

# Reflections

Jewels For Jesus



## JEWELS FOR JESUS TURNS 60

February 2008

As Jewels For Jesus Mission moves through its 60th anniversary year we're hoping to do some special things in our newsletters. One special focus is storytelling.

We want to tell you some stories from the past, stories about how Jewels came into existence, and how and why we've evolved into who we are today.

We want to tell you stories that are happening right here and now, stories that you are a part of through your prayers and financial support.

We also want to prepare for future stories by planning for the next decade of ministry.



Milton Hill  
1926-1959

### STORIES FROM THE PAST

Like any good story, the best place to start is at the beginning. The story of Jewels For Jesus Mission starts with Milton Hill, a man who had an understanding of how precious children are to our Lord and a passion to minister to them.

In 1947 Milton Hill was newly married and ready to launch into a career in children's ministry. Many other opportunities for other types of service came up but he was sure that God had called him to work with children, so he passed these opportunities by. As finances became more challenging he was tempted to veer off course but the Lord always met their needs.

Living arrangements were also up in the air at that time. Eventually he was offered an apartment in a home where a small group of believers from the Long Branch area of Toronto met. This group had been meeting to pray for the development of a children's ministry. It didn't take long for the Hills and the prayer group to connect. The ministry effort that emerged from this was later to carry the name Jewels For Jesus Mission. Out of this humble beginning was birthed children's camps, foster homes, a maternity home, crisis pregnancy support, crisis parenting support, adoption services, and the preventative efforts of abortion awareness and relationship education.

Do you have a story from the past? If so, we'd like to hear from you. We'd be honoured to share some of your stories in our newsletter throughout 2008. Did you or someone you know benefit from the children's camps or the foster homes? Let us know how God has blessed you or your family through Jewels For Jesus' 60 years of ministry.

## STORIES FROM THE PRESENT

The stories we could tell. We often joke that we could write a book about our experiences here at Jewels, but we don't because no one inside these walls has the time and no one outside of them would believe us. We have so many stories – of joy, grief, loss, blessing, loss turned to blessing, and hoped-for blessing turned to loss. Through all the stories, we see the thread of God's care and God's tender mercy.

We start this month with a story of JOY; an update on December's Care Cupboard Christmas Party as seen through the eyes of Trisha Martin, placement student.

It's hard to believe that it's Christmas time again...

With all the toys we bring Christmas joys, for boys and girls and their families.  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.  
We were doing a lot of running around I might say.

our service within the past year. This is a drop-in event where moms can enjoy some snacks, little ones can hear the Christmas story and decorate a cookie; carol singing and, perhaps most importantly, families can connect with one another. Our biggest success was the photo station, where each family got to take a family picture and make picture frames as a keepsake of the event; we saw great expressions on each face as the day went by.

Many of our families are new immigrants to Canada and are new to the Mississauga area. One of our goals in having this celebration is to provide an opportunity for our clients to meet each other. Perhaps, for some, new friendships will develop, while for others it may just provide the comfort of knowing that they are not the only ones in their particular situation. One mom, who still struggles with English, excitedly told Helen that she had connected with another mom who spoke her language and that they



There was fun for all and all had fun. Every year Jewels For Jesus distributes gifts for the clients that use our care cupboard. These gifts are wrapped for each person in the family. We were truly blessed this year by the incredible amount of donations by individuals, businesses and churches. They graciously donated the items that we distributed and many kindly donated a great deal of their precious time.

On December 14 we hosted our 3rd Annual Christmas party for our care cupboard clients. This year we decided to have a Christmas breakfast. Forty five families attended, those who used

had exchanged phone numbers. One family called after the party to thank us for the gifts they were truly grateful for. The children had put them under the tree as soon as they got home. Another mom shared last week that the children especially loved the pajamas. Her son loves Spiderman and his pajamas just happened to be glow-in-the-dark Spiderman PJs. I believe little 'coincidences' like this are God's doing.

So, as we reach out to our families in the community, we ask that you keep us in your prayers – and let's not lose focus on the reason for the season...Jesus.

# GETTING READY FOR OUR FUTURE

## Our fund raising goal - \$60,000 for our 60th Anniversary

Over the course of this year we would like to challenge our friends and supporters to join with us in raising \$60,000, above and beyond our regular donations, to help with some important areas that need attention as we move into the next decade of ministry:

### Our Target

\$10,000 – To provide a much needed facelift for our care cupboard facility, which sees a steady stream of parents and children on a daily basis, as well as a few other areas around Jewels' physical space that are becoming eyesores.

\$10,000 – For the development of some critically needed promotional and educational material. First is grief support material for our birth parents who are walking through the loss of relinquishing their children. Resources for birth parents are minimal, particularly in the area of grief support. Our vision is the development of high quality material to fill this gap. Second, is a DVD about Jewels For Jesus that will communicate the important ministries we offer.

\$10,000 – For The Relationship Compass Program. We are busier than ever but still hope to see this youth educational program increase in popularity. We are also ready to develop Phrase 2; a curriculum designed for the junior high level.

\$10,000 – For Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency. Did you know that there are a number of expenses that aren't covered by the fees billed to adopting families? One of the most costly is when we are bringing new foster families onto the team, as we are currently doing. Please see the next edition of Reflections for an understanding of this important ministry.

\$10,000 – For computer system upgrades. In 2004 the Bridgeway Foundation and the Morrow Foundation graciously and generously provided the funds necessary to bring us into the computer age. Four years later we're recognizing that technology advances at breakneck speed and we are beginning to see the need for some significant upgrading.

\$10,000 – Training and development for both our staff and our volunteers. Each year the opportunity to utilize the excellent training offered in the field of crisis pregnancy support and adoption services is passed by due to budget limitations. Our vision is to be able to renew and empower our staff by taking part in these opportunities.



Executive Director  
Margo Semple

---

6655 Kitimat Road, Unit 5  
Mississauga ON L5N 6J4  
905-821-7494  
email: [helpline@JewelsForJesus.net](mailto:helpline@JewelsForJesus.net)  
Website: <http://www.JewelsForJesus.net>

### NEEDS

- Formula
- Sizes 4, 5, or 6 diapers
- Wipes

## MARGO'S THOUGHTS

One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone; don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these." Matthew 19:13-15

Children. They are immensely valuable to God and the quality of faith they display is held up by God as an example to us sophisticated adults.

Milton Hill understood the importance of children. By the age of 22 he had already set his life course: ministering to the needs of children and, through this, attempting to reach them with the message that God loved them. Milton died in 1959, at age 33, after only 11 years of pouring himself into this ministry. This was before most of the current staff, which carries on his vision, was even born. But Milton's ministry and influence didn't end in 1959. It has survived him and resulted in decades of effective ministry to children, not just in Toronto but throughout the province of Ontario. His vision has lived on through the many evolving faces of Jewels For Jesus Mission and, then, Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency.

Looking back over the roots of Jewels has been a good exercise for me. It has been a reminder that what we're doing in the present is grounded in decades of helping children. Our methods have changed, but our goals haven't. We're still focused on ministering to children. Our unwavering goal is to earn the right and find the opportunity to show children, and their families, the way to God by helping them with their present needs.

Please join with us this coming year as we plan for the future. More than ever we need your support.



We need your prayers. As we continue to minister and as we look for new and better ways to accomplish our goal we need your prayers for God's leading and wisdom.

We need your financial support. As costs rise and our ministries increase, our regular monthly support is becoming less and less able to meet the ministry needs of Jewels For Jesus. If God has placed this organization on your heart please give.

We need you to celebrate with us. Please join us over the course of this year as we celebrate 60 years of ministry. What better way to prepare our hearts for the coming decade.

Margo Semple  
Executive Director