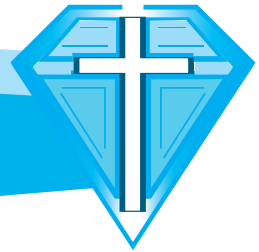


*Jewels for
Jesus*

REFLECTIONS



A Publication From Jewels For Jesus Mission Inc.

February 2009

Another Successful Care Cupboard Christmas Party

December 12th we held our 4th annual Care Cupboard Christmas Party. Because of your generosity we were once again able to provide each of the 40 plus families in attendance a Christmas bag containing a \$25 grocery gift card, a new pair of pyjamas and a new toy for each child, and some treats and goodies for the parents. For the third year the party was held at Trinity Anglican Church in Streetsville. Trinity waives all fees, save custodial, and we remain indebted to them for their partnership in ministry. Many members of The Spirit of Pentecost Church again volunteered their time to attend the party, and helped with food, crafts and crowd, or should I say child control! And a number of students from one of our Relationship Compass retreats helped with gift wrapping. Our families so look forward to this annual party and expressed such sincere appreciation. A great time was had connecting with the families and connecting families together, giving them some hope and love during the Christmas season.



January was Sanctity of Human Life Month

In late December we received funding to produce 5,000 copies of our traditional Sanctity of Human Life bulletin insert and, in record time, we produced an excellent publication just in time for this occasion. Jewels For Jesus had the privilege of addressing the value of life this January through

opportunities to speak in churches and taking part in an interview and call-in feature on the Neil Boron Show, WDCX 99.5. Many thanks to the individual who's funding made our publication possible. See the back page of this edition of Reflections for this year's message.

Thanks to all who helped with the JOY of Christmas Home Tour



One of the JOYs of working with the wonderful group of people who are part of the JOY of Christmas Home Tour is that, each year, they are excited, dedicated and enthused about being a part of developing the tour. They have wonderful new ideas, thoughts and plans. These ideas come from the organizing team, the involved businesses, the homeowners and from those people who attend and support the tour.

We are so grateful for the many ways our tour sponsors, Lakeside Church in Guelph and RBC Dominion Securities (Ed Clayson, Investment Advisor), support the JOY of Christmas Home Tour.

We expanded the 2008 tour to include the Village of Rockwood. This proved to be a huge success with much positive response from both the tour attendees, our new homeowners and the businesses in Rockwood that stepped up to the plate and not only participated in the tour but embraced it with a great amount of enthusiasm and support – we thank you! The Rockwood businesses include: CK Coverings, A Quilt for all Reasons, All In A Basket, Blue Springs Spa (Acton), Greenscape Nursery, RIVERS Florists, Rumours Furniture and Art Gallery, Swank Interiors, The Eramosa River Café, The Village Sweet Shop and Timeless Elegance.

We were also excited to have the Village of Erin on board to look after one of our Guelph homes. The businesses of Erin looked after every area of décor, interior and exterior, from bedrooms and bath to kitchen and family room. They created a warm environment and added special touches to an already lovely home – we thank them for their

commitment to the tour and look forward to having them with us again in 2009! Our Erin businesses include: Alice's Quilt Shop, Country Garden Concrete, Debora's Chocolates, Décor Solutions, Erin Quilters' Guild, Erin Toy Box, Flaunt Clothing, Hannah's Clothing, Lords and Ladies Clothing, Minerva's Spa & Boutique, Renaissance, Steen's Dairy, The Village Green Florists, The Weathervane, What's Cookin' and Wintersinger's Tree Farm.

Even though we grew the tour to include businesses in surrounding areas, we opened the tour to other local businesses as well. We thank them for trying out the tour and we hope that their experience was a rewarding one, both from a serving and corporate perspective. We give these businesses our heartfelt thanks: A Sense of Style, A Step Up Home Staging, Ashton Ridge Homes,



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Gracious Living Interior Design, Grand Gourmet, Kitchen Connoisseur, Maranatha Log House and Flowers, Meadowville Garden Centre, Newton Artistic, Portions Distinctive Meals, Royal City Nursery, SaraNess Interiors, Second Cup, Tangles Hair Salons, The Nutty Chocolatier and Wayne Pitman Ford Lincoln.

Homeowners were exceptional in their ability to allow the businesses in their homes the freedom to express their vision for the space. We so appreciate their graciousness in allowing us to come in, time and again, as we work through plans and details and for the fabulous hospitality they exhibit as they open the doors of their homes to hundreds of tour goers. Thank you is hardly adequate to express our appreciation!

Early in the spring, we will begin to make plans for the 2009 JOY of Christmas Home Tour. We look forward to celebrating our 5th year and are committed to continuing to make the tour a special event you and your friends will anticipate and be excited to attend. The dates for our 2009 tour are Friday, November 20th and Saturday, November 21st. As details come together, we will update our website (www.joyofchristmashometour.org).

Thanks to everyone who has made this year's tour a memorable one. We are so thankful for your commitment to the tour and we love working with you on this project.

The JOY Tour Team (Chantelle, Darla, Debbie, Didi, Janice, Karen, Kathy, Kimberley and Victoria)

Adoption Busyness

Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency saw two more little ones settled into their new homes in time for Christmas. With the busyness of these two situations winding down, and the Care Cupboard party behind us, we thought we were heading into a quiet Christmas. All that changed with a phone call. A little one had arrived, a young woman needed our help and Jewels was busy again. January has continued to be busy with many birth parents needing help with plans for their children. And continue to pray for our families who are still waiting for the Lord to bless them with a little one.

NEEDS CORNER

- urgent need for 2 new infant car seats (or funds to purchase these) - Did you know car seats have an expiry date? In order to keep our little ones safe and to meet government requirement, Jewels For Jesus needs to replace 2 of our car seats this winter
- urgent need for size 4 and 6 diapers and pull ups.

Canadian Turkey Marketing Board, Landsgrove Design, Platters Catering and Events, Sublime Florists, Sylvia's Holiday Sweets, Tea At The White House, Valentini Hair Design and Bella Day Spa, and Wildly Delicious Fine Foods.

We also welcomed many returning businesses that we look on as corporate partners and friends! Our list of friends continues to grow each year and we thank them for their ongoing support: Accents For Living, Candies of Merritt, Coach House Florists, Debi Speers Photography, Debra Lowe Fine Art and Design, Duncan McPhee Home Décor and Gifts,

Margo's Thoughts

It's been 36 years since the United States of America's Supreme Court ruled in favour of abortion in the Roe versus Wade decision of January 22, 1973. That moment has shaped the debate and battle around abortion, not just in America but in Canada. In that one decision, protection of children not yet born was removed and a North American genocide began.

Jewels For Jesus was there at the beginning, standing firmly on the side of life. Thirty-six years later Jewels For Jesus still stands resolutely on the battle lines, fighting for each life that has been threatened by this ruling. We advocate for the lives of children not yet born; we fight for our social conscience that has been scarred further and further with each downward step in society's moral decline; we stand against the distortion of right and wrong that women are taught to embrace – that their right to control their life, at the expense of an unborn life, can and should be exercised, as advocated by the pro choice movement.

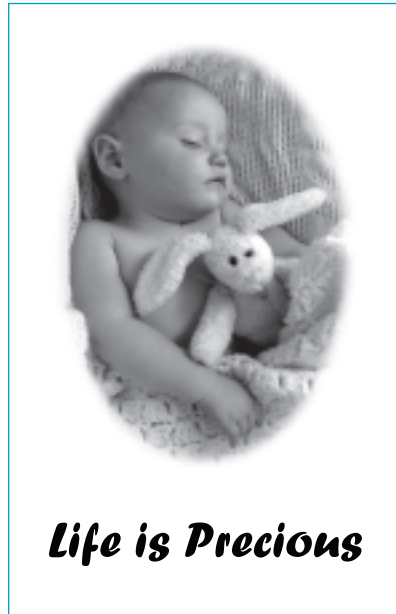
It's been a long, hard 36 years, with many disappointments, but God has been faithful and the victories along the way have brought confidence that the battle is worth it. Every child that is carried to term and raised by a biological or adoptive family makes our work worthwhile.

To be sure, current Canadian realities could cause us to despair. In Canada, for the past decade, one child has been aborted for every 30-32 live births. In Canada abortion is funded under provincial and territorial health plans. In Canada abortion is not limited by the law; in fact, Canada is one of only a few nations with no legal restrictions on abortion. Canada is held up by many abortion activists as a model for other countries because of our 'progressive' laws.

But there are realities that bring rays of hope, small signs that the scales could tip back in the direction of life. A recent report shows the number of abortions in Canada declining. Another cites data indicating a five year decline in Canadian abortions. One study says, for a decade now, the number of abortions in Ontario has slowly decreased, from 45,000 to 35,000 yearly. Relationship education, like Jewels For Jesus' Relationship Compass Program, is being cited as one of the factors in the declining abortion rate as an increased focus on sex education has been followed by a noted decline in teen pregnancies.

These are modest victories, to be sure. But they instill hope for the future and energy for the task. Let them inspire you to continue, or join, the fight for life. Jewels For Jesus needs your support. There is still so much to do. We want to expand The Relationship Compass Program that teaches sexual integrity. We want to increase our crisis pregnancy services that provide women and men with the opportunity to explore choices other than abortion, choices that bring hope to them and their children. Jewels For Jesus Mission needs your support to continue the battle: give generously, pray, promote life options.

Check out www.JewelsForJesus.net for more information and ideas on how you can make a difference in the lives of unborn children.



Margo Semple
Executive Director