



# Reflections

Winter 2018

When I asked Modeline how she felt when she realized she was pregnant, she replied, “I don’t even know how to explain it; I was shocked. I just thought, there’s no way this can be true.”

She was in Barrie, having just started her second of a three year dental hygiene program at Georgian College. Her first call was to the Barrie Pregnancy Resource Centre. She was looking for information and support, and BPRC provided both. She speaks positively about their approach, “They explained every single option, and they had a timeline sheet so I could see the whole picture.”

Modeline thought that she would never have children. She had no desire to become a mother, and had envisioned her life from that perspective. She waited a week before telling her mom, and received the love and grace that we all need when we are in a crisis situation. As she struggled to decide what to do, the advice of a friend helped her to think more clearly, “Just forget about everyone else, and do what’s right for you and the baby.”

Mo decided to keep her baby, and helped by the strong support from her mom, finished the semester at Georgian and moved back to Mississauga in her second trimester.

Her mom found JFJ because she wanted Mo to have “mom friends”, so Modeline started going to the Monday night parenting group as she waited for baby to arrive. She made some really good friends, and has people that she can count on from the group. She also began many sessions of one-on-one counselling to help her process and prepare for the new reality of her life.

Alisyenne was born on February 24, 2016. Modeline went back to school in January 2017 for three consecutive semesters to finish her program, commuting from Mississauga while her mom took care of Alisyenne.



Modeline and Alisyenne



Sharing dental tips

Modeline is so grateful for her relationships with other parents and JFJ staff. She learned so much through the parenting classes, saying, “I think about it all the time and use what I learned every day!” She also appreciates how JFJ approaches the spiritual aspect of our work. As a Christian, she knew she could talk openly about this part of her life, but is grateful that JFJ staff respects and accepts everyone without judgement. Modeline recently returned to JFJ to lead two sessions of our parenting program – teaching other young families the importance of dental care from the earliest stages of life.

In late January Modeline passed her final exam to become a registered dental hygienist! Now that she is finished school, she plans to start attending the parenting program again - as any parent of a toddler knows, all parenting tips are welcome for this tricky stage!



Your generosity makes hope possible. Thank you for being part of Modeline’s story, and ensuring that this strong and beautiful young woman continues to shine her light in the world!

# Christmas Celebration!

Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, our Christmas celebration was fun, festive and altogether beautiful! Because of you, we were able to share Christmas with 20 families – 32 parents and 53 children, and an additional dozen families who weren't able to attend the celebration received gifts and food bags!



Gifts for families! Evidence of the incredibly generous Rotherglen school community :)



Faithful gift wrappers from Bramalea Baptist Church!



Food bags filled by Movati Athletic & the beautiful buffet table, prepared and served by Meeting House home churches. #blessed Below, kids enjoying the craft table!



Hal the clown!



# Christmas Giving

Your Christmas generosity was on full display this December! So many of you showed up to share your time, treasure and talents, and you made the season incredibly special for our families, and very powerful for the staff. You showed us your hearts—and they are beautiful!

It all started on Giving Tuesday, November 28th. The ladies of Crestwicke Baptist church “Snips” group made and filled 100 bags for our families—50 for kids and 50 for the moms. Then Richmond Hill Golf Club dropped off hundreds of dollars worth of diapers, formula, wipes and sleepers for our families. Then a Meeting House Home Church came with gifts and pajamas for Christmas...and we continued to receive displays of generosity and care all through the month of December! The Rotherglen Elementary School community provided an abundance of gifts, toiletries and other special items. Together, all of you made it possible for JFJ families to have a Christmas. Thanks and blessings!



Sharing the Christmas story!



Thank you, RH Golf Club!



Jefton Home Church gives!



Some of the beautiful work of the Snips group!



100 gift bags for moms and children!

## Needs Corner

**Child care** help for Monday evening and Wednesday morning Parenting programs

**Meal prep** for Monday Parenting Program for 6—10 adults  
OR— Help with Funding for Monday Night Meals!

Children’s Bibles

Adult Bibles

**Social Media Followers!! :)**

Monthly donors— *JFJ Partners in Hope*

Auction Items for September’s Gala!

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact [helpline@jfjhopecentre.ca](mailto:helpline@jfjhopecentre.ca) or [karen.p@jfjhopecentre.ca](mailto:karen.p@jfjhopecentre.ca)

*And remember to LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE!*



**Our 70th Anniversary Golf Tournament and Gala** will be held on Saturday,

September 15, 2018—the *actual* date of incorporation for Jewels For Jesus!

Plan to join us—for golf, or dinner, or both! We have so much to celebrate!

*Save the date—and stay tuned for details!*

## From The Executive Director

It is hard to believe that this year we celebrate our Platinum anniversary! Platinum – a rare precious metal known for its strength and resilience. It is indeed a rare event to be able to celebrate 70 years of ministering to children and building and strengthening families. Over the years there have been hardships and struggles but God has given us strength and resilience as we trusted in His leading and good plans for this place. It is a privilege to be part of something so precious and to share with you the journey that has been and the journey to come. Over the course of this year we will reflect on some precious pieces of our history, but it is only fitting that we start at the beginning....

\*The story of Jewels For Jesus Mission starts with Milton Hill, a man who had an understanding of how precious children are to our Lord and a passion to minister to them. In 1947 Milton Hill was newly married and ready to launch into a career in children's ministry. Many other opportunities for other types of service came up but he was sure that God had called him to work with children, so he passed these opportunities by. As finances became more challenging he was tempted to veer off course but the Lord always met their needs.

Living arrangements were also up in the air at that time. Eventually he was offered an apartment in a home where a small group of believers from the Long Branch area of Toronto met. This group had been meeting to pray for the development of a children's ministry. It didn't take long for the Hills and the prayer group to connect. The ministry effort that emerged from this was later to carry the name Jewels For Jesus Mission. Out of this humble beginning was birthed children's camps, foster homes, a maternity home, crisis pregnancy support, crisis parenting support, adoption services, and the preventative efforts of abortion awareness and relationship education.

Milton Hill understood the importance of children. By the age of 22 he had already set his life course: ministering to the needs of children and, through this, attempting to reach them with the message that God loved them. Milton died in 1959, at age 33, after only 11 years of pouring himself into this ministry. This was before most of the current staff, which carries on his vision, was even born. But Milton's ministry and influence didn't end in 1959. It has survived him and resulted in decades of effective ministry to children, not just in Toronto but throughout the province of Ontario. His vision has lived on through the many evolving faces of Jewels For Jesus Mission, the Jewels For Jesus Adoption Agency, and JFJ Hope Centre. (\*reprinted from 60th Anniversary newsletter)

Candrea

To help us celebrate our 70th, we want to share *your* JFJ story. Please call or write if you have a story we can share this year!



### BBC 2018 is coming!

Are you ready to participate in this important fundraiser?! Fill a bottle and make a difference!

One church is starting this month, many of you will run it from Mother's Day—Father's Day! We work with youth groups, men's or women's groups, small groups—or the whole congregation - you choose :)

### Every bottle makes a difference!

Contact Karen to join in!

karen.p@jfjhopecentre.ca



### Canada Summer Jobs

For the past several summers, we have benefitted from the Canada Summer Jobs program, bringing in excellent students who impacted the work and life of the offices in many ways. We are applying again for this summer, but have struggled with the same concerns as other faith based organizations, over the expectation to agree with an attestation that contravenes a core Christian belief. As the situation continues to evolve, we are pleased with the most recent clarification - that the attestation relates to the activities of the organization, not the beliefs or the values. We seek your prayers for wisdom, for faith, and for God's leading for all organizations impacted by this.