully that’s not the mindset of six young women who reside at *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers*. Though they have found themselves in a difficult situation, the thought of disposing of that which dwelled in their wombs was never a consideration. Each young woman could have easily concluded that this “growth” within her body would be of no value to improve her life. Rather than viewing this

“growth” within as a life to be nurtured, they could have easily concluded it was simply a burden, and better to dispose of it.

While the weekly “Rrrrr-Ka-chunk-Ka-boomp” ritual of the trash hauler signifies the removal of the worthless and the useless deposited in the dumpster outside, within the walls of *New Beginnings* there are sounds and rituals that place great



value on life. Within these walls there is an excitement and joy over each life that God has given, whether dwelling within the womb, or quietly napping on Mom’s lap. Whether it’s the soft giggles of the four infants held by their mothers as others tickle and coo at them; or if it’s the gentle words of comfort from a mom to ease the discomfort of her precious child, the sounds and thoughts of disposal are far from the hearts and lips of these young women.

Even while life is yet developing in the womb, the excitement of seeing that life through grainy photos reflects an attitude that says: “Here is God-given life, which He has entrusted to me for now. What a privilege, and what a joy!” The conversation at the dinner table or in the

TV room crackles with an energy and joy over life. In their eyes, from their words, by the gentle touch of loving hands each mother reflects that sense of awe and privilege in caring for this gift from God.

Is every mother and child, every life and every day at *New Beginnings* trouble-free and without sin? Everyone knows the answer to that question. Their problems are just like the problems of every other sinner. They worry about health issues; and squabble over what is really insignificant. Every sinner’s struggle dwells within their daily lives, sometimes more than most. But this is literally “a new beginning”! It is the opportunity to learn how to better recognize sin and its subsequent sorrows. It is the gift of being reminded daily to call upon God for help in resisting sin. *New Beginnings* offers the opportunity to share and live with their precious children in the peace known only in Jesus’ life and death.

While troubled by sin, their days also progress in the hope of life in Jesus, today and forever. With one another they have opportunity to practice their mutual forgiveness, love and encouragement which they have experienced first from Jesus.

The “Rrrr!” “Ka-chunk!” “Rrrrr!” “Ka-boomp!” are still heard weekly here at *New Beginnings* – outside. What is carried away in that vehicle is waste, trash, now void of usefulness. However, what remains within the walls of *New Beginnings* is respect of life, joy in God’s blessings and peace in Jesus’ loving care.





GROWING BRANCHES



A New Beginning

Even those of us who operate *New Beginnings* get an occasional fresh start on life. With this issue of *Growing Branches* we welcome our new house parents, Pastor Gary and Janice Schult. They are our third house parent couple since we opened our doors in the fall of 1993.

New Beginnings is a challenging ministry that has enjoyed many blessings from God over the years. We find that *New Beginnings* is a genuine Gospel outreach ministry, as some of our residents meet God for the first time in this unique home.

As we embark on this new chapter in our service to God I am reminded of Paul's words: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Your gifts, your prayers, your occasional letters of encouragement, all help us face the challenges. You are partners with us in this work. So please join me in prayers of thanksgiving and with petitions of continued blessing for Pastor and Mrs. Schult.

Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Board Chairman
New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers

Did you know that...

...from 1993 through early December 2006, we have welcomed 150 young mothers to live for varying amounts of time at *New Beginnings*.

Learn more about this unique ministry:

www.HomeforMothers.com

Rev. Gary and Janice Schult House Parents



Loose Change Goes a Long Way

Christian Life Resources is pleased to announce the *Change for Life* program. This program provides a unique opportunity for every member of a congregation to provide a daily gift to the vital *New Beginnings* ministry. The loose change that is placed in a *Change for Life* coin box will make a large impact in the lives of a young mother and her child.

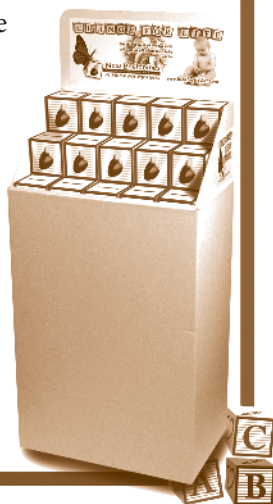
Every WELS and ELS congregation has received information about this exciting program.

To learn more go to:

www.HelpNewBeginnings.com

or call

1-800-729-9535



Opportunity!

New Beginnings is looking for relief staff. This is a full-time, paid position with benefits working alternate hours with the house parents.

Please contact Rev. Gary or Jan Schult via email or phone if interested.

nbdenver@HomeforMothers.com

1-303-364-0890



New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

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Milwaukee, WI 53222-4304

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #141
Batavia IL

- Baby Mobiles
- Baby Thermometers
- Donations Towards
a Power Washer

In the past we have received many quilts and baby blankets. Often these are handmade and are a beautiful reflection of your love in Christ. Although we love to receive these, we are now at a point where we have so many that storage space is no longer available. We respectfully ask that you do not send any quilts or blankets at this time. Thank you for your past wonderful generosity.

Most Needed Items at *New Beginnings*

Three times a year you receive *Growing Branches*. Three times a year it contains a "Needs" list. Three times a year it includes an envelope for your monetary gift of support. Three times a year 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?

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

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

☐ 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**
P.O. Box 423
Aurora, CO 80040

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.

Staff: Rev. Gary Schult - Spiritual Director
Mrs. Janice Schult - Home Manager

Telephone: 1-303-364-0890

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