

# heartbeat

MERCY HOUSE NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2010

Dear Friends,

Greetings and HAPPY NEW YEAR! I don't know about you, but I appreciate that God allows us to live our lives in seasons. Seasons come and then they go. There is always an expectancy that comes with the change of seasons and as we embark on this new year of 2010 I have that sense in my heart and spirit. At the beginning of each year, I ask God for a fresh word for the new season and this year I heard an amazing word... "this is the FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD". Whenever I hear something that I really never thought of before and certainly do not fully understand, I am excited to see how that unfolds. I know God is faithful to His word and has exalted it even above His name. I am excited to see how this word manifests in 2010.

So I have started by spending a little time on the subject of favor. Webster's defines favor as "friendly or kind regard, good will, approval, and liking". The word of God however has a much stronger and rich meaning. To have favor is to have acceptance, to be delighted in, to be desired, to be a source of pleasure.

In the New Testament, the word favor is also the same word used for GRACE. Anytime we read the word grace, we can also insert favor. "His grace (favor) is sufficient for me"...

As I have thought about this favorable year, I am aware that God is promising us something. He is promising us help. Do you need help with anything? Knowing we have the favor (acceptance, delight, and pleasure) of our Father creates a joy in my heart that encourages me greatly. But I believe that this promise also extends to others around us. When we have God's favor in our lives, we experience it in our world and in every strata of influence in which we operate. I believe that this year especially we will also find favor in the eyes of others -in our work places, our schools, our churches and ministries, our neighbors and friends. Even our "enemies" can be at peace with us.

Here are just a few promises I have found about favor:

- God's favor is for a lifetime. Once you have it you never lose it! Check out Psalm 30:5
- By God's favor our horn is exalted. Another way of saying we are made stronger than those without favor. Check out Psalm 89:17;24

- When God's favor is on us, He establishes the work of our hands. See Psalm 90:17
- Finding a good wife brings favor... (just checking to see if you are still reading!) Proverb 18:22
- Favor is BETTER THAN SILVER AND GOLD! Proverb 22:1 Is there anyone among you concerned about provision?

Scripture says that favor is a better blessing!

• Bearing up under unjust suffering brings God's favor. 1 Peter 2:19-20 So okay I am not signing up for this one...but if it happens or is happening to you, you can know that God is watching and He loves you and will shower you with His favor. Isn't that a comfort to know?

Dear friend, there is only one way that our favor comes-through the precious atoning work of Christ on the cross. He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness. Therefore we have all guilt and judgment

removed. We can be recipients of the Father's love and favor. Praise to His glorious name! If you have never found this favor it can be yours today. Simply receive the work of Christ on your behalf. Accept Him and commit your life to Him. You know it is time.

I am excited that this is will be a special year of favor from God. I expect this to be a year of great blessing. I expect the hearts of people to be moved and turned toward the Lord and His work. I expect to make great strides in the work of His Kingdom. I expect to see the ministry of Mercy House grow and prosper with God's favor. Thank you Father for your favor! One final promise:

Psalm: 5:12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with FAVOR You will surround him as with a shield.

Dear friend, enjoy His favor this year. He is a shield of protection and blessing for you!

In His Mercy,  
Susan



Psalm: 5:12 "For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with FAVOR You will surround him as with a shield."



# Happy New Year!

I pray that each of you has been richly blessed in the Holiday Season. I love the Christmas season! It gives me time to reflect on the miracle of Jesus' birth and the amazing work He was embarking on; the work that would affect people for centuries to come as well as His work in my life.

I love to share my "God stories" with people I meet, especially those who may not have a relationship with Him. I am so excited that this past year I have had the opportunity to share those stories with the clients of Mercy House. It is an answer to prayer that God has provided a way to do His work while satisfying the passion He gave me for helping mothers



and babies. I have been volunteering with Mercy House for the past 4 years and this year expanded my role to Family Worker and Doula. It has been fun, challenging and rewarding and I thank God for holding my hand through the experience.

I also have you to thank for your support of Mercy House. Without our contributors like you, we would not be able to provide for the needs of the women we minister to. These women and their babies are outsiders. They have been abandoned physically and emotionally by men, family or society. We have a remarkable opportunity to work with them for a season to find a stable path toward a second chance. Jesus was an outsider too. He was born outside the hotel (Luke 2:7) and later He was crucified outside the city gates. So let us go out to Him (Hebrews 13; 12-13). He said that what we do unto the least of these we do unto Him (Matthew 25:40).

Thank you for the time, donations and prayers you contributed in 2009! We look forward to your faithful support in 2010 as we continue to provide hope and help to our clients.

—Adrianna Shannon

## Educational Wish List

As we start the New Year we would like to share our "wish list". A very important aspect of our program is the education of our new moms. We want to get them off to the very best start. Our video library needs to be updated. We are working with old materials and some actual VHS tapes that are difficult to use. And we would very much like a RealCare® Baby...a simulator doll that is programmed to help an expectant mom experience what it is like to be a mom 24/7 through the great times and not so fun times. This doll is used for one week and simulates a real baby's needs. When the doll "cries" the mother-to-be must respond within a certain time and figure out what baby needs. The computerized doll records the mother's responsiveness and allows the facilitator to debrief appropriately after the one week experiment. It can be quite an eye opening experience for all! We would love to have a new simulator baby at Mercy House.

Safety Starts at Home DVD	\$149.95
First Year Milestones DVD Series	\$249.95
7 Steps to Reduce Risk of SIDS DVD	\$149.95
Newborn Care DVD	\$199.95
Positive Discipline DVD Series	\$299.95
Childhood Nutrition DVD Series	\$249.95
Single Parenting; the Family in Harmony DVD Series	\$249.95
Better Breastfeeding DVD	\$159.95
Understanding Birth DVD Series	\$449.95
RealCare® Baby	\$899.00



RealCare® Baby

THANK YOU!  
FOR GIVING!  
FOR PRAYING!  
FOR SERVING  
IN 2009!

HAVE A WONDERFUL 2010 FILLED  
WITH GOD'S FAVOR ON YOUR LIFE!

## FROM MINDY'S DESK

A new phase of life has begun...motherhood. What an amazing adventure. I never understood how tired you really are with a newborn, or how you can function on so little sleep. I didn't know that you could love someone so fervently that you just met. I didn't know how much time it



takes to get a baby and yourself up, bathed and ready to go (about triple the time it would normally take). I didn't know that the amount of stuff you have to take with you is reversely proportionate to the age of the

child. When I traveled to Colorado with a one month old I had to take a mountain of baby necessities with me! As I

watch Annaliese grow and start to have her own personality I'm amazed at the gift God has given me. I'm so blessed to be called a "mom". What a tiny little word that has so much meaning behind it. I am



astounded at the responsibility of raising a child. I embrace this challenge and am so thankful for the Word of God and godly friends and family to help. Mercy House is that godly support for these young ladies we take in. I'm so thankful for the volunteers that make Mercy House run smoothly daily. What an amazing blessing to these new moms as well as their precious gifts from God. I'm so thankful that they have chosen life and that we can be a part of helping and nurturing them along that path.

# Mercy House: Special Need

Our next Mercy House baby is due in March. Her mother Cassaundra has completed her certification as a computer support technician. Way to go Cassaundra! Cassaundra's greatest need now is for dependable transportation. If you or anyone you know has a car to donate, please let us know. We are able to do repairs on vehicles that need some TLC. Please pray with us for a provision of this need.

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Would you like to receive email communication from Mercy House? We can send you both our newsletter as well as other important announcements via internet if you prefer. Please contact us at [mercy@mercyhouse.org](mailto:mercy@mercyhouse.org)

It is also possible to donate online at our website. [www.mercyhouse.org](http://www.mercyhouse.org)



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