



GROWING BRANCHES

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

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Codey's First Christmas

By Rev. Gary Schult

I am happy to be here! It's good I'm here! Really! I almost didn't make it. My name is "Codey." Three months ago my Mom, Lezli, went to the hospital because I wasn't moving inside her. I wasn't supposed to be here for another four weeks. Mom says the doctors ran and cut her open in a big hurry. They were scared my lungs weren't working. Boy, did I surprise them... and Mom! I gave out a big cry when they pulled me out of my warm place. It was kinda scary cuz Mom's 40 years old and she took lotsa bad stuff that made me coming a big risk for her. There were lotsa "maybe problems." But God made them OK. Now we're both just fine, here at *New Beginnings*.

Mom says there are lotsa reasons I shouldn't be here cuz many bad things happened in her life. When she was 13, she left home and got into lotsa trouble. She was hurt, almost died many times. She was hurt, inside and out, by a lot of bad people. This happened for a long, long time.

I have two brothers and a sister... well, there were two sisters, but one died when she was still little. My other brothers and sister were raised by other people because of the bad life my Mom lived. Now, Mom says she's gonna raise me all the way... just me and her. So far she's doin' a pretty good job!



Mom takes me to her classes, she carries me on the bus, she feeds me good, and loves me all the time. I really like her classes because everyone there fusses over me a lot. She loves me when she dresses me – everyone says I'm so cute. She loves me when she feeds me – notice my plump cheeks. She loves me when we go out and it's cold – with lotsa blankets. She just loves me so much.

I know how much she loves me. When she found out I was on the way, she stopped taking bad stuff that would hurt me. She stopped living on the streets of the city.

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1st Christmas - A Time of Firsts

By Rev. Gary Schult

The gentle “clip-clop” of the donkey echoed on the quiet streets as the anguished mother and worried father searched door-to-door for shelter. It had been a long journey for a woman

in her final month of pregnancy. There was no family to turn to for shelter in this unfamiliar town. Hospitals with advanced neo-natal and birthing clinics did not exist. There was just one inn, with a manager who would listen to them. He had a stable with all the aromatic ambiance of cows, chickens, donkeys and molding hay. Though warm from the body heat of the animals, it certainly was not the sterile and pleasant environment of today’s birthing suites in the hospitals.

Their child would be born and with Him there would be many “firsts.” He would be Mary’s first child, God’s one and only Son; He would be the first child born of a virgin; it would be the first (and only) time angels delivered the birth announcement; it would be the first time a star, not Google, gave directions to the child’s location for those who would visit him. It was the first of what we now call “Christmas.” The God-child, Jesus, came into this world as the angel said to the shepherds: “*Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to*

you; he is Christ the Lord.” The first, and only, Savior given by God for all mankind.

Birth is the first step of a cycle so familiar to everyone: birth, life and then death. Each one is born, each person lives in this world for a time, and then, everyone dies. Jesus began this cycle that night, His first night, in the town of Bethlehem. He would be the first to have God the Father speak from heaven at His baptism – “*with him I am well pleased.*” He would be the first to speak with an authority never heard before by prophet or teacher of the Law. He would not need to say: “God says...” but would be able to tell them: “I say to you...” His would be the first perfect, sinless life; and the first and only death capable of paying for the sins of the world. He would be the first to hang on a cross, fully innocent of any wrongdoing and wondering of His Father – “Why have you forsaken me?” It would be the first time God’s innocent Son shed His precious blood for the world.

This familiar cycle of “birth-life-death” will be the same for the mothers and their children at *New Beginnings* this Christmas. For most it will be their first Christmas as a mother. It definitely will be the first Christmas for their children. For some it might be the first Christmas that they have heard about Jesus. It may be the first Christmas season they have not been at “home” as they have known it with family. Or, it may be the first Christmas spent in a stable, safe environment. Prayerfully, it will be the first of many Christmases to come that they will teach their children about the Babe of Bethlehem, rejoicing and giving thanks to Him together, until finally the cycle will end and they will still be together forever with Jesus.

As my wife and I celebrate our first Christmas as House Parents at *New Beginnings*, we want to thank all of our readers who have celebrated the gift of our Savior throughout the year by sending loving gifts to these mothers and their children at *New Beginnings* and for the support of *New Beginnings’* ministry.





GROWING BRANCHES



*Rev. Gary and
Janice Schult,
House Parents*



"Codey's First Christmas" *Continued from page 1*

She took classes and learned how to stop all the bad things she was doin'. Soon she will be off probashun, and free from all the bad stuff she lived with since she was 13. But best of all, with all the new stuff she learned, Mom says she learned about Jesus. Now she tells me about Jesus all the time, how important and how good he is. She says I'm gonna learn more and more 'bout him cuz she's gonna be sure and tell me about him all the time. We do somethin' she calls "pray" to him too. It's like we talk with Jesus. An' we know he's listning, cuz he says he will.

I can't eat it yet, but Mom always makes some really good smellin' stuff that she and other big people eat. That's cuz she went to school a little bit to learn how make this good stuff. But now she wants to go to school an' be somebody who helps people keep their teeth clean.

Soon Mom says we're gonna selebrate somethin' called Crismas. She says it's Jesus' birthday. That's good, 'cause I wanna hear more about Jesus' birthday, and what he did for me and Mom. Then I guess we sing pretty songs and eat yummy food. This will be my very first Cris'mas with Mom. I can't wait!

For a kid who they were scared wouldn't live and breathe, I'm just doin' real good. I'm growin' big and fast. An' I'm gettin' to know Jesus real good with Mom. Mom and me, we're gonna make it okay cuz Jesus is givin' us a *new beginning*.



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Christian Life Resources**

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As part of its ministry CLR opened the doors to *New Beginnings* in 1993 and has pledged to provide administration and funding assistance to this vital ministry.

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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.

To learn more go to:

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New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

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Most Needed Items at *New Beginnings*

- Under-the-bed storage containers
- Metal baking dishes in assorted sizes
- Small pots and pans (small is ideal for our 20" ranges)
- Donations toward storage cabinets for over the toilet
- Donations toward new sofas
- Donations toward a snowblower



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

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Mail to: **New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers**
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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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