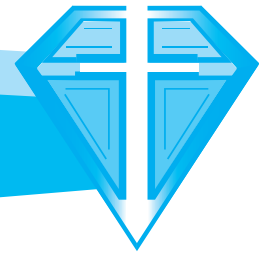


*Jewels For
Jesus*

REFLECTIONS



A Publication From Jewels For Jesus Mission Inc.

December 2009/January 2010

*To All Our
Friends &
Partners*



We extend a huge and sincere THANK YOU for your invaluable support. Your partnership has made another year of successful ministry at Jewels For Jesus possible. We pray that your Christmas was joyful and your New Year will be overflowing with God's blessings.

With Christ's Love, The Staff & Board

Care Cupboard Christmas Party

What an amazing, noisy, chaotic and fun day we had at this year's Christmas Party. Trinity Anglican Church showed their usual hospitality in allowing 71 children, 50 adults, 9 volunteers and 2 staff to descend on their beautiful facility for the better part of the day.

We had the usual fun-filled activity stations: cookie decorating table (always a favourite with the little ones), craft table, colouring centre and, of course, the family portrait by the Christmas tree was back by popular demand.

This year we had some added highlights. One of our volunteers, Chantal, played her keyboard and provided Christmas music throughout the event. The addition of a children's bowling and ring toss centre provided endless fun for the little ones who aren't as easily entertained by crafts and colouring. But the biggest hit, by far, was Hal Grant. Hal's calling is Clown Ministry, and what an amazing ministry he has. First Hal wowed the children by making endless balloon creatures and items (including,



if you can believe it, a fishing rod). Hal also treated us to a show where he communicated the message of Christ while holding a room full of parents and little ones spellbound with his amazing tricks and antics.

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The gratitude from the attending families was endless but two comments in particular stuck in my mind and heart. The first was from a single mom with a 2-month-old child. Her child was obviously not old enough to participate in the fun but she came anyway. During the day she complimented us on the wonderful party, and shared that this was the only party she had been invited to this season and that she was so glad she had come. The other comment came from a grandfather as we watched his 2-year-old grandson decorating a cookie. This gentleman, from another part of the globe, said that his grandson had never decorated a cookie before and, in fact, the gentleman had no notion that this was something people did. He went on to say what a good experience this day had been for all of them and how grateful he was that his grandson was able to be here.

A huge thanks to all our hardworking volunteers: Hal, Jeff, Elizabeth, Joy, Lisa, Cheyenne, Chantal, Dwayne and Max. And a huge thanks to all of you who generously donated items and funds to this year's party. The entire party was funded through these donations!



Thank you to all who so generously stocked our shelves with large size diapers and cases of formula.

Charitable Donations

NEW - CanadaHelps

The Jewels' website, www.JewelsForJesus.net, now has a link to CanadaHelps, www.CanadaHelps.org, where you can make online charitable donations. Making a donation is simple: you choose Jewels For Jesus as your designated charity, identify any special requests associated with that gift, and begin the payment process. Once the donation has been paid for, you will receive an immediate, secure PDF tax receipt, issued by CanadaHelps, by email. CanadaHelps then sends the funds to Jewels For Jesus.

NEEDS
CORNER

Two strong individuals with a truck who would be willing to come to the office and remove 3 love seats and either take them to the dump or, if they wish, keep them or give them to a friend. If you are able to help us get rid of these please give us a call and talk to Helen or Pam.

United Way

Many people, through their workplace, make charitable donations to United Way. These funds can be channeled to Jewels For Jesus by simply requesting this and providing our charitable number (11897 4104 RR 0001).



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Never too young to be used by God to bless others

In the Bible Paul, as an older man, told Timothy not to let anyone think less of him because he was young but to be an example to all Christians. We

would all do well not to minimize the abilities and heart of the young. Two perfect examples:



Bramalea Alliance Pioneer Girls Group

This group of talented young ladies, just nine years old, presented Jewels For Jesus Mission with nine beautiful, hand sewn baby blankets. Our Director, Margo Semple, had the privilege of joining the girls for the evening on November 25th as the blankets were officially presented. See "Margo's Thoughts" for a few more details about this wonderful evening.



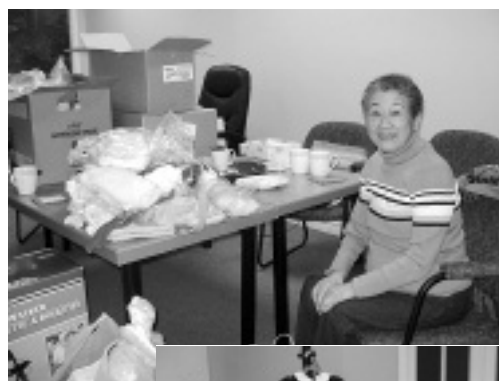
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School

Another fine group of young people who have earned our respect are the kids from St. Aloysius Gonzaga who, for the second year in a row, spent a day at our office wrapping gifts for the Care Cupboard Christmas Party. Six students, along with a teacher, joined us for the day just two days before the party. They drank tea, ate chocolates and had all the gifts wrapped for all our families in record time. These fine young people saved the staff hours upon hours of time and we are truly grateful!

Never too old to be used by God to bless others

The Overcomers, Parkway Bible Church

Not to be outdone by the energy of the young, some dear friends from the Overcomers seniors' group at Parkway Bible Church dropped by one morning in late November with a carload of bought gifts, hand sewn blankets and hand knit treasures. Hazel and Betty were gracious enough to deliver these beautiful items. By the time they left, boxes and boxes of lovely treasures were scattered across the boardroom tables and floor. God's richest blessing on our dear friends at Parkway who have supported God's work at Jewels For Jesus for decades!



Margo's Thoughts



"It begins now, here, and with you! It begins with the very next child God brings across your path. Every child you encounter is a divine appointment. With each one you have the power and opportunity to build the child up or tear the child down.

A life can be launched with as little as a single phrase, an uplifting word, or an act of kindness. The spirit of a little child is a lot like wet cement. When a child is young, it takes little effort to make an impression that can last a lifetime."

Excerpt from *Too Small to Ignore* by Wess Stafford

Opportunities to impact a child come daily at Jewels and, at times, from unexpected directions. As was the case a few weeks ago when I had the wonderful opportunity of impressing upon some very young ladies how their efforts could impact others.

I was invited to Bramalea Alliance Church to receive a very special gift. The Pioneer Girls Group was presenting Jewels For Jesus with some beautiful, handmade baby blankets. Handmade by them! These talented young ladies, just nine years old, had made these lovely treasures for the babies of families that have so little.

I had a great evening with these generous and inquisitive girls. Their leaders, and the girls themselves, were very proud of what they had accomplished, and rightly so - the blankets were beautiful! And the girls were anxious to hear about how God could use these treasures to help others.

We talked about how the love of God can be communicated through a blanket. And how what they were doing was exactly what Jesus did. Jesus proved He loved people by taking care of their needs; He healed them, fed them and washed their feet; He showed that He loved them by helping

them with the things they needed. By doing so He helped them understand their spiritual need.

The girls and I talked about how it's the same with the families we help through the Care Cupboard. Many don't know they need God. But they know they need formula to feed their children, diapers to keep their babies' bottoms dry, and blankets to keep their children warm. When we help families with what they know they need we show them we care and are able to help them understand their spiritual need. We talked about the fact that someday someone may find their way to heaven because of a blanket they made.

While I was with the girls, Wess Stafford's words were running through my head. "It begins now, here, and with you! It begins with the very next child God brings across your path. Every child you encounter is a divine appointment. With each one you have the power and opportunity to build the child up or tear the child down." I had been given the opportunity to build good things into these children as well, not just the children who come into my life at the office. This was a divine appointment, an opportunity to build these children up. The young ladies at Bramalea were "wet cement". And the knowledge that God used their blankets? This will leave a lifelong impression.

Every child I encounter is wet cement. Every time Jewels For Jesus helps a child through your support you and I are making an impression that will last a lifetime. Sometimes the opportunities come from interesting directions, but always the opportunities are there and together we can make lifelong impressions.

Margo Semple
Executive Director