



The Baby Came Early!

Take a few moments with me and “imagine if.”

Imagine if you are:

- A single mom who needs surgery with three children
- Homeless and have nowhere to go but to a shelter, but the shelter doesn’t accept children
- Facing jail time, but have no one to care for your children

We have helped hundreds of families in crises in the last few years. Nearly all of our calls come from desperate, single moms.

Dawn Loftis, our Family Case Manager, and our network of Safe Families volunteers waded into these situations providing hope and help. As Dawn describes it, *“The only thing typical is that we are talking on the phone with a very desperate mom. We run into all kinds of situations, but there are always children who need care right now!”*

Imagine if you are Janie. Janie was raised by her grandparents. Her own parents were heavy drug users and were not a part of her life. Sadly, both of her grandparents recently passed away. Janie has a job as a home health care aid, but she is a single mom raising a 6 year old. Last year she became pregnant. **She wasn’t prepared for little Devon to come 6 weeks early. She had no family to help, and nowhere to turn. The hospital staff told her about Safe Families, and Janie called us.**

If we imagine what the love of Jesus looks like, it could certainly look a lot like the response Janie received. Within hours, we had a volunteer family ready to care for this newborn until Janie is ready for him. Janie had to return to work the week after she gave birth, and little Devon has been with a Safe Family for the past two months. Devon is not old enough for daycare, so our Safe Family has stood in the gap to make sure Janie and her children can make it through this crisis.

Our Safe Family has shared phone calls, photos, and arranged visits so that Janie can continue to be a part of Devon’s life. Another one of our couples has been mentoring Janie about parenting and is providing her with encouragement, love, and support.

Our host family made sure that Devon and his sibling had Christmas presents. Dawn contacted a ladies group from a local church, and they showered Janie and her two children with Christmas gifts. Dawn and our entire team have told Janie, “We’re not going anywhere.” These expressions of love have been encouraging to Janie. **She is amazed at what formerly perfect strangers are doing to help her family.**

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

When you support Baptist Children's Home, you help us provide crisis care to dozens of families in desperate situations every year. You help keep families together and give parents the opportunity to get back on their feet.

Will you help us care for more children in need like Devon? Your gifts mean so much.

*Names have been changed for privacy reasons.

Meet Maude!

Maude entered care in April, 2018. She was born in Liberia and lived there until she was almost a teen. She moved around a lot while in Liberia—she lived with different family members and in boarding school. Maude was able to endure unfair treatment at boarding school and other trials because she understood God was in control and had a specific plan for her life. She has a theological understanding that is beyond her years!

Maude turned 15 while she was on a home visit in December. To celebrate her birthday, her houseparents asked what she would like to eat. Maude said she wanted "ice cream cake," but for all their attempts, Bekah (Beals) could not find an ice cream cake that matched Maude's description.

One day Maude proclaimed, "It is cheesecake!" Samuel and Bekah were delighted to identify her favorite dessert to make her party even more special! Sometimes Maude struggles with the language barrier as she tries to explain what she is thinking. It is a joy to help her communicate more effectively.

Maude takes school and homework very seriously and maintains good grades through her hard work. She is blessed to have a very dedicated tutor and wisely uses her time in sessions. **She was recently recognized as "Student of the Month" at school!**

Maude often asks her houseparents questions after school about how to encourage and meet the needs of fellow students. She and Bekah have a nightly prayer time that sometimes goes very long. Maude uses this prayer time to ask great questions and to share things that are going on in her life.

Maude is best described as compassionate, thorough, and godly. She loves God, is active in school, sings in the church youth worship team, helps out in Sunday school, and has many other interests. She is also very creative and artistic and can occasionally be found writing "thank you" and notes of encouragement. Maude also plans to learn to play the piano soon.

Thank you for the change you have made in Maude's life.



MAUDE

Maude opened a particularly beautifully wrapped gift when her eyes lit up and a huge smile broke out across her face.

She received yarn and a crocheting kit. She excitedly told us she was SO looking forward to learning to crochet, and this was one item she most desperately wanted!

She knows how to knit and is teaching herself how to crochet using YouTube.

Liberia Visit

By: Bill Brittain, President

About 15 years ago, Thomas was in care in one of our group homes in Michigan. He and his mother immigrated to the USA having fled Liberia because of the war in the 1990's. Thankfully, while in our care Thomas trusted Christ, and it dramatically changed his life. He became a leader among the children in the home, at school, and in his youth group.

Thomas decided to attend Crossroads Bible College in Indianapolis.

After his studies, he married his high school sweetheart Hillary whom he had led to the Lord. Thomas served as a youth pastor, and currently, he and Hillary are houseparents in Texas.

Last February we surprisingly learned that Thomas's uncle is the new president of Liberia, George Mannah Weah. Thomas and Hillary traveled with Kathy and me this past December, to learn of our ministry in Liberia.

We had also hoped to meet his uncle, but his schedule was too full to accommodate us on shorter notice. We were able to speak with his Chief of Staff, and we stayed with one of Thomas's relatives who is a Circuit Court Judge—such a gracious, hospitable man.

Thomas's childhood days in Liberia were only spent in the capital, Monrovia. He had never been to the interior of his country, so we were glad to be able to take him there. The people in the village of Mehnla (see picture left) showed their gratitude for our help, by giving us a live chicken as a token of their appreciation.

P.S. Did you know that Baptist Children's Home cares for 363 children in Liberia? See more about the children through pictures and read the stories of our trip at: Baptistchildrenshome.org/liberia2018



Kathy, Hillary, and Thomas gave candy and gifts to our children.



Ruth and Rufus—Update

Ruth and Rufus are beautiful twins (left). Their mother died as a result of childbirth. They came into our care through the medical clinic that also is an outreach of the AFBM, our partnering church association.

The children's new mother is Anna, who is a loving and nurturing parent. Anna and her husband live in the Monrovia area. The twins are 8 months old and are doing very well. Ruth likes to crawl everywhere and is trying to stand up. Rufus is content not to crawl. (Right) Ruth loved the feel of Bill's beard.



Thank you for a Merry Christmas!

"I wish that all of you could have experienced what I was able to at the Bosquez home. I saw eyes popping wide open, jaws dropping, and even saw one of our boys holding back tears of joy.

I hope that these pictures will at least give you a glimpse of what your donations provided for our young people at Christmas. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Just before Christmas, I spoke to a former resident (Thomas) who is now thirty years old and serving as a houseparent in Texas. I asked if he remembered the gifts provided for him at Christmas while here. He said to me, **"Uncle Jeff, before I came to the Children's Home, I never received Christmas gifts."** He went on to share how the generosity shown to him has impacted his level of generosity and how grateful he is for those who gave so that he could receive. *(See more of Thomas's story on page 3)*

Thank you very much for all that you give at Christmas and throughout the year. Your gifts create some powerful and positive memories that will last a lifetime."

- Jeff Oswald, Michigan Director



Iggy excitedly opens a gift!



Thank you and Merry Christmas from the Beals!



"Thank you, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! Thanks for the love and the love of God that you have toward us. We love you and thank you for your support and prayer for the children's home. We love the gifts. Everything was great. Thanks again. Love you!"
- Moses



"Thank you for the gifts we got for Christmas. I really liked them. I really liked the Ohio State cup and the Yeti. I know that was expensive, so thank you. It was also fun to see other children open their gifts, so thank you so much!" (Left)
- Alex

"Thank you for all the gifts. I had a great time seeing everyone open their presents and opening mine. Also, thank you for using your money for kids that you don't really know."
-Ben (Right)

Notice the little friendly rivalry at Christmas... :-)



"I really am thankful for my gifts! I was really excited to see those socks I received. Now my feet will be warm when the Michigan winter hits. The Green Bay Packers hat was cool and so were the two Adidas running pants. I am so happy about my new roller blades. The ones you gave me were perfect. Thank you for giving me something to open on Christmas day." - Attah (left)

The Beals and their children were very excited to celebrate Christmas and open their gifts! Samuel and Bekah

presented one gift at a time and everyone watched and celebrated!

This was Christian's first Christmas at BCH, so he had no idea what to expect this year! He was so grateful for each present he received.

I want to thank each person who contributed to our Christmas celebration. **I cannot tell you the depth of our children's needs or struggles, but I can tell you how much your gifts meant to our children and staff.**

Our children are very thankful for each gift you provided. This is but a tiny representation of the hope they can have because of the birth of the Messiah many years ago. Thank you for making this a great Christmas for our children!

- Jonathan Douglass, MI Houseparent Supervisor



Michael (left) opened one gift and "flew up out of his chair, ran laps around the dining room, shot out the front door, ran laps around the garage before he returned to the living room beaming with hope, excitement, and enthusiasm."

See more at : baptistchildrenshome.org/christmas2018



Thank you from Myanmar

"We decided to let the children open Christmas gifts on December 23 because they wanted to show them at church. The kids were very excited and the morning could not come soon enough for opening their Christmas gifts! Each child received clothing or shoes this year. On Christmas Day we passed out Gospel tracts at a national park. People were charmed by the children and most accepted our tracts. We are thankful for that."

- Rebecca P., Supervisor of Hope Children's Home

Honor, Memorial, and Estate Gifts

Thank you to many friends for providing a special gift “in memory” or “in honor” of a loved one or friend.
Gifts from September 1, 2018—December 31, 2018.

In Honor of:

Jesus

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fleming
Mr. Steve Miller

Papa Ray

Jessica Ray

Nicholas Culp

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Culp

Ms. Leah Foster

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Glifford Gail

Mr. Derrick Thompkins

Lynnox Goldsberry

Mrs. Wanda Goldsberry

Adopted grandson

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Shepperd

Silas, New Grandson

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Beissel

Great Grandsons

Mr. and Mrs. Denny Wilburn

Rev. George and Lois Heyboer

Miss Mary Lou Heyboer

Larry and Dianna Huff

Dr. and Mrs. Darrel Huff

Kathy Inabnitt Burns

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Inabnitt

Samantha Jenney

Edith Jenney

Scott and Maggie Kigar

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Kigar

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mieczkowski

Arthur and Susie Kinzinger

Rob and Jessica Kinzinger

Linda Meyers

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kaufman

Mr. and Mrs. David Molfenter

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Molfenter

Grant and Kathy Myers

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Myers

Mr. and Mr. Thomas Nyekan

Tomarrah Green

Richard Keith Streitmatter

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Streitmatter

Ethel Wengerd

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Wengerd

In Memory of:

Rev. Andrew Allen

Mr. and Mrs. Merlyn Brugler

Merlin Arends and Wilmadeen Rust

Mary Arends

Tillie Arent

Agnes Hales

Charles and Betty Barber

Miss Ann Barber

Rossie Barnard

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Barnard

John W. Campbell

Donna Campbell

Lloyd Carter

Mrs. Delores Carter

Joan Cole

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Monroe

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Coleman, Sr.

Mrs. Sue Acuff

Mary De Lau

Agnes Hales

Mark Edmondson

Elaine Edmondson

Janet Gensel

Susan Gensel

Wayne and Pearl Gerber and

Albert W. Gerber

Jeanne Mudie

Elvin Geurink

Mrs. Ruth Geurink

Ron Goodspeed

Mrs. Roy Cupples

Maggie Grieger

First Baptist Church

Gloria Guest

Mr. Duane Guest

Harold and Pauline Hackley

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Thomas

Melvin and LaVonne Hardesty

Pamela Weaver

Melvin and Mary Hardesty

Pamela Weaver

John Hart

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brittain

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Everhart

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fahringer

Save-a-Lot Employees Wellsville, NY

Mrs. Mammie Hasse

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Preissler

Dave and Mary Fields and

Henry and Marjorie Lawrence

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fields

Nancy Hershman

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mowrer

Violette Humphrey

Joyce Humphrey

Clara McCammon and

Jerry and Margaret Bean

Mr. and Mrs. James Willis

Chris Johnson

Mr. Burdette Johnson

Norman E. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson

Pastor David Johnson

Melody Milliron

Dan and Joan Keleman

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Keleman

Harold Knickerbocker

Carolyn Knickerbocker

Bob Kramp

Mrs. Ann Kramp

Doreen Kuehl

Rev. and Mrs. George Heyboer

Clarence Lee

Mrs. Donna Lee

Gilbert and Mary Long

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Long

Junior Ludwig

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Johnson

Doug and Betty Magill

Timothy Magill

Jar Marrs

Mr. Charles Marrs

Joseph and Betty McDaniel

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bayless

Aleta McIlree

Margaret Nimon

Rev. Norman McVey, Jr.

Community Baptist Church—Spring Hill, TN

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brinkerhoff

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Johnson

Jeffrey and Amy Brinkerhoff

Harrison Primary Center

Susan Thompson

Dale Means

Mrs. Francine Watts

Peggy Mockridge

Jean Fish

Rosalene Mort

Mr. Donald Mort

Donald Mueller

Mrs. Bernadine Mueller

Roy Neal

Mrs. Roy Neal

Thelma Jane Newberry

Mr. Dennis Newberry

Phil Nusbaum

Mrs. Phillip Nusbaum

Gil Oldberg

Mrs. Gil Oldberg

(Continued on page 7)

Our Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Garrison

Ruth Parks

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Mapson

Frances Q. Johnston

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Fitzgerald

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Renner

Mr. Jim Renner

Jimilee Riney

Mrs. Erna Riney

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Robb

Mr. and Mrs. Kim Cole

Michelle (Harless) Scarberry

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harless

Anola Schenck

Mr. Loren Schenck

John T. Schultheis

Marsha Schultheis

Harold and Dalene Simmelink

Pete and Kathy Bardolph

Noel Shier

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shier

Mollie Shrecengost

Mr. Bob Shrecengost

Candy Lynn Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Kent Smith

Ginny Smith

Mr. George Smith

Robert Snyder

Mrs. Robert Snyder

Donald Spohn

Mrs. Eleanor Spohn

Ron Spitsbergen

William Spitsbergen

Frank and Beatrice Spotts

Techla Spotts

Phillip N. Stan, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. David Soliday

Melvin Streitmatter

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Streitmatter

John Stufflebeam Sr.

Mrs. John Stufflebeam

Elizabeth Turner

Jean Morse

John "Jack" Whitesell

Stephen and Cheryl Cody

Mr. and Mrs. David Day

Jim Farmer

Rev. and Mrs. James Geurink

Nick and Nancy Laurino

Mr. and Mrs. John Hall

Robert and Susan Rush

John Schutte

Douglas Wieda Jr and Douglas Wieda III

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Empie

Kenneth Woodruff

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harold

Lyle Young

Mrs. Reba Young

CareShare

Make one of our families part of your family!

CareShare is a simple way to make an eternal impact on one of our precious families!

Get to know each child through their monthly family newsletter. Our houseparents share a glimpse of everyday life of the family. It is one of the best ways to support our ministry on a personal level.

Meet the Mason Family!

The Mason Family (Nathan and Rebekah and their sons Adam, age 2, and James, almost 1) recently joined our houseparent team! They are our new Houseparents in Elkhart, Indiana. Read about their adventures through their CareShare!



Your suggested gift of \$25 a month or more helps equip our children with the necessary tools to reach far beyond the present daily life.

Your help provides opportunities for extra-curricular activities, academic success, and important life moments—like birthdays, Christmas, and graduation. This also helps our children have important family experiences like strawberry picking, camping, fishing, family trips to museums, the zoo, and a variety of other life events. All of this takes place in a Christ-centered family atmosphere where Jesus is modeled and taught. Our staff demonstrate the love of Christ in everything from providing structure and direction, tutoring and mentoring, to praying for these precious lives.

Want to get involved? Mark CareShare on the enclosed card and include your information. Or sign up by visiting: baptistchildrenshome.org/careshare. We have email and mail options available.

Our “Kitchen Sink” Food Shower



“We received so many gift card donations I could not fit them all in the small locked box that holds them! This is a wonderful problem to have, so thank you!” - Craig (pictured above)

perishable items. These gifts go a long way, especially when our homes can go through six to eight gallons of milk every week!

We were also blessed by many volunteers and church groups who helped during this event. Somehow all these items have to be sorted and put away. **Our Food Shower is a major event that includes many people and helps Baptist Children’s Home in so many ways.** Whether you purchased items, gave a gift or a check, or volunteered, thank you for your care for our children!” - Craig Freyenberger

“The effects of your generosity go beyond the daily budget and the generous way it provides food for our tables. Every year Food Shower encourages the hearts of everyone here as we see empty pantry shelves fill with a variety of food and supplies. The joy is overwhelming.

So from our staff, current and former children, I want to say, “Thank you.”

Thank you to the individual who bought that box of Fruit Loops and that bottle of hot sauce. Thank you to those who traveled hours to fill our freezer with beef and to meet us. Thank you to everyone who could not travel to us but sent gift cards. Thanks especially to everyone who prays for God to provide our needs.”

- Jeff Oswald, Michigan Director

“Thank you to the many individuals who gave cans of food, cereal, paper products, and everything else. Although we call it our Food Shower, it really is a “kitchen sink” drive. Anything you use in your home, we keep in our pantries. These resources are a huge help to our homes and allow our houseparents to budget their other expenses while utilizing these precious items that were graciously donated.

Our Food Shower was a huge success, not only because of the items that were donated, but also for **all the gift cards that were given to buy**



Attah helps with Food Shower too!



Houseparent Billy Bosquez puts away a favorite item—Hot sauce!

Special Announcement! — VBS 2019 Project: “Tuck Me In”

We are excited to announce our upcoming **VBS 2019 Project: “Tuck Me In”!** This project will help give a good night of sleep to the children in our care. Support raised through churches and individuals for VBS will help update mattresses, beds, bunk beds, and bedding for our children. More information will be coming out soon, but *we would love for your VBS to help us tuck in more than 800 children at night!*