

# heartbeat

MERCY HOUSE NEWSLETTER • FALL 2007

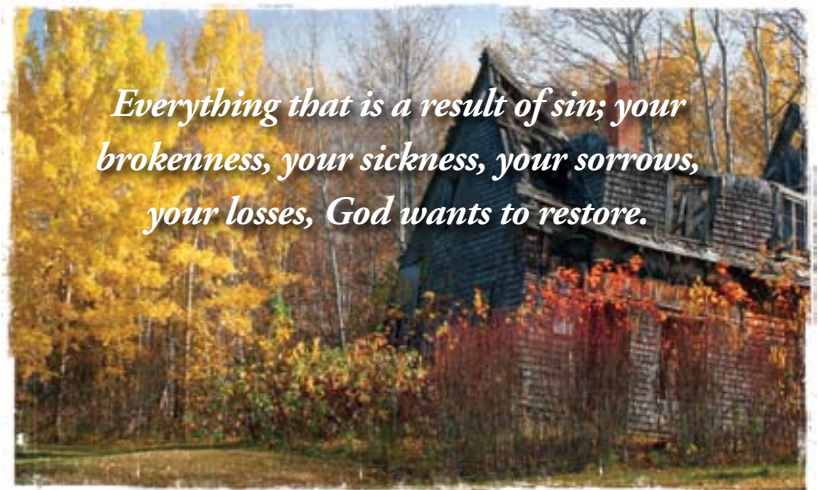
Dear Friends of Mercy House,

John 3:8 says, “For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the evil one.” This has become a life verse for me. It so perfectly states the heart of our Father. He wants to destroy the works of our enemy the devil. Those things perpetrated on the human race as a result of sin, God made provision to destroy through the sinless life and atoning death of His perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

Now think about this in the context of your life. Everything that is a result of sin; your brokenness, your sickness, your sorrows, your losses, God wants to restore. For this purpose Jesus was manifested-He BECAME VISIBLE, that He might destroy those things that have robbed you. What a powerful thought! I have made this a life verse to keep me on track concerning what I am to be about. If the pursuit of my life is only about the acquiring of material things, a beautiful home, building friendships, having a happy church life, I am missing something critical. All those are blessings the Lord gives us to enjoy, but it can't be the primary thing. If Jesus' purpose was to destroy the works of the evil one, then what must I be about? Do I not carry the same calling? Didn't Jesus Himself say to His disciples (which also includes you and me) that we must take up our cross daily and follow Him? He also said, “Greater works than these shall you do because I go to the Father.” And what were those works? Healing the sick, delivering the captives, restoring sight to the blind, preaching the good news to the poor.

I must keep my sights set on **His** purpose. If He is about destruction of the works of the evil one, then I must be also.

This is what we are about. This is warfare. This is serious. This is important. We must not give up the fight. We must work until we are finished and the end of the age has come. May God give us daily strength and grace to run to the battle. May we



*Everything that is a result of sin; your brokenness, your sickness, your sorrows, your losses, God wants to restore.*

have His help to rescue the dying ones. They are all around us, everywhere, looking for hope.

Thank you friends for your help in destroying the works of the evil one. I can't think of anything more devastating than the awful effects of abortion on our country and our people these last 30+ years. We must stay in the fight. We must respond in love to those ensnared by the enemy's devices. And we must not stop working. You are a part of this army and a partner in this regimen! Thank you for helping us so faithfully with your prayer and giving. We appreciate your standing with us in the fight!

In His Mercy (and His Army!),  
Susan Hulet



# WELCOME ABOARD!



Angie Layman, Director of Client Services for Mercy House

## Angie Layman

We are so pleased to welcome Angie Layman to our team. Angie has a diverse background in ministry to single women and in the field of nursing. She will serve as our Director of Client Services. Her responsibilities will include coordination of all the services we provide to our residents, assisting Susan with Director duties and helping Jennifer Brown focus on her case management work exclusively. We welcome Angie with grateful hearts to the Lord and with open arms. She is a blessing!



Angie and her husband Mark have been married 6 years and have 1 son, Aaron. Angie also has 3 children, Nicole, Jacob and Caleb from a previous marriage. In addition to her children, Angie and Mark have a son-in-law, David, and a granddaughter, Lilly Pearl. As a single mom, Angie was accepted into the Adopt-A-Family transitional housing program for homeless families. While enrolled in this program she went to Weatherford Nursing School. Following graduation she was employed in the newborn nursery at John Peter Smith Hospital in Tarrant County. She served for 3 years on the Community Enrichment Center Board of Directors which oversees the Adopt-A-Family program and a food pantry ministry. She volunteered as a clinical nurse for the Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (G.R.A.C.E.) ministry in Grapevine, TX. She and her husband Mark were mentors for a single mother in the G.R.A.C.E. housing program. She has also taught childbirth education classes at Real Choices Pregnancy Center in Grapevine. Angie has worked as a postpartum care nurse at a birth center in Dallas and also works currently as a hospice nurse. Angie has diverse experience not only in ministry to young women in crisis pregnancies, but can uniquely minister to them having walked through that season herself. She has a sweet and compassionate approach to the unique issues these women face.



Aaron & Lilly Pearl

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Kimberly



*I came to Mercy House in 2002 and had my baby in February, 2003. While I was there the Lord really changed my outlook on life. I had always been depressed and very lonely. After I started going to church and getting involved I changed my attitude toward myself. I am now doing online business classes through Kaplan University. My ultimate goal is to do social work and open a group home for women, both pregnant and non-pregnant. I want to help women receive what I did not receive until the Lord worked in my life through my pregnancy at Mercy House. I now have three beautiful children, Jocelyn (who attends pre-K at our local public school), Joshua, and Marc Anthony who was born September 12, 2007! I live with my husband, Andrew, in the Dallas area. We attend our local Catholic church and serve the Lord there.*

## FROM JENNIFER'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As summer comes to an end and fall begins I am reminded that Mercy House is changing seasons as well. As you may know Susan and I have been running the ministry as a two women show for some time. We have had the support of an amazing board of directors and prayer team but have needed the support of more day to day volunteers.

Our prayer team began praying for the Lord to bless us with a support team and I tell you, these ladies were on their knees because we received an outpouring of volunteers almost immediately. We now have fifteen volunteers from an array of backgrounds including clinical counseling, pastoral counseling, nursing, nutrition, breastfeeding, midwifery, social work, business and homemaking. I've learned through the years that nothing builds faith more than answered prayer. Amen?

We have seen the face of God through the generosity of our volunteers. They have put in countless hours around the clock of client support and I just want to take this opportunity to publicly thank each of them for their emotional and physical support to me personally and to our clients.

With the added work load of caring for a baby, I've been feeling the need to release some of my tasks with the ministry. We began praying again for the Lord to send help. And yet again he has proven himself faithful to us in our time of need. Angie has come to us at the exact moment we have needed her, for such a time as this. With Angie now officially serving Susan, I can really take the

opportunity to hone in on my social work role focusing on client specific details.

We have spent the past two years praying for the Lord to send us

a residential home. We've been wondering what God was up to but now we know that he is building the foundation of our home one volunteer at a time. God's ways are higher than ours and I'm beginning to see his perfect plan for Mercy House as he works to build our volunteer support.

Pray for us as each department takes the fall season to train, put protocols in place and prayerfully prepare for the next season with a fully running residential home. We are prayerfully expectant of the Lord's faithfulness yet again. If you wish to get involved on a volunteer basis, please feel free to contact us.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you safe,  
Jennifer L Brown, BSW  
Family Worker



# About Mercy House Ministries

## VISION

Empowering single, pregnant women with hope and help so that no woman will feel compelled to have an abortion due to lack of support.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide single, pregnant women with a safe nurturing home, pregnancy care, life skills training



*For in You, the  
fatherless find mercy.*

*Hosea 14:3*

and Christian discipleship; in order to establish solid foundations for two lives.

## PURPOSE

Mercy House Ministries is an interdenominational ministry founded for the purpose of aiding single pregnant women who need support. Our home is a refuge; one that is dedicated to the emotional and spiritual support of the family. Our goal is to help each woman develop a Godly lifestyle as well as maintain a healthy environment for her child. This includes becoming a part of a local church, spiritual discipleship and training in life skills necessary for a self-supporting family. God is merciful and He cares deeply for the abandoned and neglected. Our Lord Jesus said that when we have ministered to the least of these, we have ministered to Him. With God's abundant grace, we are influencing the lives of pregnant women, one by one, breaking the cycle of loss and forever changing the future of two lives.

# Mercy House Volunteer Spotlight

My name is Gretta, and I am delighted to be working with the ministry at Mercy House, in a voluntary capacity. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergrad student at Texas Woman's University, working toward my degree in the field of Social Work and am currently working on completing my Praxis.

I have been married to the same wonderful man, Frank, for 29 years and we are blessed to have four great kids, Christopher, Peter, Angelina and Jake. (3 of whom were adopted from the countries of Russia and Kazakhstan.) Our family has lived in the Dallas – Ft. Worth area for the last 16 years, after my husband's job brought us here, from Virginia.

(As a native born Alaskan, I guess I'm as "Yankee" as you can be...but I love the people of Texas, the milder winters and those beautiful spring wildflowers!!) When I'm not busy with my classes, my youngest (both 5 years old) keep me running, but when I have a free moment, I love to garden, read, swim and spend time with friends. I'd like to share my

heartfelt thanks with the wonderful staff and volunteers of Mercy House, for welcoming me so warmly and making me feel immediately "at home". I hope to be able to add to the ministry, blessings and work of Mercy House.

