



Genesis House of NE Missouri

a safe place for first steps and second chances

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF OF GENESIS HOUSE OF NE MISSOURI
WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!



IT'S A BOY!!!

Welcome to our nest...

Braylen Josiah

12.06.17
6 lbs 15 oz
20 in

Congratulations and Welcome to Motherhood, Brenna!



GOD WALKS WITH SINGLE MOMS

There are many reasons why a growing number of women find themselves the head of a one-parent home. Whatever the reason, one thing is certain: God's faithfulness to single moms can be seen in Scripture and is evident in the lives of mothers and their children today. Genesis 21:9-14 tells the story of a tumultuous family problem involving Isaac, the son God promised to Abraham in his old age, and Ishmael, his son born to Hagar. Though Abraham's wife, Sarah, was the one who originally suggested that her husband sleep with her maid, she later insisted that the son produced by that union and his mother be "cast out" of their home. As a result, Hagar became the first single mother mentioned in the Bible.

Early in the morning, Hagar left the place she and her son had called home for many years. Genesis 21:14 says Abraham placed the strap of the water bottle on Hagar's shoulders. The Greek word for shoulder is *shek-em'*, which means "place of burden." Hagar was left with the overwhelming responsibility of raising a child alone without the provision and protection of a father. With no water to drink and no well to draw from, death seemed imminent for

the boy and his mother—until God intervened. "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation," God said to her (Gen. 21:18). Today, God is still reaching out to single mothers. He's offering to be a never-ending source of love, strength and provision.

It was never God's intention for single moms to go through life alone. Even in the "wilderness," He hears our cries and is faithful to help those who call upon Him. The Bible says Hagar wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba; Beersheba was a desert that still exists today. Its name means "well of oath" indicating its function to be a constant source. Hagar was frightened at the prospect of losing her son to the wilderness, just as single moms are fearful of losing their children to this world. Scripture says she placed Ishmael "a good way off" and said, "Let me not see the death of the child" (Gen. 21:16). She then turned her back to him and cried. Many times, our problems and situations are overwhelming. Single parenting takes faith, trust in God, and action. When Hagar cried out to God, He "opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink" (v. 19). God provided a well of water for her and Ishmael. That well represents His never-ending commitment to single mothers and their children.

Genesis House seeks to be used by God as a well of spiritual water – like the natural well He showed Hagar in the wilderness—that will bring hope to single pregnant and parenting mothers. By providing for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each mother and child, we can point them toward God, guide them toward a hope-filled future, and raise a chosen generation for Christ. Won't you partner with us toward that goal?

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER DONATING TO GENESIS HOUSE

Traditions often inspire joy and a sense of belonging. They also help create heartwarming memories for children and adults alike for years to come. One such tradition is Christmas gift-giving. People across America look forward to giving and receiving presents wrapped in bright, glittery paper and ribbon. There's something about the way the Christmas tree looks when beneath its branches lie a mound of shiny gifts of all sizes.

In the Christian religion, the practice of giving gifts at Christmas is traced back to the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that were given to the Christ child by the three Magi. To be certain, the ancient Church did not "celebrate" Christmas as much as it "observed" Christmas as a holy day. It wasn't until the modern era that the tradition of giving gifts to loved ones at Christmas became more and more popular.

Today, we give gifts at Christmas for our own reasons. For some, it is a way to celebrate the Christian holy day. For others, it is a special time to let family and friends know you care. Many are led to support various charities and ministries with financial gifts as a way of designating a portion of their "treasure" to the people and causes they value. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matt 6:21)

**MAY GOD KEEP YOU AND BLESS YOU DURING THIS BLESSED SEASON!
WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

GENESIS HOUSE BOARD & STAFF

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