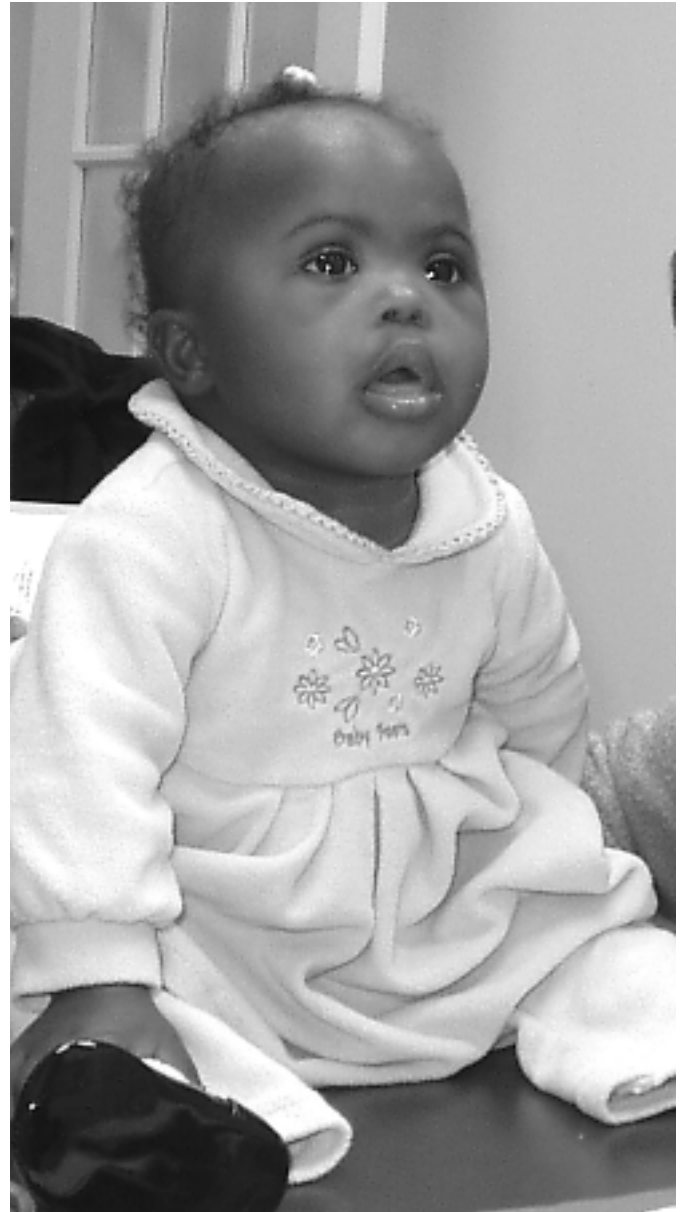


## Update on baby Eliza...

Many of you will remember our beautiful baby Eliza, featured last year in our March Reflections. Eliza was born with Down Syndrome, to a young mom who was already considering adoption. While this young mom grieved and worried over her child's future, and where we would find parents open to this special need, we prayed. God miraculously provided a family by laying on the hearts of a fine Christian couple the desire to adopt this precious little girl. God miraculously provided the funds they needed for a private adoption by laying on your hearts the desire to respond to our plea for funds to be donated to the Jewels For Jesus' "Older Child/Special Needs Fund".

Eliza visited the office this month, accompanied by her doting parents and one of her adoring sisters. Her parents have been amazing advocates for her and, as a result, Eliza is thriving under the specialized care they have insured she has received. It was such a joy to see Eliza and we wanted to share that joy with you because it was your contributions to the "Older Child/Special Needs Fund" that made this possible.

We are regularly making this fund available for unique situations. In years past this fund has been the avenue to finding homes for other children with Down Syndrome, children with



significant physical handicaps, and older children in crisis. So many children have been helped through this ongoing fund and we are always open to contributions. I can't thank you enough for your support of this area of the ministry.

-Margo Semple

## Care Cupboard Christmas Party

Our first Care Cupboard Christmas Party was a success! After days of sorting and wrapping the generous donations, which thankfully just kept coming, the big day finally arrived. We had 23 clients and their families, from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, in attendance. It was truly a family affair with moms, dads, grandparents, and even some aunts joining in the festivities. In all, we estimate that we had 70 adults and children participate in the party. It was a great time of connecting as all of our staff members "manned their stations" and were able to get to know some of the families we serve. We received lots of favourable comments on the activities and food - and the whole concept of having a party. Our clients, both those who attended the party and those who picked up their gifts on another day, were very appreciative of the hampers, filled with gifts for the whole family. In all, we gave 44 hampers. As usual, God provided exceedingly and abundantly in all areas. At one point we were concerned with having enough gifts, but thanks to many well-timed donations we had more than enough in order to bless these families. Thank you to everyone who supported our party, both in materials and prayer. Your faithfulness enables us to continue reaching out to this community with the love of Christ.



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### URGENT NEED

The Government has changed the acceptable guidelines for portable cribs for foster homes. This means that we need to purchase 2 new cribs at approximately \$150.00 each. Please consider whether you could donate the funds to purchase one. Thank you.



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## Ways You Can Support Jewels For Jesus

- United Way Donations - The New Year is a good time to talk to your employer about designing your United Way funds to JFJ
- Receive our weekly "Praise and Prayer" email memo
- Make a donation in memory or honour (birthday, anniversary, Christmas) of someone. "In memoriam" cards are available.
- Donate your Canadian Tire "money"
- Make a donation to our Care Cupboard ministry:  
Practical needs – gently used clothing newborn to size 6X, diapers, formula  
Spiritual needs – Christian videos, Bibles and books for moms and children
- Donate "office supplies", i.e. pens, paper clips, paper for printers and photocopier, wide ruled paper pads, 9X12 kraft envelopes, post-it notes, as well as herbal teas, hot chocolate, coffee, paper towels, toilet tissue, dishwasher detergent

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## Gifts Given in Memory and Honour of Love Ones in 2005

### In Memory of:

John and Elizabeth Ellis  
Greta  
Donald Mason  
Mildred  
John and Helen Wright

### In Honour/Recognition of:

Phil & Marian Boyd – at Christmas  
Rachel Beda – her birth  
Mary Audrey & Bill Raycroft  
– 50th wedding anniversary  
John Smith – 80th birthday

## Cell Phone Donations Accepted Here

Unlike any other fundraiser that we will ever hold, this one is not asking you to purchase anything or attend anything. We are asking you to check around your home and donate any old, obsolete or unused cell phones that you may have. Because there are so many new cell phones, and updates for packages and plans, many people find themselves with old cell phones sitting idle in their homes. Ask around and you will probably find that your family, friends, church members and neighbours also have old cell phones they would be willing to get rid of. Also, if you know of any businesses that provide cell phones to employees, please ask if there are unwanted cell phones that they would like to donate. Pace Butler will pay from \$0.50 to \$40.00 for over 300 different makes and models of cell phones. Our goal is to send off our first batch of cell phones by March 31st, so start collecting them now. Why not see if you can set up a collection centre at your church or office? Please drop off or send any phone donations to our office. We thank you in advance for donating your old cell phones to us!



### From Care Cupboard moms:

Dear friends,  
Thanks so much for everything. May this Holiday Season be full of peace and joy.

To the family of Jewels For Jesus,  
God bless you for doing His work.

### Another thank you to one of our birth parent workers:

May God bless you and Jewels For Jesus. Thank you for speaking to me when things seemed so uncertain. What precious gifts the Lord has given us.

## From Margo's Desk



Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; don't fret – it leads only to evil. Ps. 37:7, 8

Wait patiently for God. David's advice

rings as true today as it did the day it was penned. Wait. Don't fret – it leads only to evil. Don't get all bent out of shape, you're bound to run ahead of God and do something stupid.

We seem to do a lot of waiting at Jewels. Don't misunderstand. We aren't idle. In fact, our days are full of activity. The hours fly by to the day's conclusion with breakneck speed. But often I live with a sense of waiting: for God to meet the needs of a client, for direction in a hard situation, for financial needs to be met, for resolution of a child's uncertain future. There is joy around here of course. Just read this month's "Reflections" about Eliza and the care cupboard party. But the needs we see are huge and I admit I often want God to respond more quickly than He does. In my defense, the things I bring before God are the needs and hurts of the people we minister to. Should I not look for God's speedy response?

But God has been speaking to me this month about waiting. It's come from many directions. This year began with many unresolved situations in the lives of our clients and their children. And I began with a sense of weariness and impatience. The first morning I headed back to the office my devotional reading began, "There are times when you can't understand why you can't do what you want to do. When God brings a time of waiting, and appears to be unresponsive, wait. Never run before God gives you his direction." God spoke to me that morning: "patience, wait, don't get ahead of me".

He spoke again that week. As the staff gathered to pray for our clients and their children someone shared what God had been impressing on them. She related the story of Lazarus' death. Lazarus' sisters had sent word of his sickness to Jesus. Their hope was that Jesus would come, immediately, and heal Lazarus. It was a good, appropriate prayer, it made sense. Lazarus was a good man, he loved Jesus, and this miracle would bring glory and praise to God. Why wouldn't this be God's will? So they prayed and they waited. But God let Lazarus die. This didn't make sense. How could Jesus have done this to his friends? He could have stopped it. He healed all kinds of people. And how could this show the glory and reality of God? We have the benefit of knowing the end of the story. We know that God's delay resulted in a resurrection miracle - a conclusion beyond anyone's imagination.

I heard God continue to speak to me: "patience, wait, don't get ahead of me. I will do things in the lives of those you serve that will be beyond your imagination. Remember Lazarus, remember your little Eliza. As you minister, wait, and pray. I will work in my way and my time and the end result will be beyond your imagination."

I hope this year you will continue to pray and minister alongside of us at Jewels and share in the miracles to come.

God Bless You in 2006,

Margo Semple,  
Executive Director