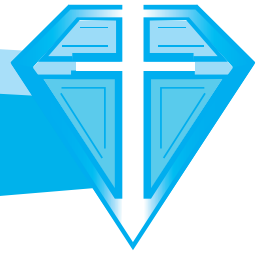


*Jewels For
Jesus*

REFLECTIONS



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God's Provision

The Jewels For Jesus Care Cupboard stocks gently used clothing for children from newborn to size 6X, and emergency supplies of diapers and formula. We just don't have the space to store clothing for older children and definitely not adult clothing.

However, we recently had the unusual and exciting opportunity to be a part of God caring for the clothing needs of one of the moms that comes to the cupboard. When Terry first visited our cupboard a few weeks ago, she asked if we had any women's clothing (she owned only one outfit which she called her uniform). Sadly, we informed her that we didn't have the space to offer women's clothing. A short time later we received an email from one of our supporters. She wrote, "I have several bags of ladies' clothes which belonged to a lady I was looking in on. She passed away last month. I realize that you don't usually stock clothes but was wondering if you might have someone who is in desperate need. Most of these are medium or large in size - lots of weekender stuff - most in very good shape." Thinking of Terry, we said we'd take them. Below is Terry's story in her own words.

"The real meaning of what God has done for me through the heart and hands of 'Jewels For Jesus' cannot be fully described with words. My journey with God began a few years ago when John (my husband now) told me about God's love. I had just been laid off from my "dream" job (what seemed to be more like a nightmare) and nothing was working for me. I felt empty inside. I prayed a simple prayer of faith. I was changed forever.

"What John told me became more than good news. Something changed inside of me that day. It felt like I had a new life. Suddenly the old life didn't seem to fit. So, I left. When I left my old life,

I had the clothes on my back (I left behind a wardrobe that was worth hundreds of dollars – many items with the price tag still on) and my Bible and an orange. I had to leave behind the lifestyle and the wardrobe that God did not choose for me.

"My journey wasn't (isn't) "easy", but now I was walking with Him, and He walked with me. I started my new journey in a shelter. For the next three years I would own two bras, two shirts, two skirts and a pair of pants that fit me. As the seasons changed, God supplied what I needed (over and over). I had to learn that His grace is enough. My faith in God became stronger every day. His love became more real as I learned to trust Him.

"So here we are. I now have two children and a husband. We are walking with God...through the fire. It's not easy – but it helps to know that He is bigger than our circumstances. God continues to do His work in my life. He led me to 'Jewels For Jesus'. What the women do here at Jewels For Jesus is about so much more than supplying beautiful blankets, bibs and diapers. These women have a heart for Jesus; so they become the hands for God. (Thank you!)

"A couple of months ago I asked Helen if there were any clothing available for myself. At that time, there was not. Please do not underestimate the power of prayer. I have no doubt in my mind that Jewels For Jesus brought my need before the King (in prayer). He brought someone to Jewels For Jesus with my new wardrobe. I had hoped for a few items – and God has now overflowed my closet! Suits, summer dresses, socks, coats (all with buttons!), blouses, shirts (some with new tags), pants (that fit) and bras that fit me perfectly!"

THE RELATIONSHIP COMPASS PROGRAM

Teaching Sexual Integrity to Today's Youth

Since September 2008 we have seen over 80 students make commitments for Christ at our Relationship Compass Retreats. Most recently, at Scott Mission Youth Drop-in Centre where 4 retreats have taken place with 30-40 youth attending each night, an altar call resulted in 12 youth coming forward. Not only are students embracing the message of sexual integrity, they

are also recognizing their need to get right with God. The team recognizes the importance of equipping these youth and is working on supplying them with resources to further understand their commitment and grow in their relationship with God. Pray for our amazing Relationship Compass team – Kelly, Andre, Ed-Esther, Erin, Faith, Jenn, Jordan, Matthew and Jessica – as they teach and mentor these youth.

Volunteer Update

Volunteers are the lifeline of charitable organizations and Jewels For Jesus Mission is no exception. We have a great core of faithful volunteers. Below we highlight just a few.

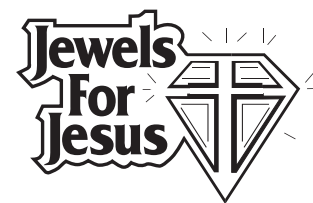
New Volunteer



Praise God for our newest volunteer assisting with the care cupboard, Cheyenne Christmas. Cheyenne is a busy wife and mother of 3. She has a passion for God and a huge heart for the families she serves. Cheyenne single-handedly manages Fridays in the care cupboard, caring for clients and keeping this ministry well-organized and running smoothly. She is amazing, and God has been providing endless opportunities for Cheyenne to minister.

Back With Us

Renee Saulsberry, a busy student, has volunteered in the care cupboard in the past. Her schedule has, again, lightened enough for her to come back on board. Renee is currently helping out 2 days a month caring for clients and helping keep things organized. Her warm personality and gentle spirit make her a natural in this role



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Behind The Scenes

Andy Lodge (aka Handy Andy) and his wife, Donna, work quietly behind the scenes keeping our physical facilities in good repair. It's not unusual to arrive in the morning to find a toilet no longer running or a keyboard tray repaired. One morning we found the mess of baby clothes hangers that spilled across the storage room floor, neatly hung on a newly installed rod and the broken laminate floor strip at the entrance to Pam's office replaced. The only evidence of who was responsible was a poem in Pam's email that morning:

*"on this cold tuesday, midst the snow, oh where did all the hangers go
they used to fill a great big tote but now they're gone, and there's no note
they used to pile up on the floor but if you look, they're there no more
what's that i see above the door, it's like a baby hanger store
that plastic hanger bar's sure straight and now the storage room looks great
and look down by my office door, what's that i see upon the floor
a new threshold is what i see, it fills my jewelled heart with glee
it matches just right i must say, no longer will i trip each day
i bet that andy guy was here and his wife donna; she's a dear
they're quite a pair, they're quite a team the way they help out here's a dream
and i hear andy likes to rhyme, he writes wee poems all the time"*

Thanks, Andy and Donna, for all you do!

NEEDS CORNER

- size 3, 4, 5 & 6 diapers
- formula
- digital camera
- fiscal year end funding shortage – as Jewels For Jesus Mission wraps up this fiscal year we are, for the first time in many years, experiencing a shortage of funds in our general fund. Please pray and consider helping out as we look to God to supply \$15,000 to meet year end expenses.

Volunteers Needed

Have you thought about volunteering? Can you give a morning or afternoon once a week? We are still looking for volunteers who can make a weekly commitment to assist in the care cupboard or with general office busyness. Please contact the office to explore this opportunity.

Car Seat Thanks

Last edition of Reflections we highlighted an urgent need for 2 new infant car seats (or funds to purchase these) this spring. Praise God and a big thanks to adoptive parents Paul and Natalie, and Gino and Marissa for meeting this need.



www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo

New Adoption Disclosure Legislation

If you were involved in an adoption in Ontario, you need to know about an important change to your information and privacy rights. Effective June 1, 2009, Ontario adoption records will be opened. This means adopted adults and birth parents will be given access to identifying information from birth records and adoption orders. If you want your identifying information to be kept private, you should file a disclosure veto before June 1, 2009. No contact notices are also available. To learn more about your rights to information and privacy regarding adoption, visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo or call 1-800-461-2156



Margo's Thoughts

Jewels For Jesus is committed to prayer and we try to pray together regularly. We generally come with countless items and issues that we need God's help with. One recent prayer time was a little different. As we started talking about

the activities and events transpiring at Jewels, we realized that most of the things we were talking about were things that we were thankful for. Things that made us step back in awe at the wonder of who God is – His power, grace, sovereignty and compassion – and all He's done. Let me share some of these things with you.

In the Adoption Agency

- A baby had been expected and the birth parents were at odds about future plans for the child. So much prayer and staff support had been expended; and so much anxiety, misunderstanding and heartache on all sides. We had finally come to the place where both birth parents felt comfortable and the child was now home with their new, and very excited, adoptive parents.
- A wonderful family had been found, after weeks of searching, for a little one who could potentially experience significant health issues; and the child's birth parents were thrilled with their child's new home.
- A court ruling had come through for one of Jewel's complex cases. The positive outcome has the potential to smooth the path for other such cases.
- Scott, one of our foster dads, was recovering well from a heart attack that we all feared might be worse than it was.
- The Agency's financial situation is the healthiest that it's been in years.

In the Care Cupboard Ministry

- Against all odds, one of the dads who visits the care cupboard landed a job he had thought was a long shot.

- a mom wanted to send a Bible to her mom in China; we found a Chinese Bible and it was on its way.
- So many of our families are appreciating and depending on the prayer support they receive through Jewels For Jesus; and more and more of our families are asking us to pray for their relationships with God as well as their material needs.
- Lastly, did you read Terry's story? God opened His storehouse for this woman.

The Relationship Compass Program

- 40 retreats and workshops took place this fiscal year. Thousands of youth have heard the message since the program was started, hundreds have pledged to make positive changes in their dating relationships and, since September 2008, we have seen over 80 students make commitments for Christ.

Birth Parent Support Ministry

- We regularly receive calls and emails from birth parents and adoptees asking for advice and support. It's always a privilege to minister in this way. We were recently contacted by a birth mother who placed her baby many years ago and, due to some new life circumstances, was once again struggling with her loss. We were able to reach out to her and also to connect her with another birth mom who placed around the same time and has been using her experience to help others.

Finances for Jewels For Jesus Mission are currently at an uncomfortable low. This is a major concern that we want you to know about and pray for, but God has been reminding us that this is His place and we are awed by what He is doing.

Margo Semple
Executive Director