

## **Praise the Lord! Joshua has an adoptive family**



"So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and He answered our prayer." Ezra 8:23

Thanks to each one who prayed for baby Joshua over the past year. God has provided a wonderful Christian family for him. Thanks also to each individual and group who contributed to the costs of Joshua's extended time in our foster care, and the many expenses related to this case. God has used your sup-

port and prayers in this child's life and we praise Him for your partnership.

Please pray for God to raise up more adoptive parents for children with special needs. And please continue to give to our "Older Child/Special Needs Fund" which enables us to work with children who need extra-special care until their "forever" families are found.

## Remembering Birth Mothers

"Be strong and let your heart take courage:  
Yes, wait for the Lord."  
Psalm 27:14

Every year in May we make an extra effort to set aside a day to remember and honour our mothers. Cards of thanks, flowers and gifts are chosen and delivered as an expression of our appreciation for the years of care and love we receive from our mothers. It is a happy day of celebration for many families. Yet for many women who the Lord brings to Jewels For Jesus, Mother's Day is a day of remembrance that brings an element of sadness, and reminds them of their decision to place their child with adoptive parents.

While most birth mothers are at peace with their adoption choice, they still continue to sort through their feelings about that decision, sometimes for a long period of time. The love a birth mother has for her child never ends and her grief does not simply go away in one day. Rather, it is in the process of walking forward each day with the knowledge that she has done her best to choose well for her child, that healing comes to her heart. There is a promise in Psalm 27 that speaks to those who are in the midst of trials. The promise is that as we wait, the Lord will fill our hearts with strength and with courage.

Many times, birth grandparents also experience a sense of loss on special days such as Mother's Day. Recently, I spent an afternoon with a group of people brought together through adoption. For a few hours, a birth family visited with the adoptive parents who are raising a very special little child who is dear to everyone's heart. The meeting was a time for these two families to share their love for this little one. As they talked and laughed and cried together, it was evident that a bond of love and respect for each other was growing between everyone. They all expressed gratitude for the blessing this child was to each of them. There was an abundance of love in that room and a sense of the presence of the

Lord ministering reassurance and healing to each individual.

Shortly after, the birth grandmother wrote the following reflection. She says: "Birthmothers are very special. It takes great courage to give your child a better life and my daughter did just that. I miss my grandchild lots but the parents that God chose for him are the most wonderful parents that could be chosen. Their kindness for our family was beyond what they had to show. Over and over again they keep saying how thankful they were to have their child. I will always love my grandchild and at times the pain can be overwhelming but there are two things that give me a peace. One: my grandchild has two mothers, one gave him life and the other gave him a future. Two: I can hear my grandchild saying: 'Tell Nana I will be alright.'"

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, would you pray for the birth families that place their children with adoptive families? Pray that each one will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord as they walk through their grief. Pray that their Mother's Day will be special and that they will know the healing love of the Lord in their lives. Thank you for your constant prayers and for your vital support for Jewels for Jesus.

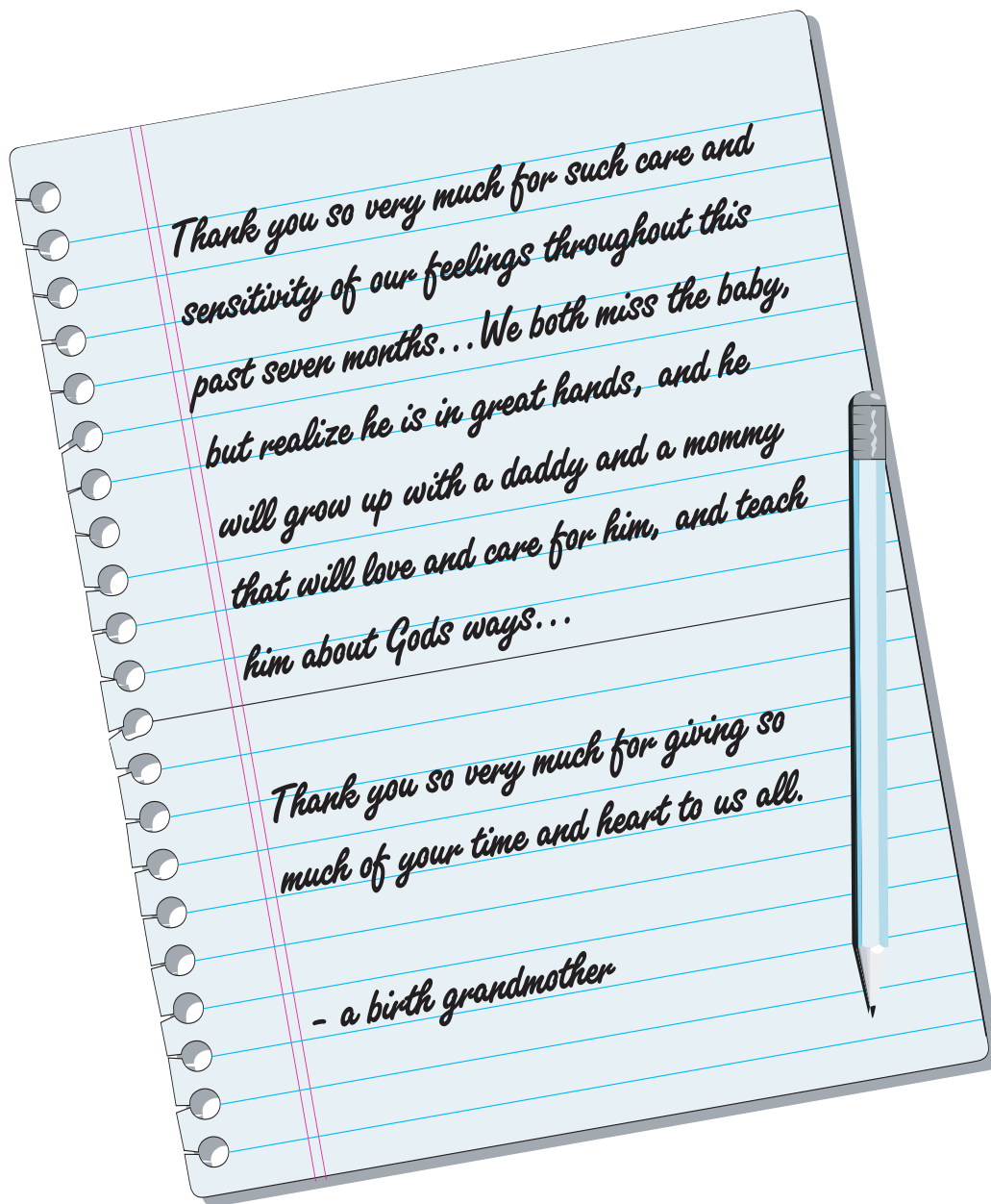
Happy Mother's Day,

Elizabeth Chotka



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## Praise God for the Provision of 6 Office Chairs

Additional furnishings still needed for our office expansion?

1. 4 drawer lateral file cabinet or 4 drawer vertical cabinet (prefer beige but any colour will do). Must have a working lock.
2. 1 wingback chair (new or used) to match one already donated. Must be in good condition.

OR donations towards purchase of these items

Also needed: new baby car seats

## Can you help fill up our Care Cupboard with:

- spring/summer clothes size newborn - 6x (new or gently used)
  - \* special need for spring jackets and boy's pants (size 4-6x)
- undershirts (newborn - 24 months)
- disposable diapers - all sizes but especially newborn and size 4, 5 and 6
- formula

## A Word From Margo



Mother's Day. As Elizabeth mentioned, we take this one day in May to do something special for the person, or persons, who have filled the important role of

mother in our lives and hearts. In essence, this day is set aside to celebrate the life-forming nurturing and commitment of those who choose to be a mother. But for myself, ministering at Jewels For Jesus, the celebration of motherhood is a daily exercise.

I celebrate the mother-love I see displayed in the lives of our clients experiencing unplanned pregnancies. It's the ability to love as a mother that brings women to Jewels For Jesus when they discover an unplanned pregnancy. Even though unplanned, they love their children enough to want to make the best decision possible for their child's future. Some choose to parent their children and others choose to place them for adoption. Does one love that child more than the other? Is one a better mother? Both decisions require sacrificial commitment on the part of the mother. Both women require and deserve our respect and prayers.

I celebrate the adoptive mothers who long to embrace children in need of a loving home. It's the ability to love a child by choice, not just biology, that moves these women to embrace and begin bonding with a little one from the moment they lay eyes on them. Some have chosen to be a mother to little ones with very difficult backgrounds and health needs. They too are worthy of our respect.

I celebrate our foster mothers who selflessly pour themselves into the lives of these little ones, filling the gap between a birth mother letting go and an adoptive mother embracing. Or sometimes just providing a few days relief to a young girl shocked and panicked by the birth of a child she isn't prepared for, and allowing that mother time to embrace the role of mother and prepare for a future of motherhood. Our foster mothers pour themselves into the lives of little ones who may never again see them or remember them. They do this because they have the heart of a mother.

This Mother's Day join me in celebrating those who choose to give of themselves, in many different ways, in order to be a mother to our precious little ones.

In His service,

Margo Semple

Dear Joan,

I would like to support the work of JEWELS FOR JESUS MISSION INC.

\_\_\_\_\_ making a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ receiving information on the monthly Pre-authorized Support Plan

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_



Spending of funds is confined to Board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts of more than \$5.00 are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

05/04