



# GROWING BRANCHES

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

AUGUST  
2008

## No Better Teachers!

By Rev. Gary Schult

"Class is called to order!"

And what a class it is! It's a class of one – floating in the amniotic fluid of his or her mother –absorbing the sounds and emotions coming through Mom. During those nine months of development, class has already begun – the class of life! Scientific research continues to reveal more details about the child's ability to feel, see and hear within the womb, as well as the ability to learn and remember. Who knows what the Holy Spirit was already teaching John the Baptist when he leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb! (Luke 1:44)

So, it should be obvious that this beautiful creation of God's love is also ready to continue learning from Mom and others at the moment he or she exits the womb. It is this concept, as well as a deep respect for life itself, that moves the staff of *New Beginnings* to encourage and help new mothers residing there to take every opportunity to teach their newborn children.

In everyday life, there are colors to see, objects to count, textures to feel, sounds to hear. It's a whole new world that this little soul is rapidly absorbing every second of every day. How sad that some infants in their early years only hear nerve-wracking screams, venomous accusations and hateful names. At *New Beginnings* these sounds are not allowed. Rather the sounds of God's love and mercy are spoken

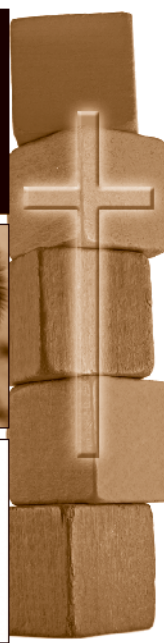
in Jesus' peace for their environment. Unfortunately some who cannot turn from their volatile ways must leave for the sake of others who want to create a learning environment in God's love.

A very special blessing for the *New Beginnings* staff is a program offered through Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services (WLCFS). It's called *Faith Stepping Stones*. The program presents this same concept of learning from the womb until age six. Obviously, at *New Beginnings* we are most interested in the first, critical

year of the child's development. A descriptive statement on the WLCFS website explains this program: *Faith Stepping Stones (FSS) is an innovative family ministry program that recognizes the incredible impact parents have on the faith life of their children.* As Christian parents, the importance of teaching our children God's Word is foremost

in nurturing these young spiritual lives. In fact, all Christian parents can echo John's words from his third letter, *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.* (3 John 1:4)

From this *Faith Stepping Stones* program, and others available to the *New Beginnings* staff, the concept is continuously presented that these moms are the first and best teachers for their little ones in their critical years of development. The playing of music, especially Christian music, or singing of



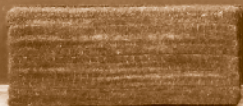
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# GROWING BRANCHES



## 1 + 1 = A STRUGGLE



By Rev. Gary Schult

"In my high school years I moved a lot because of family problems. Different family members took me in, and I changed schools each time. My senior year of high school I was living on my own. It was a very good year. I was even elected president of my class. But then my cousin died. He was like a brother to me. That's when I dropped out for good. Then, when I found out I was pregnant, I realized that I needed that diploma to get a good job and care for my new baby." That's the story of one of the new moms at *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers*. For whatever reason, some drop out and never finish and they never get that degree. But then, with the realization of a pregnancy and another mouth to feed, the cold facts set in that the young mother will have a very difficult time supporting her new family – alone. Paying for decent housing and utilities, clothes and diapers, the medicine, the formula and more becomes overwhelming with a "minimum wage" job, even with public aid to help. But in the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is nearly impossible to find a well-paying job without having at least the equivalent of a high school diploma. The challenge of making a living and making ends meet as a single mom soon becomes a frightening reality confronting her and her newborn.

But, with a newborn baby in tow, the prospect of going back to school becomes even more challenging. The homework, the papers, the tests now must compete with frequent feedings, dirty diapers and unknown ailments. Nevertheless, no matter how challenging it may be, getting that degree has to be done – and it can be done.

*New Beginnings* welcomes new mothers in such situations, recognizing their great need for help and support in accomplishing this very critical goal. *New Beginnings* serves to encourage and support mothers in that first year with their first child, to either earn that important diploma or to

get started on a productive career. The worry of monthly rent and utilities is taken off their shoulders. References and resources are made available for them to pursue this educational goal. Encouragement is given every step of the way. Although *New Beginnings* cannot provide the needed daycare, moms are encouraged to use the resources available from county agencies and elsewhere to cover the cost and find a reliable place to leave their babies while they study.

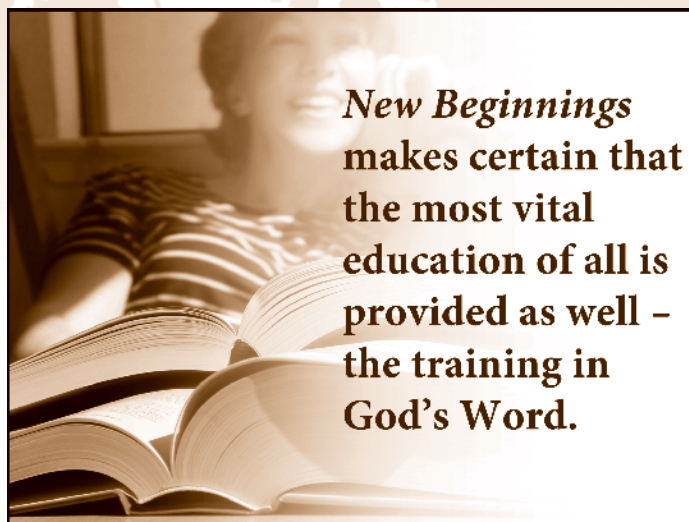
For moms who have not completed their high school diploma, their education process takes the path of obtaining a "General Education Development" (GED) certificate. That means she needs to attend classes and work with tutors until she can pass a series of five tests. Fortunately, in the Aurora/Denver area there are several schools that offer such help with the GED, as well as provide daycare for their babies. In the past year and a half, seven of the 17

moms who resided at *New Beginnings* have needed to work for this GED certificate. Five of them worked towards this goal. Three of those moms completed the tests and earned their GED certificate while at *New Beginnings*.

It's a happy time at *New Beginnings* when a mom reaches her goal of educational certification. Flowers,

a special cake, a round of applause and a special prayer of thanksgiving say clearly, "We rejoice with you! Well done!"

In all of this work to obtain a good education and a good job with good pay, *New Beginnings* makes certain that the most vital education of all is provided as well – the training in God's Word. It is only through this training that the challenges of life, the struggles with guilt, the fears of failure can be faced with confidence as St. Paul demonstrates: *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* (Philippians 4:13)



***New Beginnings* makes certain that the most vital education of all is provided as well – the training in God's Word.**



**Rev. Gary and  
Janice Schult,  
Houseparents**





# GROWING BRANCHES



## Elizabeth Seelow Joins *New Beginnings* as Full-Time Relief Staff



**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.”  
(Jeremiah 29:11)**

Elizabeth Seelow is originally from Rice Lake, Wisconsin, where her father, Pastor Jeffrey Seelow, currently serves Redeemer Lutheran congregation. Elizabeth's mother, Peggy Seelow, also serves there as the teacher for grades K-8. She has two older brothers, Pastor Nathaniel Seelow (27), and Jonathan Seelow (24). Jonathan and his wife, Kari, have one daughter, Addison (1), and another baby girl due at the end of October.

Ms. Seelow attended high school at Luther Preparatory School (Watertown, WI) and continued her education at the University of Wisconsin Stout (Menomonie, WI) where she graduated with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. In this program Elizabeth studied all age groups extensively along with special topics of the human lifespan, most notably stress and coping; suicide in the family; and, family policies.

Seelow completed an internship with Head Start (Menomonie) where she worked with the School-Age Parent Program, a program for teen mothers in the Menomonie High School. She has further experience in human development having worked for a two-year period at Positive Alternatives, Alpha House (Menomonie), a home for juvenile delinquents.

Elizabeth says she was drawn to work at *New Beginnings*, because this position provides her the opportunity to serve young adults and to work with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. She finds it a true privilege and job to share the saving Word of our God with young women who are looking to make a “new beginning.”



**“No Better Teacher!”**  
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a simple lullaby, teaches rhythm and a peaceful close of a day. When this is associated with Sunday morning worship each week where everyone sings such lovely songs, who knows what work the Holy Spirit, the greatest of teachers, is accomplishing! Realizing that every baby is attracted most to the human face – Mom's face – assures this young attentive student will learn sounds, words and smiles.

The *Faith Stepping Stones* program, with its combination of Christian common sense and awareness, provides the tools necessary for these mothers to become the best of teachers for their children: teaching in Christian love and enabling them to continue in these habits for the rest of their children's developing years.



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## Most Needed Items at *New Beginnings*

- Journals
- Day Planners
- Small Photo Albums
- Donations toward Floor Lamps
- Donations toward Commercial Vacuum Cleaner



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

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**Mail to:** **New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers**  
P.O. Box 423  
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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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