

God's Goodness

"I'm sorry" I said to the nurse on the opposite end of the phone, "I'm WHAT? You must have the wrong file ma'am". Convinced that the nurse was confused, I promptly ran to my car and to the doctor's office where she showed me the proof on paper that I needed – I was pregnant. I have never experienced the emotions that I experienced that day.

Anger, confusion, regret, guilt, and utter fear came over me in waves that I couldn't control. I was going to have a baby – and I had no idea what I was going to do about it. I was a capable, fairly intelligent 20 year old young lady who was pregnant. Intellectually I knew that I could raise this child on my own. I had the brains and the know how to maintain employment and raise a child on my own. Many younger women than I had done it – why couldn't I? The discussions surrounding my pregnancy in the first month went everywhere from raising him on my own to raising him with the birth father to giving him up for adoption. At that point – adoption wasn't an option in my mind. Little did I know that the Lord had different plans.

After a falling out with the birth father, I began to think of the implications of raising this little guy. I had no high school diploma, was working in an industry that wasn't suitable to raise a child in and now had no Daddy for this precious baby living inside me. It was time to re-



think the adoption option because I knew in my heart that this child deserved the world, and if not the world, at least a great Christian Daddy. The importance of this baby growing up in a Christian household was vital.

Through a couple at the church I grew up in, we heard about Jewels For Jesus. After going through their website, I sent them an e-mail. After a quick reply, I went to Jewels and had a meeting with Elizabeth, where she gave me options on both the parenting option and the adoption option. Still not convinced that adoption was the right choice, I did the only last thing I could think of: pray. I prayed and prayed for the Lord to show me what to do. With everyone in my life throwing different opinions at me, I knew that He was the only one who could truly show me the right thing to do. After a few weeks of diligent prayer, He did show me – extremely blatantly – that adoption was the right choice.

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'Goodness' cont'd

For the duration of my pregnancy I still debated the pro's and con's in my mind, had wavering feelings and wasn't sure if I could go through the trauma of delivering a child and giving him to someone else. When these feelings came over me, I prayed, and the Lord gave me the strength to get through the ups and downs.

After being supplied with three potential adoptive couples' profiles I was even more confused. I had truly thought that I would "just know" right away the couple to chose. But that wasn't God's plan either! There were good things about every profile I was given! How do you really make a huge decision like that based on a few brief pages and a few pictures? The answer to that came to me again: pray. I took another few weeks to pray over these profiles. After asking more in depth questions about one particular couple, I prayed some more. I asked the Lord "if this is the couple that is to raise this baby, please let their profile still be here after my vacation". When I returned from my vacation, I found that they had not been chosen by another birth mother. This was the confirmation that I needed.

God had a plan for my life that I had no idea about. Jeremiah 29:11 states "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". I was going down a dirty road of alcohol abuse, drug abuse, premarital sex and generally not following Him. He woke me up with this pregnancy, picked me up, carried me and said subtly "You have a different road to take ... and this child will help you realize that." He came down to the level that I needed Him to come down to. Praise the Lord.

I met the adoptive couple twice before the birth. We discussed naming the child, how open the adoption would be and other various questions we had for each other. Both meetings were wonderful.

Although the labour and delivery of our little guy wasn't exactly what I had anticipated (who really anticipates 2 full days of back labour?) it all got forgotten when I held him for the first time. I held him only after the adoptive mom had gotten to meet her new son, for she was present at the hospital for the delivery. Our son was born a healthy 7lbs 6oz on October 15th 2004. The adoptive couple and I are working towards a healthy relationship where this child will know that I am his "tummy mummy" and they are his parents. The Lord will continue to show us how to maintain an open adoption that is suitable to both me and their family. Although a tricky thing to do, with the Lord guiding us I believe it will be a success. On December 4th we held an Entrustment Ceremony for him, at the adoptive couple's church. What a blessed day.

This child is going to be raised in a healthy, Christian home with loving parents and a wonderful brother. I couldn't have given that to him – and so I will be ever thankful to Jewels For Jesus, the adoptive couple and most importantly the Lord for giving me the opportunity to give this baby the life he deserves. Praise the Lord.

- a birth mother



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A Word from the Chairman

It is with great sadness in our hearts that we have to say goodbye to our beloved Executive Director, Joan Kosmachuk, who has been with us for some 14-1/2 years. Joan started with Jewels For Jesus as an inexperienced, eager and sincere volunteer with a great heart for this Mission. She has grown tremendously both spiritually and in experience during her time with us. She has been a great blessing to the Board, the Staff and the work of the Mission. We are deeply grateful for the work she has done and the legacy she leaves behind. My heart is full of anxiety as I am thinking who God has in mind to fill her shoes. I am reminded of one of my favourite verses from Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths."

We are overjoyed and happy for Joan that, after many years of prayer, she will be joining her dear husband in Boston, MA. We wish her health and happiness as she embarks on a new chapter in her walk with God. We know her heart and her prayers will continue to be with

the Mission and we certainly will miss her greatly.

We are thankful that Marian Boyd, who has been a Birth Parent Counsellor and Consultant with Jewels For Jesus Mission since 1980 and our Program Co-ordinator for the Adoption Agency since 1988 has consented to be our Interim Director. Marian brings a wealth of experience with her and has been Joan's mentor especially on the adoption side of our work. We would appreciate your prayers during this period of transition. We are confident as a Staff and Board that our precious Lord, whose name this Mission bears and who has carried us through valleys and over mountain tops, has plans for the future of this Mission which we have yet to discover.

Working for Life,



Heinz W. Haischt
Chairman of the Board

Dear Joan,

I would like to support the work of JEWELS FOR JESUS MISSION INC.

_____ making a donation of \$_____ Cheque Visa MC

_____ receiving information on the monthly Pre-authorized Support Plan

Credit Card # _____ Expiry Date: _____

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Spending of funds is confined to Board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts of more than \$10.00 are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

02/05

A Farewell Word From Joan



"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Luke 18:1

Dear Friends:

I wish that I had the time to call each one of you and personally share this news, but I hope you'll understand why I must settle for doing so in letter form. In the past few months, God has done an amazing thing in my life and answered my prayer of over 14 years for a reconciliation with my husband. We will be renewing our vows in March and are so grateful to God for what He has done for us. His faithfulness endures forever, His compassions never fail.

God also has a plan for the future of Jewels For Jesus and for some time now I have known in my spirit that it didn't include me. As Executive Director I have taken this ministry as far as God has gifted me and it is time for God to use someone else to fulfill the plans he has for Jewels For Jesus. But how could I ever pull myself away? Well, God knows me and He knows how attached I am to you all, so He has made it possible for me to say goodbye by sending me off to Boston to join my husband.

I will miss this work so much – what a glorious adventure it has been to serve God in this place over these past years. What a privilege to walk alongside and pray with so many of you as God has done marvelous things in your

lives. So many of you have prayed faithfully for me and supported us financially as I've had the awesome privilege to serve as Executive Director of this Mission. I have been so aware of that covering of spiritual protection and, even though you may not have known, I'm sure your prayers were a part of what God was arranging and redeeming in my personal life as well.

On March 1, 2005, I will pass over the mantle of leadership for the interim to my gifted sister in the Lord, Marian Boyd. I know that God will continue to bless and use her in this ministry. She has been my mentor and my dear friend, and it has been joy unspeakable to work together as one. The whole team at Jewels For Jesus (past and present) has been among the most godly and capable women and men I've ever had the privilege to know and I shall miss their friendship and companionship greatly. I know they will continue to serve in this place, and that you will continue to pray for and financially support them in this ministry.

This place and all of you will never be far from my heart. I will be back in town often and hope to see some of you at various events for Jewels For Jesus. God is doing great things here and I wait with eager anticipation to see what He is going to do. I will miss you all so much but pray God's continued blessing on you. May my testimony encourage you to wait on Him in prayer and to not lose heart – God does hear your cries and in His perfect time His answer will come.

In His love,

Joan Kosmachuk
Executive Director