



## Jewels For Jesus Picnic & Pool Party



**Sand**



**Full house**

**Okay – not everyone had fun**

On September 8th 103 parents, children and Jewels staff gathered for the biennial Jewels For Jesus Adoptive Family Picnic & Pool Party. The sun shone as always, the food was great as always and the pool was warm and lively – to say the least. A huge thanks to Mike and Christy

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**Water**



**Seating was limited**



## 'Picnic' continued

for once again opening their home and hosting the Jewels For Jesus picnic.

The event is a great opportunity for adopting families to build friendships and supports with other families who have adopted. It's also a wonderful time for an adopted child to see that they are just one of many, many families who are built through adoption. One of our not-so-little Jewels, who is part of an international family, was noticing that his family is not the only one that's made up of different complexions. What a great chance this was for him to see other families similar to his.

This year had many highlights. Four of our six Summer 2007 babies were present. Louise McColl was in attendance, providing many families with their first opportunity to chat with our new Program Director face-to-face. One of our foster families who has joined the team since the last picnic – David, Karen, Christy and Andrea Barrett – came and were able to enjoy the fruits of their dedication and sleepless nights. We also enjoyed a surprise visit from Joan Kosmachuk, former Executive Director of Jewels For Jesus.

This was the third time Mike and Christy have shown their hospitality to the gang and we pray God will bless them for their generosity. Another special thanks goes to a couple of dedicated Jewels husbands, Jeff White and Steve Semple, who slaved over hot barbeque grills while others splashed and played.

**URGENT  
NEEDS**

- wipes
- girl's winter clothing - size 3-6x
- formula

***A BIG thanks to all who so quickly and generously responded to our urgent need for formula and diapers.***

## Third Annual Guelph JOY of Christmas Home Tour

We invite you to join with us on Friday, November 16th from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. for our candlelight tour or on Saturday, November 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for our daylight tour. This tour will feature 7 beautiful homes that have been professionally decorated for the Christmas season. We hope these homes will inspire you in your own holiday celebrations.



For more information visit our website <http://www.jewelsforjesus.net/> or contact our office.

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## Janice's Story

Praise God. Another one of our moms who has been helped through the Care Cupboard ministry has graduated and landed a job in her field of training. Janice popped into the office the other day with a friend who she knew would benefit from the help we offer. She didn't need anything for her children; she was just helping out someone else. We weren't surprised by the good news. We knew something was up by the way Janice was glowing that day. Continue to pray for our families. Our goal is to help build stability into their lives as a tangible display of the love of God for them and their children.

## New Team Members



*Dana Hanna,  
Andre Eurich,  
Ed-Esther  
Petit-Homme*



*Jordan Campbell, Erin Asare,  
Jennifer Fallows*

## Relationship Compass Team

Jewels For Jesus has been given a unique opportunity to reach into the lives of youth with a relevant message of sexual integrity. The enormous success of The Relationship Compass Program has resulted in booking requests that vastly exceeded our expectations. In order to meet these demands, a team of dynamic young adults who 'walk the talk' in their personal lives has come on board. Meet the team that has stepped forward to embrace this opportunity: Jordan Campbell, Andre Eurich, Dana Hanna,

Ed-Esther Petit-Homme, Erin Asare, Jennifer Fallows. Please pray for the team and the challenge they will be bringing to Ontario youth.

## Student Placement



*Trisha Martin*

Welcome to Trisha Martin, our new placement student. Trisha is completing her Social Service Worker diploma at Sheridan College and will be volunteering 21 hours a week to Jewels For Jesus as part of her course requirements. She is already up and running as Acting Care Cupboard Co-ordinator, providing an answer to our prayers for a consistent presence and consistent leadership in this busy and important area of ministry. Trisha is a woman of faith and her compassion for struggling families has already made her a valuable addition to the team.



**Mission Inc.**

### Board Members

Heinz Haischt, Chairman

Gordon Dueck

David Ellis

Andrew MacLean

Jeffrey McDougall

Michael Streun

### Executive Director

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## Margo's Thoughts



"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." Isaiah 55:8

The front page in this edition of Reflections features the Jewels For Jesus Picnic & Pool Party and shares some of the family fun enjoyed that day. It was a great day and attending families expressed enjoyment and gratitude for the event. I'm thankful for the fun the picnic brought to those who were able to be there. This event is meant to be a gift to them.

It has also become a gift to me. The picnic, for me, is a celebration and a call to worship. In my closing thoughts this month I'd like to attempt to show you the picnic through my eyes.

Everyone always seems to arrive at once and I move from family to family, trying not to miss anyone, but wishing I had more time to linger in each conversation I leave. The day was spent talking, and talking some more; reminiscing, catching up, adding the odd nugget of advice, and sharing joys and challenges. To me it felt like one big family reunion.

As I left the picnic my head was full of memories of the stories represented there. The journeys surrounding each little one and not-so-little one; their birth parents' journeys and their adoptive parents' journeys were swimming around my head. My heart, as well, was full of joy in what God has done in the building of these families. The stories, some gentle and simple, others heart wrenchingly difficult, all came flooding back to

me over the course of the day and continued to wash over me during the car ride home.

I saw one family who walked through two failed attempts to adopt before they welcomed their beautiful little guy into their home. The last time I'd seen him he was a newborn leaving the hospital. Now he was an adorably polite little man. Another child toddled around. I remember pouring my heart out to God over this little one, "Can we find a way to help this birth mom? Can we find a home for this little one? God this is a tough one, please show me a path. I don't want to abandon this child." Some of the older children brought back memories of the years I worked with birth parents. I remembered tears in hospital rooms as goodbyes were said. I remembered being at the birth of many who were splashing around in the pool that day. One little guy asked if he had been in my tummy. I said, "No, but I was there when you were born." I had a quiet conversation with a mom. Their little one was a little older when he joined the family and we talked about the joys and challenges of becoming family in this unique way; and that this parenting journey can be so different than expected.

So many stories and journeys, all together in one place like a sweet offering of praise to God and a witness to the years the Lord has been building families through Jewels For Jesus. This has been His place. This is still His place. And in front of me was the result of what He has been doing in this place through the many years Jewels For Jesus has been in existence - truly "His thoughts and His ways are far beyond anything we can imagine".

God Bless,

Margo Semple  
Executive Director