

heartbeat

MERCY HOUSE NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2007

Dear Friends,

As I sit gazing at the beautiful snow today I am thinking of how fresh and new everything looks. It is a reminder to me of the faithfulness of God we see in the verse in Isaiah 1:18 that says, "Come now let us reason together", says the Lord, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."

There was a poignant moment in the movie "The Passion of the Christ" when Jesus after brutal beatings was making His way carrying His cross to Golgotha. As He stumbled, Mary His mother ran to Him, desiring to somehow end this horrible nightmare. Jesus looked intently at her and said "Behold, I make all things new". What powerful words! The obvious implication was that he chose that road and knew exactly what he was doing. He was not a martyr. He was laying down His life. And now anyone who comes into contact with that life can experience "all things new".

As I have meditated on this recently it reminds me of the sinful woman we read about in Luke 7 who came to Jesus as He sat at the Pharisee's table for dinner. Somehow she managed to make her way into this home and simply stood crying behind Jesus as he reclined. She cried so much that her plentiful tears began to wash His feet. At some point she bent down to dry his feet with her hair and then anoint them with the costly perfume she brought. I imagine the perfume was the most valuable thing she owned. She in her deep sorrow over her sin gave all she was able. She did all this despite the attitude of onlookers and the judgments of



those in the room. And Jesus in His compassion forgave her sin and simply said, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

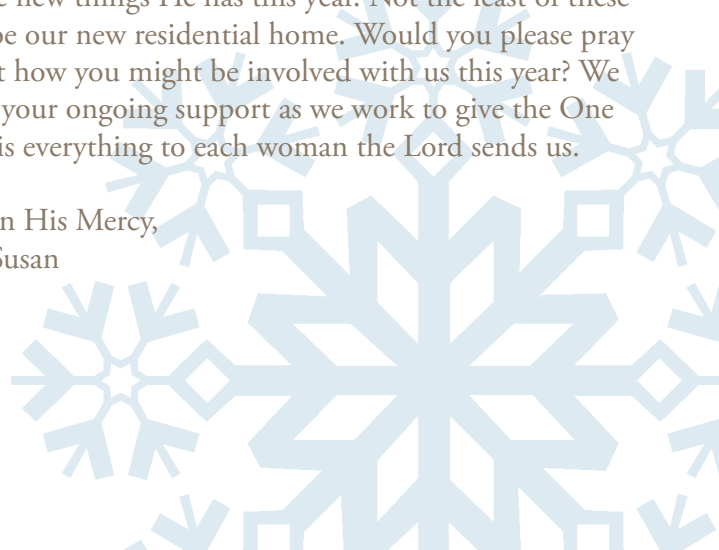
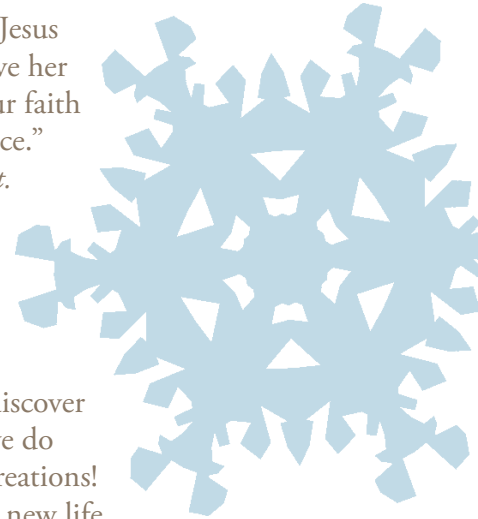
She had a brand new start.

This woman represents us all. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. And we all have had the opportunity to discover "all things new". Once we do meet Him, we are new creations! The old has passed and a new life begins. I am so grateful for that day, when my sin was removed on Calvary. And for the day He found me and I believed in all He has accomplished on my behalf. *I received my brand new start.*

Mercy House is offering the One who makes "all things new" to every woman we can. Jesus is our only redeemer, our only hope, our only answer. And for everyone who comes to Him, no matter what the depth of their sin, like the sinful woman of Luke 7, *He will give them a brand new start.*

I would like to thank you so much for your faithfulness to help this ministry. We are looking forward to the new things He has this year. Not the least of these will be our new residential home. Would you please pray about how you might be involved with us this year? We need your ongoing support as we work to give the One who is everything to each woman the Lord sends us.

In His Mercy,
Susan



NEW ARRIVALS



STATS

Hannah & Eden

Eden Mekayle
Born: December 30, 2006
8 lbs. 1 oz.
20 inches



STATS

Jennifer & Odessey

Odessey-Adonis
Born: December 7, 2006
5 lbs. 9 oz.
17 inches

where are they now?

Michelle's Story

I came to live at the Mercy House at the young age of 15. At the time Susan was the director and Bev and Jack were the houseparents. I was so overwhelmed with just the pregnancy itself that even as I look back on it, it seems like a long dream. However, God's mercy is amazing. Even before I had fully accepted Him in my life, He wisely planted me in Mercy House in order for me to grow spiritually and emotionally. I received the counseling I needed to cope with the reality of the pregnancy as well as the next decision I made . . . to give

my child, Nathaniel, up for adoption. I cry as I write this letter because even to this day I do not know where that strength and maturity came from. However, I thank God that it did come. I have never gotten a chance to tell Susan, Bev, Jack, Grace Community Church and Mercy House thank you because once I left, my family acted as if it never happened. It is only now . . . 6 years later . . . that I can as an adult look back and truly appreciate the grace and mercy of God in planting me in that atmosphere. —Michelle

from jennifer's desk

Dear faithful servants of the Lord,

It has been a season of life for Mercy House and I am so excited to be a part. As some of you know, my husband and I were expecting our first child this January after many, many months of praying and believing for a child. Now as I look at my precious son, I am in awe of God's faithfulness and His perfect craftsmanship. Corbin is living testimony that God hears our prayers and gives good gifts to those who put their trust in Him. I want to encourage you to stand on the promises that God has given you and put your trust in His faithfulness.

Along with the birth of our son, Mercy House had two deliveries in December as well and I had the privilege to journey through pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and sleepless nights with both of our new mothers. It has been such a joy for me to be

May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge." Ruth 2:12

able to connect with them in this way.

During one of those long nights I was asking God why He chose for all three babies to be born so close together. Corbin even arrived a month early to make his December arrival. I felt God

saying that these births are confirmation that He is pleased with our work. He is pleased that we pressed through to rebuild this ministry. God is so pleased that we are providing alternatives for these young women so that they may not only choose life for their babies but that they may also choose abundant life for their households.

How excited you must feel to know that you are providing life through your generous gifts. Thank you for pressing through with us. Thank you for standing by us during times of struggle and times of abundance. Thank you for praying for this ministry, for our staff, board and clients. These babies are jewels added to your crowns and we know that your reward is great. We love you and we bless you in the name of our precious Father.

In awe of His faithfulness,

Jennifer Brown, Family Worker

