

## We Serve Royalty

The women and men we serve, no matter who they are or where they come from or even what they've done, are children of the King. Most of them don't know this. Our ultimate goal isn't to hand out diapers and clothes but to help them see who God really is and, by extension, who they really are. When God provides us with the opportunity to help them see this we take it. Just before Christmas God provided me with one of these opportunities with a young mom named Jess\*.

Jess was upbeat and animated as she searched through the care cupboard and bantered back and forth with the friend she had brought with her. Once she had the items for her 3 small children, her friend left the room, and she opened up about what she was facing. Her father had recently passed away, leaving things tight financially but, even more, leaving a void within her family. She shared that it was going to be their first Christmas and her first birthday without him. When I asked her how she was feeling, she said "I have to be strong for my mom and my kids." But the tears began to come to her eyes. She shared that she was very close to her father and had



been "Daddy's little girl". As she said these words, I looked down at my wrist and thought "With God there are no coincidences". Earlier that

morning I had put on a pink plastic bracelet which ordinarily I would never have considered wearing to work. Engraved on it was one word, "princess". I voiced my thoughts as I handed the bracelet to Jess. "You still have a Heavenly Father who is a King, so that makes you a princess, Jess." Armed with these words, the bracelet, and a Bible from our gift basket (to replace one that was recently stolen from her) Jess left from our care cupboard with the knowledge that she still had a Father/King who saw her as His little princess.

Kelly Cameron

\*Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality

Encouraging us through your faithful prayer support. Enclosed is a calendar to use as a guide in praying for us in the coming year. Thank you for praying.

Envisioning how your donations of used cell phones and cartridges will help our environment and raise funds for Jewels. This is an ongoing project. Donations can be dropped off at the office. Thank you for collecting.

Equipping us with the funds needed to purchase 4 new cribs so that each of our foster families will have up-to-standard equipment. Thank you for giving.

## From Margo's Desk



"Don't withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbour now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.'" Proverbs 3:27-28

I've been wandering through Proverbs lately, just listening for whatever words of wisdom the Lord might have for me. A few weeks ago I was stopped short by the words of Proverbs 3:27-28. "Don't withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbour now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.'" The passage goes on to say, "And don't plot harm against your neighbour, because those who live nearby trust you."

These verses weren't new to me by any means but they hit me in a new way. It struck me that we can sin against our neighbours, those God places around us, not just by what we do but, equally, by our inactivity. Our apathy or lethargy toward the needs of our neighbours are sin. If God has blessed us with the means to meet our neighbours' needs and we don't bother, or simply procrastinate, we sin. This raises the bar for Christians - it sets an incredibly high criterion for godliness in our interactions with those around us. Apathy toward our neighbours is as loathsome to God as plotting evil.

At Jewels For Jesus our neighbours come through our doors daily. They call with crisis pregnancies and they come to us with parenting

crises. Their needs are real – material needs, spiritual needs, emotional needs, parenting needs. They come looking for help for themselves and their children. Our commission, according to Proverbs, is to respond to them wholeheartedly, without holding back, in as timely a fashion as possible.

I thank the Lord for the fine staff at Jewels who, without delay, will swing into action to meet the needs of our neighbours. I think of one extremely busy Friday in January when Pam and Kelly were manning the office on their own. Just after lunch a woman called saying she had an abortion booked for Monday but her pastor wanted her to talk with us first. Despite the busyness of the day Pam and Kelly's response was, "What time can you be here?" I thank God for their compassionate response.

I thank God for you as well. You have not been apathetic or lethargic towards the needs of our neighbours. We ask for formula and it arrives, we need new cribs and the funds come. Over and over you have responded when we have let you know the needs. Because of the partnership between you and us we have gained the trust and friendship of many of our neighbours, and God has been pleased and honoured.

With thanks,

Margo Semple,  
Executive Director