

## *A Big Thanks to all our Knitting Clubs & Ladies' Groups*

On February 22, Suzanne Ball and Karen Kamphuis of Jewels For Jesus had the privilege of visiting with one of our faithful knitting groups. Karen and Suzanne went to share with the group about what's been happening of late on the "front lines" at Jewels. In return they were the grateful recipients of many blankets, sweater sets, outfits and teddy bears all beautifully hand knitted with the craftsmanship of skilled knitters. These beautiful knitted items were augmented by donated bottles, clothing, diaper bags and other gifts. The group's members not only love to knit, but love to use their knitting to serve others. Their motto? "We take what we do best, and use it for His glory."

Our heartfelt thanks go to this group and to all of our talented, faithful knitting groups. Jewels For Jesus is blessed to have a number of knitting and ladies groups who keep us well supplied through their knitting and through hosting 'Jewels For Jesus Baby Showers'. As a result, all of our babies receive a layette of new, lovingly created clothing and baby gear. It's one of the many little extras that communicate the love of God to the families we serve.



## Voices From the Past

This past month a number of 'voices from the past' have taken the time to let us know that Jewels For Jesus Mission made a difference in their lives during a time of need. I'd like to share these words with you and, in doing so, allow you to see the difference you have made through your prayers, donations and other supports.

The following note came with a recent donation. "God bless your work! Seventeen years later I am glad not to have aborted my eldest because of your presentation."

A mother of two special needs children wrote to thank Jewels For Jesus for being there when she was struggling with choices for her children's futures (now both school age and thriving).

A birth grandmother called out of the blue one day to thank us for being there for her daughter when they, as a family, went through the heart-breaking experience of an unplanned pregnancy and placing the baby for adoption. Now, 20 plus years later, her daughter is following the Lord, married to a fine man and parenting a houseful of little ones.

## Present Voices

Who do your present gifts and donations support? Who are the voices of today that come to us for help? Jewels For Jesus' counselling ministry has been busy lately. Let me give you a window into the needs women and men have been coming to us with.

Nancy\*

Nancy, a refugee, is expecting her second child and working closely with a birth parent worker as she makes plans for their future.

Gena\*

Gena is a frightened young mom dealing with the consequences of giving birth to her baby without seeking medical assistance.

Rachel\*

Rachel is parenting a child and looking at adoption for the baby she is expecting. She is open to counselling to help her make better relationship choices in the future.

Jason and Jennifer\*

Jason and Jennifer are young professionals who are not in a long term relationship. They are looking for experienced assistance in evaluating the best plan for their baby's future.

Patricia\*

Patricia is carrying her third child. She placed one for adoption and is parenting one. She's looking for just the right family to adopt her expected baby.

Nina\*

Nina was raped and now pregnant. She came to us looking for help in determining her options in this heartbreaking situation.

Sean\*

Sean's mom has contacted us to ask for help for her son as he sorts out his thoughts and feelings around his girl friend's pregnancy.

\*Names have been changed

## Bassinette Update

March 14 Helen picked up our new bassinettes. By March 16 our first bassinette was in use as foster parents Karen and David had the privilege of being the first to initiate theirs. Our newest little Jewel was placed into their care and is enjoying her lovely new quarters as her birth mom plans for her future. Many thanks to those who made it possible to purchase this equipment so quickly.



## Used cell phones and toner cartridges drive

Thank you to all who have so generously collected and donated old cell phones. To date, we have received over 30 phones and accessories – many, many thanks! As part of this ongoing project we are also collecting used printer cartridges. The cartridges are remanufactured and used again, and the cell phones are refurbished and sent overseas. Our first shipment will be sent to Green Tech at the end of March, but we will be collecting the above on an ongoing basis. So please keep them coming and we will keep you updated in our newsletters. We so appreciate these donations.

## First Annual Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction

Jewels For Jesus

For our Jewels of today and those of tomorrow, Jewels For Jesus invites you to our first annual Golf Tournament, Dinner and Auction

Date: Saturday, May 13th, 2006  
Tee-Off at 1:00 pm

Format: Shotgun start and scramble

Location: Castlemore Golf and Country Club  
3255 Countryside Drive  
Brampton, Ontario

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Silent Auction to follow the dinner

Cost: Golf for 1 - \$100.00. Includes green fees for 18 holes, golf cart & applicable taxes  
Golf for 4 - \$360.00. Includes green fees for 4, golf cart & applicable taxes

Dinner - \$50.00. Includes dinner, taxes & gratuities

To register, call Jewels For Jesus at 905-821-7494, or online at [www.pathcom.com/~jkm/golf.html](http://www.pathcom.com/~jkm/golf.html)



### NEEDS CORNER

- Formula
- Diapers, sizes 2-6
- Summer clothes, sizes newborn to 6X

## My Word



"We just feel that one day God is going to ask us what we did to contribute positively to the world, and fostering is a small part of what we think we should be doing for now, so we don't see it as anything more than what God expects from us." A Jewels For Jesus Foster Mom

Usually I begin my thoughts with a Bible verse or two that God has used in my life in the previous weeks and months: a word or challenge that's resonated enough with me to want to share it with you. This month these words have come from one of our foster moms.

Her words were just a matter-of-fact response to my expressions of thanks for going above and beyond the call of duty while caring for one of our little ones. What stayed with me was the focus of her words, "one day God is going to ask us ... fostering is a small part of what we think we should be doing". Her focus was on pleasing God by doing what she could. The truth that lingered was that this is truly successful ministry – putting our hand to the opportunities before us because we want to please our Lord.

This may seem like the obvious and, of course, correct focus for the Christian. However, I find it intriguingly easy to lose sight of this focus. With amazing effortlessness we can slip into using the outcome of a situation as the measuring rod for our success in ministering to others. In fact, I

believe the subtle shift to an outcome-based focus is a chronic pitfall for Christians in helping ministries. It's understandable. We care about the people we minister to: we want their lives to go well, their hurts to be healed and their problems to be solved. We pray and work toward this, and we're thrilled when God uses our actions to make a difference. The danger comes when we forget that the outcome is God's job. Our job is to put one foot before the other and to do "what we think we should be doing".

This month has had its share of joys in ministry. A baby with critical health needs is safe and well because of the intervention of Jewels staff; two women who use our care cupboard have asked for and been given referrals to churches; a Muslim woman is reminding us that she still needs our prayers. On the other hand, we've watched another month pass as a birth mother's child sits in a public foster care home while confusion reigns over her future. Have we been less successful ministers for God in the latter situation? We grieve, of course, for this little one and her mom but have we been less successful?

God calls us to do what we can in the opportunities He gives. Like the fine women from our Knitting Groups who "take what we do best, and use it for His glory". Be encouraged as you continue to do what you can, remembering our 'success' is in our faithful service. The results are God's domain.

Margo Semple  
Executive Director