



Reflections



A Publication From Jewels For Jesus Mission Inc.

October 2008

Praise God for an excellent evening that honoured the Lord and celebrated what He has done and is continuing to do through Jewels For Jesus Mission and Adoption Agency. About 600 people joined us for hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and an amazing concert by Mark Schultz. One of the many

highlights was the presence of Mrs. Hazel (Hill) Jarvis, founder of Jewels For Jesus Mission. Many old friends were able to join us, making it a great night of reminiscing, and leaving us excited about what God has planned for the future.

Hazel (founder) & Margo (current Director)



Mark Schultz in Concert



Emcee Herbie Kuhn

Auction Action



60th Celebration Update

Ministry updates

Celebrating is not all that's been happening around Jewels For Jesus. We've also been busy with ministry. Here is a recap of what God has been doing:

- Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency has placed 8 children into new homes so far this fiscal year, which started April 1st. All of our adopting families recognize what a precious gift these little ones are but for one family the preciousness was particularly deep, having experienced two disappointments before their dreams were realized.
- Four of these 8 little ones were in need of foster care before moving into their new homes. Jewels' foster families shine as some of the best in the province, opening their homes and hearts not just to the child but to their new families.
- So far this fiscal year Jewels has received approximately 30 requests for assistance from individuals and couples experiencing unplanned pregnancies or parenting struggles. Pray for the important decisions being made by these parents.
- Rarely does a day go by without the Care Cupboard entertaining families in need. We have received an unprecedented flood of donations to the Care Cupboard in the past weeks. God must be preparing us for a very busy fall; a huge thanks to everyone who has contributed.
- In September Margo joined with a number of others working in the adoption field to address a group of approximately 50 social service professionals in the Welland area. This was part of an educational day designed to promote a healthier understanding of adoption; a huge thanks to Pam, one of our adoptive moms, who came along to share her story.
- Radio interviews: Margo and Kelly were interviewed on The Neil Boron Show, WDCX FM 99.5, followed by a Jewels birth mother, Yvonne, who called in to share her story and history with Jewels For Jesus. Margo was also interviewed by Brian Sealy, Hope FM Woodstock. Then Mark

Schultz, Margo, and Zach and Julie (a recent adopting family) were featured on The Drew Marshall Show, JOY 1250. These opportunities not only highlighted the 60th Anniversary but also promoted life options and the importance of ministering to birth and adoptive parents, not to mention the value of strong prevention programs like Relationship Compass. Thank you Yvonne, Zach and Julie for affirming God's work in your lives and the lives of your children.

What's ahead?

Ministry rarely slows down long enough to catch our breath. This fall is no exception.

- The time is fast approaching for the Care Cupboard Christmas Party. This event is the high-light of the season for many of our families. Some are already asking when and where it will take place this year. We are desperately in need of volunteers for this event. If you are in the Mississauga area and would like to help, give us a call or email. Gift donations are welcome. See our "Wish List" on the next page.
- Christmas is a time of joy for new parents and sorrow for waiting parents and parents who have relinquished their children. Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency has 29 families waiting for a little one. Pray for them over the Christmas season.

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Pray also for the birth parents that have placed their children for adoption. This loss is often more painful during the Christmas season.

- The Relationship Compass program is in full swing this fall as students have returned to classes and Youth Groups have geared up. From now until Christmas our presenters will be busy conducting 14 full-day retreats and 5 shorter workshops. Pray that youth will make decisions to follow God and live out His standards for sexual purity.
- The 4th Annual Joy of Christmas Home Tour will be held Friday November 21 and Saturday November 22. See below for details.
- Margo and Kerry (the Director of Beginnings Adoption Agency) have been asked to lead a training day for Crisis Pregnancy Centre Directors on November 7. The focus of the day will be "Presenting Adoption, as a Viable Option, in an Unplanned Pregnancy".
- If you listened to Margo and Kelly's brief interview on The Neil Boron Show, WDCX FM 99.5, you will know that they have been invited back for a full interview. Pray for the timing of this (not yet nailed down) and that God will use it to His glory.

4th Annual JOY of Christmas Home Tour

Dates: Friday, November 21 – 4:30-9:30 p.m.
(candlelight tour)

Saturday November 22 – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

In addition to 6 homes in the Guelph area, this year's tour includes 4 homes in Rockwood. All homes will be professionally decorated for the Christmas season. We hope these homes will inspire you in your own holiday celebrations.

For more information visit our websites www.joyofchristmashometour.org or www.jewelsforjesus.net, or contact the office.

United Way Donations

Don't forget that you can designate your United Way donations to the charity of your choice. Please consider Jewels For Jesus Mission as your charity. Our charitable number is 11897 4104 RR 0001.

Care Cupboard Christmas Party "Christmas Wish List"

This year the care cupboard has ministered to 60 families and a total of 98 children age 0 to 6 years. Once again this Christmas, it is our hope to provide a gift for each member of each family. Below is a list of the items on our "wish list".

- a pair of pyjamas for each child 0 – 6 years (we need about 100)
- a toy (\$20.00 value) for each child up to the age of 6 (we need about 100)
- a \$10.00 Chapters gift card for each child over the age of 6 (we need about 20)
- bath products for the moms
- a \$25.00 Loblaws gift card for each family (we need about 60)

If you would like to help but are too busy to shop, financial donations are welcome. We would be happy to shop for you. Don't forget that gift cards can be ordered through Jewels.

It would be helpful to receive donations by November 28.



Margo's Thoughts

Let our children see Your glory. And may the Lord our God show us His approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!

Psalm 90:16-17

Make our efforts successful! Have you ever wondered what true success is? I suspect there could be many definitions. Encarta Dictionary defines success as "the achievement of something planned". I like that definition. It's simple, easy to grasp. I would tweak it just a little. Success is "the achievement of something God planned".

As we move toward the end of Jewels For Jesus' 60th year I've spent a great deal of time celebrating and reminiscing. What has crystallized for me is that 60 years ago God planned Jewels For Jesus Mission as a place where children would see His glory. Since then God has been moving people of His choice in and out of Jewels For Jesus as each accomplishes the part of His plan He assigned to them. Success has been the prayer of all the people who have served through the decades, each in their season echoing the prayer, "May the Lord our God show us His approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!"

So has Jewels For Jesus been successful?

If I'm honest, I see highs and lows in Jewels' history; times of moving forward in the power of God's Spirit and times of losing our footing, times of great achievements and times that success was less than evident. Even in the 13 years I've been part of Jewels – a short time in comparison to its 60 year

history – I've seen the ebb and flow of victory and defeat. Challenges arise and as quickly as they're met others take their place. Sometimes the outcome of a situation leaves us basking in the glory of God's goodness. Sometimes it leaves us wondering, "Did anything good or helpful come out of all that effort and, at times, expense?"

Looking at one moment in history can be a poor measure of success. A snapshot can be deceiving. This year I've had the opportunity to survey decades of Jewels For Jesus' history. And I've had the chance to meet people who lived through Jewels' history; those who have ministered, those who have been ministered to and many who fall into both categories.

When I survey the decades I can say, unreservedly, that I see success. I see lives changed. I see those who were changed going on to change others. My son, adopted through Jewels For Jesus, is one of them. He once shared with me that God has given him a ministry of encouragement. He ended the comment by saying, "Imagine if my birth mom hadn't chose life for me, I wouldn't be here to be here for others." His birth mother is another. She was helped by Jewels and has gone on to use her experience to help others. Hazel (Hill) Jarvis, the founding mother of Jewels For Jesus Mission was accompanied to the 60th Anniversary by one of her foster daughters whose life was touched so much by Hazel that their relationship became as close as mother and daughter. This woman is still by Hazel's side, now blessing Hazel, in her senior years.

There is no question in my mind that Jewels For Jesus is successful. God's glory has been revealed. God has achieved what He set out to do. He has answered our prayers, our efforts have been successful!

Margo Semple
Executive Director