



Growing Branches

Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers* | Denver, Colorado | Spring 2010

A Practical Makeover

By Liz Seelow

Makeovers seem to be an everyday occurrence for women in today's world. Keeping up with the latest fashions, hairstyles and beauty products is no easy task. Many of these items may help to create a more self-confident attitude about oneself.

However, at *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers* the focus is on a makeover that provides the necessary skills to create a self-sufficient and God-pleasing life for the residents and their children.

When the residents arrive at *New Beginnings* they have made the decision that they are ready for a change in their life. A makeover is needed because they have been blessed with a child. With an infant in the picture, their past lifestyle will no longer cut it.

Upon arrival at *New Beginnings*, a resident is asked to write down three or four goals that she will pursue during her stay. Some focus on obtaining their high school diploma or GED. Others will attend a two-year college to learn vocational skills. Some will seek employment that will allow them to live comfortably and become financially stable. Still others look closer to home and strive to be a good housekeeper and cook. All the residents aspire to be loving mothers, whether

that involves taking on the responsibility of parenting or making the tough decision to place their child in an adoptive home.

Many people wouldn't give goals such as these a second thought. The residents here, however, haven't had the proper training to become the heads of their newfound households. These are challenging goals that take many small steps to conquer.

The first steps to attaining these goals can be as minor as a change of schedule, or perhaps creating a schedule for the first time. That is followed by learning how to cook a meal for a family, keeping an apartment clean, taking care of a baby and doing a load of laundry. A critical part of their makeover involves a hard look at their social circle. Bad influences can derail good intentions and finding supportive friends goes a long way toward a successful makeover.

Many of our residents are still young ladies who struggle in a society that values ungodly things. Fortunately *New Beginnings* helps to point them to the things of God. They are focusing on makeovers that are truly worthwhile and will give them the skills to become the Christian heads of their household. 📷

Letters From Home

My name is Breanna Jones; I am 21 years of age with a 4 month old son. His name is Ronan and he is my 'why', my reason for changing my life.



Breanna and Ronan

Before I had my son I was emotionally and physically unstable. Though I have been given the blessing of a supportive family, I had found myself lost in the world with no real direction for my life and no place where I felt 'at home.'

I got the call that I was accepted to New Beginnings the day I was induced into labor. My mother and I had been praying for months as to what I should do after my son was born, this call was God opening the door for me. Since being at New Beginnings I have taken advantage of the opportunity to grow as person, in my relationship with Christ and finally finding the emotional comfort of not having to worry about the safety of myself and my son... I have finally found my home, a place of peace and comfort that I had longed for. I now for the first time in years have stability, and hope for the future.

As well since leaving home I have a new found vision for my life, to do something better for myself and my son then I might have done, had I not been accepted to NB. I am currently going to CCA (Community College of Aurora) for my GED and have set myself up to take four classes next semester.

I am in awe of God's love as his people reach out to us here at New Beginnings. Because of such generosity I am compelled to give back, to show others the deep unconditional love of Christ as is given to me here at NB.

Sincerely,
Breanna and Ronan



"Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:19, 20) We introduced these verses in one of our evening devotions at *New Beginnings*. This text is a great source of comfort to our residents.

Each issue of *Growing Branches* contains a feature entitled "Letters from Home." The residents take turns writing this column and sharing the many blessings they've enjoyed since coming here. Many express that *New Beginnings* is the first place that has truly felt like home. The ultimate blessing comes in knowing that they have an even better home reserved in heaven because of Jesus' victory over sin.

Many of the residents come here feeling hopeless and destitute. Many believe, because of their pasts, they aren't fully forgiven. They feel their sins are too big, or they've made too many mistakes and it's pointless to try anymore. Some of the residents have pasts that

love never fail




An Easter Makeover

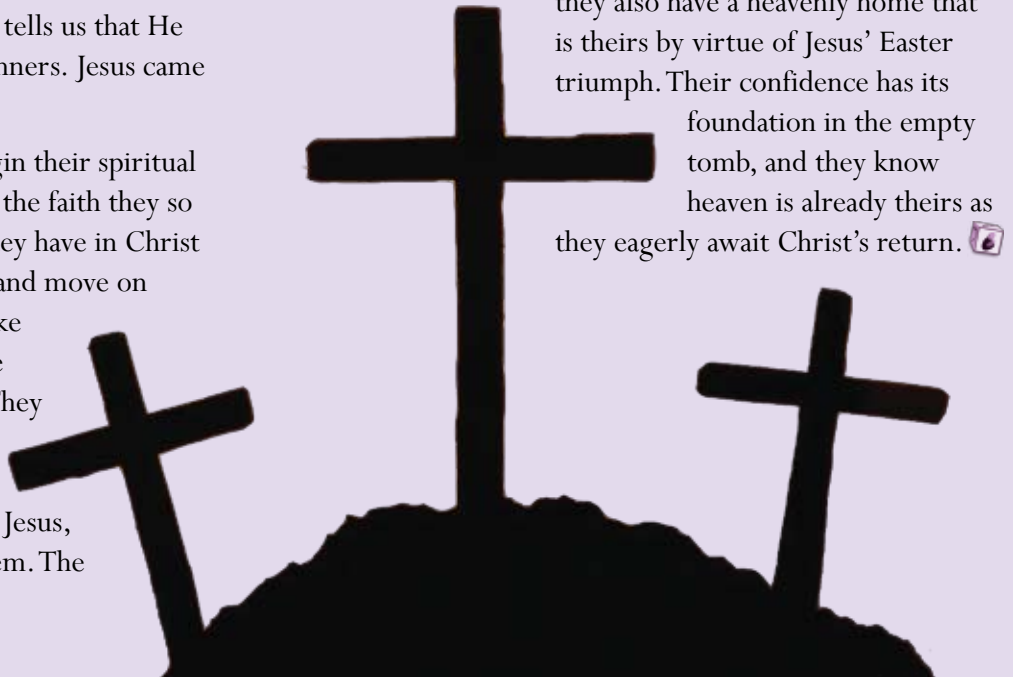
By Liz Seelow

seem unimaginable to most of us. Their pasts may be unimaginable but, we are reminded in scripture that no sin is too big. Jesus paid for them all. Jesus came for all. To make this point more understandable, we talk about the people that Jesus associated with while he walked on earth. The Bible tells us that He associated with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus came for people like us.

With this realization the women begin their spiritual “makeover.” The Holy Spirit creates the faith they so desperately need. The forgiveness they have in Christ enables them to forgive themselves and move on from their past. They are able to make choices that they may not have made before knowing the love of Christ. They begin to rely on God for daily needs and realize that their worrying is useless. They place their burdens on Jesus, trusting that He will take care of them. The

gospel leads them to live a life of service to their Lord. This is their spiritual “makeover.”

While the residents have a safe earthly home for the next year of their lives here at *New Beginnings*, they also have a heavenly home that is theirs by virtue of Jesus’ Easter triumph. Their confidence has its foundation in the empty tomb, and they know heaven is already theirs as they eagerly await Christ’s return. 



Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- **Funds for Carpets**
(Replace worn/stained carpets in apartments)
- **Large Frying Pans**
(Replace well-worn ones for apartments)
- **Sink Mats**
(To help keep the sink basins nice and keep dishes from breaking)
- **Diapers**
(Sizes 3, 4, 5)

A few more things at this time we would like: large cooking kettles, three new crock pots, and funds for remodeling of bathrooms.





New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

3070 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

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

Contact: **Ms. Liz Seelow - Home Manager**
Ray and Joanne Solofra - Volunteer House Parents

Telephone: **1-303-364-0890**
1-800-720-MOMS

E-mail: **Info@HomeforMothers.com**

Website: **www.HomeforMothers.com**



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