

Summer at Jewels For Jesus

Usually things slow down a little at Jewels during the summer. Not this year. June flew by at breakneck speed while we feverishly tried to keep on top of things. July has been the same. God has opened the floodgates of opportunities for ministry and, along with it, the floodgates of blessing. I slide back and forth between panic and joy as I try to understand where all this busyness is coming from. Let me share with you our joys, needs and dreams for this summer.

The Relationship Compass Program

If you've been reading Reflections regularly, you will have heard of The Relationship Compass Program, our new set of workshops designed to challenge teens in the area of sexual integrity. This summer we are busily preparing for the fall, which is already taking on a life of its own. We currently have 19 day long retreats booked with high school age students and are looking forward to bringing a strong and relevant message about sexual integrity to 1100 youth.

What are people saying about Relationship Compass?

One educator commented that he could hardly contain himself as he sat through the presentation. For years he has been looking for something like this.

150 high school students were surveyed after experiencing one of the Relationship Compass workshops. 79% said they wanted to have the presenters back to hear more.

Our needs for this important ministry:

- \$10,260 to meet the ministry demands over the summer. i.e. for trial retreats over the summer, to hire and train staff to make presentations, and to purchase a 2nd LCD projector and laptop (one just isn't enough with our current busyness)
- \$8,480 to meet the ministry demands for the current fall bookings
- Additional funds to allow us to accept more bookings
- Prayer that the truths presented in Relationship Compass will penetrate the hearts of our youth

Crisis Pregnancy Counselling

In an average year our crisis pregnancy counselors provide support in 70 - 85 crisis situations. The situations are as varied as the individuals. Sometimes we're supporting a birth mother who's dealing with the crisis on her own. Sometimes we're helping both birth mother and birth father. Other times the whole extended family is involved. This summer we are assisting a number of women who are choosing adoption for their children. Planning an adoption is a lengthy process, full of decisions and paperwork. It's also a painful and sacrificial choice. Pray for the women and men who are making plans for their children this summer. Pray for their extended families and the new families that are being built through adoption.

Care Cupboard

In an average month the care cupboard sees 20

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– 25 families. The needs are varied but all centre around providing the basic necessities for their children. The present busyness of the care cupboard has created the need for regular volunteers to keep the care cupboard tidy and properly stocked, and to provide care and encouragement to the families that we serve.

Snapshots of the care we provide:

- A mom comes in to pick up some clothing needed for her child. She shows us some paperwork from the government that seems to indicate she owes money. Her English is limited and she doesn't know what it all means. We allow her to use the phone as attempts are made to link her up with an interpreter that can assist her in conversations with the government. And we pray for her.
- A mom needed a double stroller and called to see if we could help. We had one and when she came to pick it up, one of our staff talked to her about the Lord's provision and His attention to our everyday needs. She left with a deeper understanding of God's love and concern for her and her children.
- A man comes in with his wife and children. He's having trouble with his foot and wants us to pray.

Prayer needs:

- Pray for the donation of a LCD projector and laptop
- Pray that vacationing staff will get much needed rest from the busyness of the last few months
- Pray for steady donations during the summer
- Pray for those who are beginning to plan for next year's 60th Anniversary celebration

Our needs for this important ministry:

- Our dream would be to have 2 volunteers, local to the office, who could be in office one day each week to provide client care and to give the cupboard the much needed attention it's lacking.
- We also dream of a care cupboard facelift. The furnishings and carpeting are desperately in need of cleaning or replacing.
- We are always looking for good, preferably new, Christian literature to hand out to the parents and their children.

**URGENT
NEEDS**

We're in desperate need of size 4, 5 and 6 diapers as well as formula



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Executive Director

Margo Semple

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

Our Second Annual Golf Tournament...



It was with much excitement we set out on the journey to plan our second annual golf tournament. We were thrilled to have the partnership of the Rock and River Congregation again this year. It was wonderful to have their volunteer support in the planning, organizing and decorating, as well as their financial contribution. We give you our heartfelt thanks for helping to make the day such a success! A special thank you, too, to the planning committee, Joy Rapley and Jeff Petch.

We also appreciated one of our birth mothers and her father coming to share the story of their journey, as a family, through an unplanned pregnancy.

We would like to say thanks to one of our adoptive families who donated the \$500.00 cash prize for our early bird registration draw. It added much fun and excitement to the day.

We thank God for the many blessings He gave us for this day and we give you our heartfelt gratitude for your goodness and your support of our golf tournament.

As we moved forward with planning this day, we prayed for God's direction and He blessed us with 25% more golfers and diners than last year and over \$12,000 was raised to support our work at Jewels For Jesus! We thank you all for your wonderful participation in this event!

We look forward to seeing you in May 2008 for our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament!

Karen Kamphuis, Director of Outreach & Promotion

Jewels For Jesus would like to thank the following personal and corporate sponsors for their financial support and contributions of golf prizes and auction items that helped make the day such a success:

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Toronto Rock Lacrosse Club

Margo's Thoughts



"The Israelites replied to the Hivites, "How do we know you don't live nearby? If you do, we can't make a treaty with you." ... So the Israelites examined their food, but they didn't consult

the Lord. Then Joshua made a peace treaty with them." Joshua 9:7, 14, 15

It's always interesting what jumps out at a person as they meander through God's word. I tend to see this phenomenon as a Spirit-driven experience and have gotten into the habit of stopping to consider what the Lord might be saying to me in those moments.

That's what happened with the above verses. As I sat on a dock beside a quiet lake, and reread the book of Joshua, I noticed something in these verses that I hadn't thought about before. So I stopped to do just that – think about it.

It was evident in Joshua 9 that the people of Israel had managed to get themselves into hot water again - nothing new there. What I noticed wasn't so much that they were in trouble again but how they had managed to do it this time. In most instances in biblical history, Israel was in trouble because someone blatantly disobeyed God's command and, boom, chaos erupted. This situation was different though. This wasn't willful disobedience; the people were trying to make a good decision. The Hivites had asked if Israel would make a truce with them. According to what God had instructed, this would only be okay if the Hivites weren't living in the Promised Land. If these guys were local, the answer would automatically be 'no', no matter what incentives the Hivites might offer. The Hivites knew this and went to great lengths to convince the Israelites that they weren't from their neck of the woods. So Israel had to determine whether the Hivites were being honest about their home address.

It seems evident that Israel wanted to do the right thing - their motives were right and their goal was to get at the truth. Their problem solving skills weren't bad either. They were thoughtful, asked good questions and even seemed to conference together about the situation. They had all the pieces that the world would endorse as valuable decision making tools. So what went wrong? One critical error was made. They missed the most important aspect to godly decision making, "they didn't consult the Lord".

This mistake seems too close to home in my opinion. Don't most of us want to do the right thing and make good decisions, whether in our personal lives or in our ministries? Good problem solving and good decision making skills are critical. In fact, at Jewels we teach them to birth parents as a means of helping them make good decisions for their children. But I believe God deliberately documented Israel's encounter with the Hivites to remind all of us that good problem solving and decision making skills will still fall short of God-pleasing decisions if we don't add on this final piece – ask God what He thinks.

As I sat there that morning I started reexamining the decisions currently before me and determining where I was asking God for His input in these areas. The question has followed me through the weeks since. If you've read the rest of this issue of Reflections you'll see that Jewels For Jesus is in the middle of a very busy summer. Pray that we won't falter in consulting the Lord during these busy ministry days and that we will hear, and be receptive to, His direction.

God Bless,

Margo Semple
Executive Director