



God's Miracle

Have you ever pondered the thread of God's grace as He works out His sovereign plan in our lives? In the moment it can be indiscernible but, looking back, we see it. I've recently experienced this in the life of Jewels For Jesus' newest Jewel, little Eliza.

I pick up the thread of Eliza's story last October. At the time I had no idea the incident would impact the life of a yet-to-be-born baby. We received an email from a family inquiring about adopting. A daily occurrence at Jewels For Jesus. This family was requesting a baby girl with Down syndrome. We corresponded briefly and, in the end, they decided to pursue adoption through CAS. The emails were filed and forgotten.

In January an expectant mom contacted Jewels For Jesus wanting to place her baby for adoption. She was certain that God had a home for her child, and she told us that the family must be Christian and that she preferred they be Caucasian even though she was Black. Just as we began assisting this young mom, she prematurely delivered a baby girl with Down syndrome. Though saddened, this faith-led mom remained convinced God had a family for her baby.

God did have a family. We remembered those emails and soon discovered this family was Caucasian, Christian and wanted a baby girl with Down syndrome. Though I expected a family this wonderful to have adopted a child by now, I called them, not in faith but in desperation. Miraculously, they were still waiting for a child. In fact, they were waiting for the child they believed God had promised them: a baby girl with Down syndrome who would be called Eliza. This seemed too per-



fect to be true, but God's sovereign plan was even more perfect. They were thrilled to hear that Eliza was black. This was part of their original dream, but they had been reluctant to say so as they thought this would be too much to ask for. This confirmed for them that Eliza was to be theirs. The thread of God's provision was evident.

Eliza has a family, but not everything is perfect. The family had chosen to adopt through CAS because of the cost of private adoption. We, however, have moved forward in faith. This family has met Eliza and they adore her, Eliza's birth mother has met the family and believes they are God's provision, and plans are being made for Eliza to join her new family. The financial concerns remain but we are trusting God to provide. Jewels For Jesus has a Special Needs/Older Child Fund set up to allow those who feel led by God to contribute to needs of this nature. Already we have received our first donation from someone touched by Eliza's story. Please pray with us for Eliza and please consider donating to our Special Needs/Older Child Fund. As God's people we can be part of the thread that brings about His sovereign plan in these little lives.

Margo Semple
Adoption Support Worker

Care Cupboard Ministry

As the Care Cupboard Co-ordinator, I would like to provide you with an update on the ministry that happens through the Cupboard. The Care Cupboard is a growing ministry here at Jewels For Jesus, and exists to assist families in need within our community. Thanks to our many generous donors, the Care Cupboard is full to overflowing with new and gently used clothing for children from infant sizes to size 6x. We are also stocked with diapers, wipes and formula for emergency supplies. The past few months have brought several returning visitors to the Cupboard, who have often brought friends and neighbours along. Occasionally the Care Cupboard also supplies our foster homes with clothing, formula, etc. for little ones in our foster care.

Over the past year, prayer has become an active part of the Care Cupboard ministry in a new way. By asking each client if they have any prayer requests, we have been able to develop a new relationship with many clients who have trusted us to lift their concerns to our Heavenly Father. This has opened the way for some wonderful ministry opportunities, and even resulted in one client coming in for the sole purpose of prayer! It has been such an honour to intercede on behalf of our clients and their families. These prayer requests are included in our weekly Prayer Memo to our prayer team. If you are interested in joining our email prayer team, please contact us at helpline@jewelsforjesus.net.

The Care Cupboard is totally dependent on the generous donations of churches, families and individuals who are living out Christ's command to care for those in need.



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(905) 821-7494

email: helpline@JewelsForJesus.net
Website: <http://www.JewelsForJesus.net>

"The Basket"

It is also our desire in the ministry of the Cupboard to meet the spiritual needs of our clients. This is done through the prayer aspect, but we also wanted to be more tangible. So we have developed "The Basket", a wicker basket filled with resources like devotionals, tapes, CDs, children's videos, and novels for parents and children. Every client has the opportunity to choose an item from "The Basket" each time they visit. Our prayer is that these resources will have an eternal impact in the lives of our clients. If you have any new or gently used spiritual resources that we could add to "The Basket", please send them over!

Volunteers

Since January, our dedicated and passionate volunteer, Susan Henderson, with the help of her two children, Kristen (age 6) and Carter (age 4), have kept our lovely Care Cupboard a tidy and attractive place for clients. Since taking over this responsibility, Susan has spent many hours sorting through donations and organizing the clothing by size and season. Her enthusiasm, enjoyment and efficiency in this task have been a huge blessing and encouragement to all of the staff. Thank you Susan for all of your hard work! Also, a special thanks to Karon and Kathy, who did a fabulous job looking after the Care Cupboard for several months last year.



What the Care Cupboard means to our clients

"The Care Cupboard has helped me because buying the clothes is expensive. I have five children so the help I get from the Care Cupboard is very good."

"It is very helpful to find clothing for my four young children here. Money is tight and every little bit helps."

"It's always nice to know that I can get so much more than just clothing at The Cupboard. They really care about me and my kids and it's nice to have someone praying for us."

Care Cupboard Needs

- Cute newborn sleepers (7-9 lbs. or 0-3 months) – especially pink
- Gently used or new spring clothes (including jackets) sizes newborn–6x
- Diapers (all sizes, but especially 4 and 5), "Pull-ups", and wipes
- New receiving blankets
- Resources for "The Basket"

Lindsay McCourt
Mission Worker/Care Cupboard Co-ordinator

You are invited to a
FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE for
JOAN KOSMACHUK
At the Jewels For Jesus' Office
6655 Kitimat Road, Unit 5,
Mississauga
30, April, 2005
from 1 to 4 p.m.

Spring 2005, Adoption Resource Exchange

Date: April 17, 2005

Location: Metro Toronto Convention Centre,
North Building
255 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

The Adoption Resource Exchange (A.R.E.) gives an opportunity for adoptive couples to view videos of children who are available for adoption through C.A.S. in the province of Ontario. For further information, contact The Adoption Council of Ontario at 416-482-0021.

Adoption Tax Credit

In the 2005 Budget, the federal government passed a non-refundable tax credit to recognize specified adoption expenses, to a maximum

\$10,000. A summary of the adoption tax credit is at "Supplementary Information", <http://www.fin.gc.ca/budget05/bp/bpa8ae.htm#Income Tax>.

Dear Marian,

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

_____ making a donation of \$ _____ Cheque Visa MC

_____ making a donation of \$ _____ to the Older Child/Special Needs Fund

_____ receiving information on the monthly Pre-authorized Support Plan

Credit Card # _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____
(If using credit card, please use cardholders name)

Address: _____



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.

03/05

A Word From Marian



The disciples were quarreling – an unbecoming contest among themselves for precedence: who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? Fascinating response by Jesus – He called a little child over to Him and had this little one stand in the middle of the group. Then Jesus said that unless they change and become like little children, they will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven (let alone need to think about who is the greatest). Then He goes on to talk about what they need to learn from this little child – humility. “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven”. (Matt 18. 4)

Step back from that picture for a moment and think about what was going on. Christ, the absolute greatest pattern or picture of humility (cf. Philippians 2:1-11) was right there with the disciples, but they couldn’t see it. They had not yet put it all together – they didn’t really know who Christ was or what His Kingdom was all about. They were still thinking of a temporal Kingdom with external pomp and power.

Now back to the scene – Christ takes this occasion to teach about the humility that they could not yet see by placing a little child in front of them. Amazing. A child. “When we look upon a little child, we should be put in

mind of the use Christ made of this child...that they might learn by him. Grown men, and great men, should not disdain the company of little children...look upon them, and receive instruction from them.” (The Matthew Henry Commentary, Zondervan). Jesus takes this to a next level in verse 5 when he says, “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” Whatever is done to a child, Christ takes as done to Himself.

What an amazing privilege it is to work at this Mission, a place that welcomes children – beautiful, healthy children; special needs children; the unborn; newborns; older children – all children are welcomed and never turned away. Many have said of our harder-to-place children, “Nobody will want them.” Jesus wants them, and He wants us to welcome them in His name and in that way, welcome Him. Jewels For Jesus has made the commitment that we will turn no child away. God has honoured that commitment and has shown us miracle after miracle as we watched Him unfold His plan for a little one. We made that commitment based on who He is and His call to us to be childlike and humble – that trusting, unpretentiousness that says it is through the Lord that these little ones will be cared for. Our job is to welcome them.

Humbly childlike – may our hearts always be with this attitude. As we contemplate and celebrate the amazing obedience and humility of Jesus over this Easter time, I pray that we will be humbly obedient in welcoming these little ones in His name – welcoming Him.

Marian Boyd
Interim Executive Director