



## JENNIFER'S STORY An Interview with a Birth Mother

1. When you look back over the past year do you remember some of the stages and feelings you experienced?

I think that I felt like my pregnancy was a real set back for me. As for my adoption decision, I'm completely comfortable with it. I have no regrets and I think that it's because of God's grace for me. I was able to choose two wonderful parents for my child and he's very happy. I think that having a lot of contact with my child's parents helps confirm my decision. I feel good about my life right now. It does feel a little strange to be out of the crazy panic or stress mode though. It's good that life is quite simple right now. Thank God for his grace and his love!

2. What or who has been most helpful through the grief of letting go of your son?

I've had a lot of support from friends during the pregnancy and afterwards. The fact that this turned out to be an open adoption has been a blessing for me. I thought at first I wouldn't like so much contact. My son's parents have been so strong spiritually and I don't think if I had gone to a non-Christian agency I would have had the same support and outcome. They've accepted me as one of their family and that is probably the biggest, most amazing feeling for a woman who has given up her child. That's so important to me. I feel as if I'm not forgotten.

The agency's follow up program has also been important for me and the support from my worker has been special and something I won't forget. I so appreciate her respect and gentle approach with me. She made sure that everything was going according to my feelings each moment. I can't thank her enough. She definitely has a gift.

3. If you had the opportunity to give advice or encouragement about the year following placing your baby for adoption to another birth mother what would you say?

Wow! Every situation is so different. I would say give it all up to God and let him lead you and

## JENNIFER'S STORY cont'd

carry you through. There are days when you don't know how you'll make it through. Trust in him to get you through each day.

I had made an appointment for an abortion and a very good friend who was willing to take a risk with me begged me to get away for a few days to clear my head. I, being at the verge of a nervous breakdown, reluctantly went. I wasn't sure what to do, but I sat by the water for two days totally submersing myself in talking with God. He came through and gave me a very clear answer and vision and I never looked back. It was my leap of faith and it paid off. The same friend said if I would be obedient in this that I would experience God's grace in an unbelievable way and YES I have.

I am thankful for that grace every day and can now extend grace to others. This wasn't and isn't a simple journey and it's easy to tell people only after the fact how great it all turned out. I believe that my situation was unique to me and God has unique plans for each of us. When you keep your eyes on him, I promise he will come through. When you feel down let those feelings flow and pray! Pray for yourself, pray for your baby, pray for the family! God is listening.

(Jennifer's story was recently shared with a young woman who was considering an abortion. Her story moved the woman to tears and to a reconsideration of her decision to abort her baby.)

## Your Regular Shopping Can Help Jewels For Jesus

Can we interest you in supporting the work of Jewels For Jesus while doing your regular shopping? If so, please read on...

### Introducing the Vista Program...

The Board and staff of Jewels For Jesus have been participating in a shopping program called Vista. We've been amazed that 15 people, doing their regular shopping over the last 3 months, have generated \$633.80 for our ministry without extra cost to themselves.

### How?

We've been using gift cards instead of debit, credit or cash for shopping. Jewels For Jesus orders these cards from Vista, a Canadian, Christian owned and operated company that seeks to actively partner with not-for-profit organizations, to generate dollars through everyday purchases. Each retailer offers a percentage of the amount of each gift card (see enclosed order form). For example, if you purchase a \$25.00 Canadian Tire gift card, you will receive a gift card worth \$25.00 and Jewels For Jesus will receive 5.5% of that amount.

### Interested?

To participate, complete the enclosed order form and return it to our office. Orders will be placed with Vista on the 1st Tuesday of each month. We will have the cards within a week, and they can be picked up at our office or mailed to you.

Gift cards also make good Christmas, birthday, and anniversary gifts. Maybe your friends and family would like to shop this way too.



If you have any questions about the Vista program, please don't hesitate to call (905-821-7494) or email ([helpline@jewelsforjesus.net](mailto:helpline@jewelsforjesus.net)).

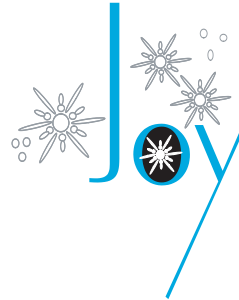
We are grateful for your ongoing support.

## JOY of Christmas Home Tour

We are very excited to announce that our 2nd Annual JOY of Christmas Home Tour will take place in the Guelph area on Friday, November 24th (candlelight tour) and Saturday, November 25th, 2006 (daytime tour).

We invite you to mark your calendars and join us on our 2nd JOY tour. Be prepared to be inspired in your own seasonal decorating as you tour these unique and beautiful homes that have been professionally decorated for the Christmas season.

Look for more information in upcoming newsletters. For corporate sponsorship opportunities please call Karen at 905-821-7494 or e-mail [karen.k@JewelsForJesus.net](mailto:karen.k@JewelsForJesus.net)



## How to pray for Jewels For Jesus this summer

Pray for the steady stream of clients who are making decisions for their children's future.

Our website is getting a fresh, new look. Pray for the soon-to-be launched updated site and those who are putting the finishing touches on it.

This summer we are focusing on prevention as we approach school boards with workshops on healthy relationships and wise dating decisions. Pray for doors to open.

Pray that Jewels For Jesus Mission and Adoption Agency will honour God as we stand side by side with other professionals in the social service sector.

### NEEDS CORNER

- Bibles and books presenting the gospel - English or Spanish
- Soy-based and lactose-free formula
- Size 5 and 6 diapers
- Newborn to 6 mo. sizes of summer and fall clothing



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## My Thoughts



Without oxen the barn stays clean, but no harvest comes from an empty barn.  
Proverbs 14:4

I've decided this month that ministry is messy. There are always problems, needs, issues,

complications. Even our physical space here at Jewels For Jesus gives testimony to this. The carpets are dirty, the paint needs touching up, the door on the toy cupboard falls off periodically, there are little fingerprints on every window, and the upholstery is in need of cleaning – if not replacing. Our clothing cupboard, storage room and literature closet are in constant disarray due to the inflow and outflow of items. And I'm reluctant to mention the usual state of our little kitchen.

But this is the face of ministry. The reality has been slowly dawning on me for some time. Ministry is chaotic, it's full of problems, it's messy. So, when I stumbled across Proverbs 14:4 I had to smile. Solomon, in his God given wisdom, hit the nail on the head. Without those smelly, disruptive oxen, the barn would look great. But the trade off is devastating. There would be no harvest.

It's the same with our ministry.

Our lovingly built care cupboard needs the attention of our faithful volunteers weekly just to keep it organized and stocked. But we're thankful for this because the seeds planted through

the care cupboard ministry are growing and creating a spiritual harvest. And our reputation in the community as a place of friendship and help is increasing.

Emergency calls occur at inopportune times, as do the arrival of babies, but we enthusiastically rise to the occasion because we see these as God-given opportunities to reach out to that person in need.

You should have seen the state of this place after the Christmas party last December. But we tackled the clean up with thankful hearts because the message of Christ's coming went out to over 70 parents and children that day.

Whether birth parents are choosing to parent or to place their children for adoption, we find we are often assisting people with significant issues and hurts. The answers aren't easy and we become privy to the life challenges they face. It's demanding, taxing and, yes, messy at times. Why bother? Wouldn't things be simpler without all this? We bother because it's in the midst of this "messiness" that the harvest will be realized.

So we praise God for the disruptions and challenges, even the hurts and crises, that bring people through our doors because the "messiness" of life provides the opportunity for us to plant seeds of hope, grace and salvation in the lives of those we minister to.

Margo Semple  
Executive Director