

JULY 2007

# SECURE BENEATH...

#### By Rev. Gary Schult

The sky is bright blue, the wind is coming from the east, and it unfurls to full length over Havana Street in Aurora, Colorado. It's a flag. Not just any flag, but a flag that measures 30' by 60'. It's long enough that if you drive north on Havana, the flag covers nearly three lanes of traffic. It ripples and rolls nobly over you as you pass underneath.

Driving up to that monster flag – with the clean, bright blue sky framing it – one cannot help but feel a sense of security. Behind that flag stands the people, the government, and the great armed forces that keep this country free. The security that is felt when one sees that flag reflects the protection that is offered by our nation in the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty .... "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore; Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

That glorious flag, growing from 13 to 50 stars of states, lifts the spirit and breathes the freedom and security this nation has lived with for 231 years. The lives that have been given in defense of the nation and the liberty it offers live in that flag.

But as with any flag of any nation in this world's history, shame spatters it as well. While the Great Lady who stands in New York Harbor may welcome all with open arms all those "huddled masses yearning to breath free," another huddled mass of over 40 million lives have not "breathed free" over the past 34 years. The unborn, those never granted the freedom to breathe the air of this world, have not been protected by that flag, their nation, or their fellow citizens.

As we gather to celebrate our nation's 231st birthday this month we will wave the flags, watch the fireworks, and perhaps even realize what blessings of freedom God has showered upon this nation. But over 40 million will not be able to clutch a flag in their hands, watch with twinkling eyes the exploding fireworks, or breathe the air of freedom because their was no shelter for them.

Though a small number by

comparison, more than 150 women and their children who have lived beneath the roof of

New Beginnings will be able to lift a flag and glowingly watch the fireworks this
July 4th. And yes, they have breathed the air of freedom and life! Most of all they have breathed the life most precious that no nation, army or artist can provide. While at New Beginnings they breathed the Word of God that filled their souls.

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#### **GROWING BRANCHES**



# MEET JOJO ...

[At **New Beginnnings – A Home for Mothers**, we are blessed with infants who enjoy the gift of life. Following is a story of one of these precious little ones from the perspective that he was telling you about himself.]

Hi! My name is "JoJo" – well, really, it's Joseph, but everyone calls me "JoJo." Maybe that's because when I try to say "Joseph" it comes out "JoJo." My Mom, her name is Kelli, and I live at this place called *New Beginnings*. She feeds me, washes me, puts clothes on me, hugs me, cuddles me – hey, life is good! I say other sounds too, like "DaDa," and "MaMa" and "Ahhhh!" and "Huh." The sounds I make may not always be clear to everyone, but they come out loud, especially at the dinner

guess I can't have the stuff they call "choclat" yet. It must be really tasty, cuz everyone smiles when they eat it.

Mom says she's had a hard time with me. In fact it was hard before I was born. She lived with a lot of different family. People told her how hard it would be for her to have a baby. Mom wasn't a good student, and they thought she wouldn't be smart enough to have a baby like me and take care of me. That's why we came to *New Beginnings* – so she could

and can eat Mom's food.

When I was finally born, it wasn't just Mom and me...there was Aunt Lori, Aunt Leandra, Aunt Sandy, Grampa Karl, Great Gramma Barbara, and Gramma Lynn. All of them were smilin' and seemed really happy.

My Mom says her mommy went to heaven a few years ago, so she couldn't be there then. I hope I can meet her someday.

It's fun where we live. There's a little



table. It's fun to suddenly let out a scream at the table. Everyone laughs. I laugh too though sometimes I feel a little silly. I even make my poor Mom feel a little silly with my noises.

They say I'm growing big. From seven pounds when I was born to a solid 24 pounds and 27 inches now! I'm big, thanks to all the chicken, turkey, apples and sweet potatoes Mom feeds me. At least that's what she calls it. It all comes out of a jar and looks the same. Some day Mom's gonna give me her kind of food...they call it "s'mores." I

have help raising me. It was hard for Mom also cuz I didn't let her sleep too much. I just liked to play and roll around in her...I didn't know she was trying to sleep. So I tried to be quiet during the day. Even now I don't always let her sleep good cuz sometimes I don't feel good. Once I was really hot, and felt bad, and had a big hurt. Then these hard things poked outta my mouth when I was six months...Mom calls them "teeth." She says they have something to do with eatin' her kinda food. Maybe I'll get more of those "teeth" soon

girl for me to talk to. Mom says we need more boys like me here! That's okay. With only two of us, we both get a lotta talkin' and huggin' and kisses from everyone.

Mom says I'm special. I don't know what "special" means. But it must mean God only created one of me. She keeps talkin' 'bout God doing something called "knitting." I guess

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#### **GROWING BRANCHES**



"Meet JoJo..."
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I got "knitted" by God, Mom says. She talks about how God really loves me. He loves me because of someone called Jesus. Maybe someday I'll meet this Jesus. Right now I hear how much he does for me, how much he loves me. I like it when Mom takes me to this place where we listen, sing, and say things about God. Everyone says I'm really good at that place...whatever that means.

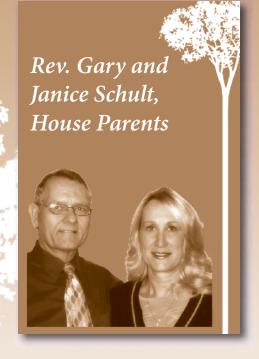
Mom and I go to work every day. There are lotsa other babies and bigger babies too. Mom helps take care of all of them. I just play, and holler, and sleep. Mom really does all the work.

Life is pretty good here. Hey, I've got six "moms" and a couple other people to help us with our problems. They all play with me and talk to me. They hold me and laugh with me and tell me stories. I'm glad that Jesus brought us here.

"Secure Beneath..."
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While we do not know the work of the Holy Spirit since those 150 have left New Beginnings, we do know that He had opportunity to fill them with the freedom that only Christ can give. Even the sacrifice of the 1.3 million (soldiers) given to defend our nation can never compare with the sacrifice made by One on a little hill outside Jerusalem. The freedoms we enjoy in America are paltry compared with the eternal freedom from Satan's tyranny and sin's iron clutches that we have been given in Jesus.

As we celebrate our nation's history of freedom this month, enjoy the security that is yours in that flag but, most of all, in the cross.



### Did you know that...

...since New Beginnings began operation in 1993 there have been only three sets of house parents. Most maternity homes typically see a much higher turnover rate. This amazing blessing is one of the reasons for the success and stability at New Beginnings.

Learn more about this unique minsitry:

www.HomeforMothers.com



# BC CHANCE FOR LIVE 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.HelpNew Beginnings.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





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## Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- Hooded towel sets
- Under-the-bed storage containers
- Metal baking dishes in assorted sizes
- Donations towards a window treatment for the New Beginnings front entrance

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*.

<b>New Beginnings</b> 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 <b>New Beginnings</b> :  Other \$ \$ \$100 \$ \$50 \$ \$25
Name
Address
Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. <b>Phone:</b>
Please contact me about remembering <i>New Beginnings</i> in my will or estate plan.  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

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