

Just a Few Drinks

By an adoptee

Some parents have a hard time getting their kids
to just act normal

Some parents have a hard time getting their kids
to just dress formal

Some kids have trouble most of the time
even before they were nine

Some kids have trouble most of the time
even before there was a sign

Some families need to look for some help
before their family will melt

Some families need to look for some help
so everything can be dealt

People need to open their eyes
and stop ruining little ones' lives

People need to open their eyes
before another little one dies

Alcohol will always taste just so great
but when you are pregnant just wait!
Alcohol will always taste just so great
because "just a few drinks" and it is too late



About the Poem on the front page...

The poem on the front page was written by an amazing young woman, one of Jewels For Jesus' adoptees. It's the product of a moment's inspiration in the early hours of the morning. It's also the culmination of years of struggle and confusion. This remarkable young woman has spent her life dealing with the consequences of the lifestyle choices made by her birth mother during the few short months she carried her. For many years this young lady and her family struggled to understand the unique array of thoughts, perspectives, behaviours and, at times, limitations that were part of who she is. Through determined effort and unending investigation, this young woman and her family found the support and professional expertise to provide understanding and the strategies to live life to its fullest.

Many of the children that Jewels For Jesus ministers to have similar stories of prenatal alcohol and/or drug exposure. Often their parents choose this lifestyle because of what has happened to them. As I write this newsletter, I'm asking God to provide a family for a beautiful little one whose mother took cocaine daily throughout her pregnancy. Earlier this year, a child who has struggled with developmental delays caused by prenatal drug exposure found his way to the home of a wise and loving family. So many others share this story.

Please continue to pray for these children. Pray that God will raise up families of faith and wisdom who will celebrate the opportunity to parent these little ones. Our young poet has had the support of devoted parents and the guidance of the Lord to assist her on her journey. Struggles still exist, but she is on a good path and has a depth of understanding regarding her story that will aid her in the years ahead.

Quick Facts on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

FASD is an umbrella term used to describe a range of disabilities that may affect people whose mothers drank alcohol during pregnancy. It is now generally accepted that there is no safe amount of alcohol during pregnancy, nor is there a safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy. A baby's brain is very sensitive to alcohol during development. Research shows children born to mothers who drank as little as 1 drink per day during pregnancy may have behavioural and learning problems. FASD affects approximately 1% of people in Canada. Effects of FASD range from learning difficulties, low impulse control, and low attention span to differences in physical features such as small or narrow eyes and a thin or flat upper lip. For more information on FASD contact the FASD Information Service at 1-800-559-4514.

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
(www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)



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Care Cupboard Prayer Corner:

The Jewels For Jesus Care Cupboard ministry has blossomed into a vibrant and steady prayer ministry. Twice we have had parents come to us just for prayer – nothing else. Once, on a busy day, when we forgot to ask if there was anything she would like us to pray for, a young mom stopped on the way out the door and said, “Could you pray about something for me?” Many times we have had the privilege of praying with them before they left. Several of these struggling young families carry heavy burdens. Below are some of the needs they ask us to pray for:

Immigration needs:

- Some families are separated as one member receives permission to come to Canada and others are still waiting
- Many struggle to pull together all the paperwork necessary at once, as one document can become outdated while awaiting others
- Loneliness is a constant struggle as young families are separated from their support systems
- Citizenship papers come slowly, and worry and uncertainty reign throughout the wait

Health needs:

- A baby who has kidney problems and has also had a stroke
- Young parents of a baby with club feet
- For well-being through difficult pregnancies and for safe deliveries

Material needs:

- Jobs
- Steady employment
- Financial needs
- Good, safe, affordable daycare
- Some are taking school courses and writing exams

Spiritual and emotional needs:

- Salvation of spouses
- Relief from depression
- Strength and wisdom in parenting
- Good churches close to home as many families rely on public transport

Last minute registration



Last minute registration for the silent auction, dinner and golf tournament on May 13th can still be made through the Jewels For Jesus office or Website (if you aren't a golfer, you can still join us for the dinner and auction). There are many prizes including a new 2006 Pontiac Pursuit and a Golf Vacation Package for a “hole-in-one”. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day.

COMING SOON...

Watch the next issue of REFLECTIONS for information on the Vista Program. This innovative program offers you the opportunity to purchase gift cards for your everyday shopping needs while, at the same time, supporting Jewels For Jesus.

NEEDS CORNER

- size 4, 5 and 6 diapers
- formula – most often requested brands are powdered Good Start and Enfalac
- summer clothing – gently used or new - size newborn to 6x

Margo's Thoughts



"The disciples woke him [Jesus] up, shouting Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?' ... Then he [Jesus] asked them, 'Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?'"
Mark 4:38-40

Do you still have no faith?" Jesus asked this question of the disciples in response to their panic over the storm they had just experienced. It's a fascinating story that Mark records in his gospel. Jesus and his disciples had been touring around Israel for some time. During this period the disciples had the opportunity to watch Jesus perform miracle after miracle: healing all kinds of physical ailments, exorcising demons, and bringing people to a new and deeper place of faith.

We naturally assume that, as the disciples witness these events, their faith would be growing daily. I'm sure they thought it was. But then they find themselves in a boat, in the middle of a sea, in the middle of a storm. Not just a small storm; it's a fierce storm, with huge waves that threaten to swamp the boat. Life is out of their control and their response is panic.

While one might be tempted to shake their head and wonder why the disciples were so faithless, I find myself uncomfortably capable of relating to these men. Each new experience seemed to challenge their faith further. Life never seemed to stay in a comfortable, manageable place. Jesus was always leading them into new challenges that threatened to overwhelm them.

This, in a nutshell, is life at Jewels. The needs, challenges, heartaches and stretching experiences seem endless. Will God provide a home for a little one? Will He meet the desperate material needs of a family? Will He meet the deep spiritual needs of the broken spirits we encounter? Each situation challenges us to a deeper trust and dependence. The wait that often precedes the answer tempts us to cry out, "Teacher, don't you care...?" I believe God's response to us, in this place and in all of life is, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Jesus cared deeply about His disciples. He cares just as deeply about us, and those we minister to. I find it fascinating that this incident seems to have been orchestrated by Jesus himself. Jesus decided they would all cross the lake that evening. Jesus decided to take a nap at the time of the storm. Jesus waited until they knew they were in over their heads, unable to handle the situation on their own. Then He stepped in. Jesus seemed to be purposely teaching the disciples a lesson about faith.

Why would He do this? Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the true essence of faith. Faith, by its very nature, is the experience of being asked to do or endure more than we expect we can. It is being asked to move outside our comfort zone to a place that is beyond our capabilities. It's being in a place where we know the power to deal with the situation has to come from God. If we could handle it, why would we need faith?

Jesus wanted His disciples, and wants us as well, to understand the true essence of faith. He can handle everything He brings our way. It's as simple as that. As we move into the situations that God has prepared for us, let's do so in faith, confident of His power to enable and His desire to provide.

Margo Semple
Executive Director