



# My Father's House

February, 2003

## Kingdom Builders Ministry

# Only God

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If there was any doubt about God's will for My Father's House, it has vanished with the taxes. **It is official! 100%** of the transfer taxes and stamp duty have been waived by the Jamaican government! I feel like the servant girl who went to answer the door when Peter was knocking after being released from prison. There had been a group of people praying for his release in that home where she was, but when she heard his voice, it shocked her! After all this time of prayer and supplication, it still doesn't seem real. But, it is! Praise God! To our Lord, Savior and Provider, Jesus Christ, we give thanks and praise!

To you, our supporters who have stood with us in this past 18 months lifting this matter up to the Lord, we give a multitude of thanks as well. Your prayers have pushed this through and held us up, standing when we thought we would crumble. We greatly appreciate your faithfulness and encouragement!

God uses different avenues to accomplish his will. It seems that the newspaper article written about My Father's House was a major motivational tool in this decision of the Jamaican government. The text of the article is included in this newsletter on the following pages. It reveals a fine picture of what Kingdom Builders does here in Jamaica; none of which could be done without *you*. Thank you again!

**For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you.  
On the day of salvation I helped you." 2 Corinthians 6:2**

## Continual Christmas at My Father's House

Christmas came and went with no container to open here at My Father's House. Although disappointed that the children would not have their gifts intended for Christmas, the true meaning of Christmas shined through the hearts of the children on Christmas morning. The container finally arrived in January; we have been opening boxes ever since. Thanks to so many generous donations we have had much to share and be thankful for!



*One of the favorite donations  
from the container!*

**Check us out at [www.kingdombuildersministries.com](http://www.kingdombuildersministries.com)**

## Shantel's Adoption

Nearly 3 years have passed since the process toward Shantel's adoption began. We join the potential parents in prayer and struggles in this endeavor. Many phone calls and visits have been made on behalf of this effort. Shantel's file was lost for more than a year causing a standstill after months of dragging feet. At last, the case went before a committee who decides whether or not it can proceed to court. Their decision was, because of the length of time that has passed, a new investigation is needed. Please, continue to pray for Shantel and the Whites as they play this waiting game.



Meanwhile, Shantel is growing into a wonderful young lady. She is polite, thoughtful, a wonderful big sister and has many other advantageous qualities as well. She still hopes to be adopted by the Whites and looks forward to that day, but lives each day to its fullest not dwelling on that which is yet to come to pass.

## Trusting God for Life



Sherine is a young lady who came to live with us soon after we moved here to Jamaica. She is 23 now. KBM helped her go to the University of the West Indies in Kingston. She was diagnosed with cancer while we were in the states

this past fall. She has chosen to go the natural route and has changed her diet to mostly raw fruits, vegetables, beans and grains by the guidance of a food scientist. Her most recent blood test and x-rays look good. We are believing for a complete healing! Please join us in praying for her.

*Praise the Lord, I tell myself;  
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.  
Praise the Lord, I tell myself,  
and never forget the good things he does for me.  
He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.  
He ransoms me from death and surrounds me with  
love and tender mercies.  
He fills my life with good things.  
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!*

Psalm 103:1-5 (NLT) A psalm of David.

## Interns Needed

God has blessed KBM with wonderful interns this past year! How we got by in the past without them we have no idea. We have learned how valuable their help is in the workings of the ministry. Delroy has been very helpful in the maintenance of the home as well as an inspiration in our morning devotions playing guitar and leading the family in worship. Sherine, Alicia and Christina are tremendous caregivers and teachers! They have served vital roles in our daily routine as well as taught the children each week during school hours. Because of the gifts God has given each intern, our children have received classes in French, Music, P.E. and Art. The sad part of this story is that their commitment to My Father's House is only through the summer.

KBM is actively seeking interns for the Fall! Persons interested in serving during the 2003-2004 school year are urged to contact KBM today! Help is needed in many areas including - preschool teacher, elementary & high school class supervisors, children's ministries and youth ministries. You can make a difference in the lives of these children by coming to live at My Father's House for nine months to a year. Please email or visit our web page for more information.

## Tell Us About Yourself

An essay assignment. The elementary class wrote about themselves while the older students interviewed another student and wrote an essay from that interview. Following are pieces from some of their work. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did.



My name is **Ritz Wilson**. (6 yrs) My favorite thing to do is swim, skate and play video games. What I like about myself is I can dance well. I can jump high. My dream for the future is to be a president of a country and help people. My prayer request is to have a loving heart.

Hello. My name is **Abigail Catherine Campbell**. (8 yrs.) I love to ride bikes, skate and swim. The two things I like about myself is I love to tell jokes and I love to laugh. Christina changed my life. Miss Alicia is my best friend. I like Miss Alicia because she keeps secrets. I dream to be a teacher .



My name is **Shantal Monique Rose**. (10 yrs.) My favorite activities are dancing and singing. The two things I like about myself is the way I act and feel about people. What I want God to answer my prayer request is for wisdom.

**Rochelle's Heart Vision.** by Novlette Reid  
Rochelle (13 yrs) In her spare time she enjoys playing games with the kids. The way Rochelle feels about God is that she knows that he died on the cross for her sins. She also knows that he will always be with her and he loves her. How she feels about the rules at My Father House are that she said they are great and they teach us the right way to live and how to take care of each other

more .Rochelle said her life has changed from the months she came to live at my fathers house. God has changed her life that she is not the same person she was before she eats God's words. She is hoping to become a designer when she get out of collage . Rochelle feels very sorry for the hungry children in the world because she was one of them out there so she knows how it feel. She said she wish she could help them.

My name is **Andre Campbell**. ( 9 yrs.) I like to skate, ride bikes and play video games. One thing . The person who has made a difference in my life is Tricia because she plays around with me. My best friend is Tommy because he wrestles around with me and we play games together. My dream for the future is to be a



Left to right—Abigail, Jhenelle, Andre & Jody

soldier and fight for my country. One of my prayer requests I want God to answer is to bring back my mother so I can go back home again.

### **The Inside Scoop on Jody Walker:** by Tricia Koch

Jody (14 yrs.) explains that before coming to live here at My Fathers House life was crazy and lonely. She was always finding herself in trouble when that was what she wanted to be away from. She expressed that she was a girl of the world more so than any thirteen year old should ever be. Jody stated that before coming to live at My Father's House she felt as if there was something in her life that was missing but just couldn't find what it was. Then she came to live here and that feeling of missing out on something was gone and she never finds her self being lonely. She says that since coming to this home life is much better. She feels that she is more involved in the family and that the family has brought better friends than she has ever known. If Jody could ask any one thing from God she says it would be more faith. Jody hopes to go to college and then become a fire fighter. Jody has wanted to be a fire fighter ever since she was six years old.

My name is **Shantel Sherika Hewitt**. (10 yrs.) What I like about myself is that I love Jesus and hate Satan. The persons that have changed my life are Mama Penie and Papa Jim. My dreams for the future are to be a missionary and a designer. One of my prayer requests is to go to America.

My name is **Jordan Marie Koch**. Someone who has mad a difference in my life are my parents because they correct me when I do wring. One of my dreams for the future is to be a movie star. I want to sing and dance in front of everybody. One prayer request I want God to answer is for me to become a princess.





## **A PLEA FOR MY FATHER'S HOUSE** *(as seen in the Gleaner, Jamaica's national paper)*

**published: Sunday | January 12, 2003**

WESTERN BUREAU:

JANUARY 31, 2003 may be renamed 'Day of Doom' in the lives of 14 Jamaican children, if a compassionate Government does not waive a \$2 million transfer tax and stamp duty required for them to remain in their home.

The children, ages ranging between one to sixteen years old and their foster parents Jim and Penie Koch, will lose their home, a seven-bedroom house, valued at \$36.7 million, which was donated by good Samaritan Edward Nahmkin, if they cannot come up with the transfer tax within the next two weeks.

Named, 'My Father's House', the home located in the small fishing village of South Sea Park, Whitehouse, Westmoreland, was established in 1996 as a refuge by the Kochs who are members of the Kingdom Builders Ministry, a non-profit corporation.

My Father's House is registered as a foster home, and its survival is dependent on donations from local sources and abroad. Although the home was given freely to Jim and his wife, part of the agreement included them paying the transfer tax and stamp duty of US\$82,000 that accompanied the deal.

Efforts by the Kochs to get a 100 per cent waiver of the transfer fee before the January 31 deadline have been fruitless. "We cannot afford to lose this home. Not only are we providing shelter, food and clothing for children in need, but we also provide a well balanced atmosphere in which to grow, quality education, vocational training, recreational facilities and spiritual growth," says Jim Koch.

Six months ago, the government assisted the home by waiving 50 per cent of the amount, reducing the figure to US\$41,000 or the equivalent of \$2 million, but according to Jim and Penie Koch, this is money they just don't have. In the meantime uncertainty hangs over the future of all who live in the home.

The children of My Father's House have been rescued from distressing circumstances. The mother of thirteen-year-old Jody, is serving time in prison after she was caught transporting drugs to England earlier this year. Eleven-year-old Rose was abused mentally, physically and sexually, she had to be removed from her abusive home.

Five-year-old Ritz arrived at the home with Hepatitis B, three years ago. The fourteen minors are provided with 24-hour care at their new home. They are also home-schooled with remarkable results. One summer ago, Rose was unable to read. Now she is reading and spelling very well. All the children speak standard English, another testimony to the time invested in them by their new parents. Of the several commendable characteristics of this home, one of them is the fact that they try to keep families together. "We don't want the children here to feel as if they are part of an institution, this home is here to give them the feeling of security, allowing them to be part of a family," says Penie Koch.

His foster daughter, Jody, who fled from her mother's boyfriend after her mother was arrested, was taken into the home along with her three other siblings. "They were not separated, because we wanted them to remain as a family," he added.

So too was 14-year-old Rochelle who was reunited with her younger sister when the home accepted her. Most of the children, if not all, are coming from a background of poor supervision; for the most part they raised themselves.

Each child living at My Father's House will testify about the new sense of responsibility and discipline acquired since the day they entered this safe haven. Each child's day starts with a chore chart. "Teens partner with the younger children to prepare breakfast," says Penie Koch. "If they don't get up and cook breakfast we all don't eat breakfast," she laughed.

According to Mrs. Koch it was difficult to assimilate each children into the home environment. The use of an established routine helped to do this. "The only way for them to survive is through discipline, and I don't mean punishment. Everybody has responsibilities."

The aunt of 11-year-old Rose, Valesea Simpson, is happy that the young girl is being looked after so well. "I wanted my niece to get a better life and better schooling. If I was not so old, I would be happy to live there. I am also suffering," she admits. According to Ms. Simpson, Rose is a brilliant child who will blossom into 'something good' if she stays at the home. "I visit there regularly and I see how the children are treated", she comments.

### **Living quarters**

Who says that because a child is poor, that child should not experience all the good things that life has to offer? Here in Whitehouse, Westmoreland, where children from several poor homes have found a new home, the walls outside the seven-bedroom home could do with a paint job, but when the door opens, love welcomes you.

Inside, are well appointed, comfortable bedrooms that give off a certain amount of warmth and comfort. "A teenager sleeps in each room and has responsibility for that room," says 14-year-old Rochelle Anglin, foster child.

There is a large swimming pool to the side of the house and all the children living in the home are encouraged to be swimmers. Even the smallest child, a one-year-old baby, is learning to swim. They are also all ardent cyclists and roller skaters. On any given day they can be seen in the community on their bicycles. There is also a furnished playground in the yard and a basketball court next door that they share with the rest of the community.

The 14 children are home schooled in three classrooms that are all equipped with internet-ready computers, visual aids, library and even a baby's crib. "There are children who arrive here and are unable to read at all, and that child must start out with the basic school curriculum, no matter what age they are," says Penie Koch.

The school offers a very individualized curriculum; reading is very much an integral part of their lives.

Rose, whose story reads like the little girl who lived with her wicked step sisters, says that she had great difficulties reading before she started living at the home. "I didn't know how to spell before I came here, I really appreciate being here." Speaking to a number of the children was very heartening, as most of them spoke proper English and were impressive conversationalists.

### **Help for My Father's**

The home is dependent on sponsorship for its survival. My Father's House spends \$25,000 per week for food, \$18,000 per month for electricity and \$4,000 on laundry.

Other costs include that required for maintaining the home. Annually, the approximate cost to run the home is a hefty US\$50,000 or J\$2.5 million.

Through the assistance of businesses such as D & Y Supermarket in Savanna-La-Mar which helps once in a while with diaper and groceries, and the Wildish family, owners of Jamaica Broilers that have been very generous towards their cause, they have kept their doors open.

The school's furniture was donated by Food for the Poor. Locals have been helpful, but the bulk of their donations comes from overseas. "We have some people who give us US\$5.00 per month on a consistent basis," says Jim Penie.

Faced with the possibility of losing the place in which they live, the challenge of meeting recurrent expenses pales.

Even representatives of the local children's services division have joined the call to government to waive transfer fees on the property before the children lose their home.

Others who echo this call are locals who see the 'amazing' change in these children since they have been taken in by the Kochs.

Ann Lyons, owner of Culloden Cafe in the district told **Outlook**: "Jim and Penie are doing something for these kids that no one else would. These children simply slipped through the cracks. The sad thing is that there are hundreds more that need to be rescued," she said, commenting "Jim and Penie have saved these children's lives. They have made a real difference in the community. We need more homes like these, what we should do is to try to keep them open. What they are offering these kids is the type of life that every child is entitled to."

### **An important institution**

*I am Eletia Hyacinth McDonald and I have been employed to Children's Services Division as a Children's Officer from July 1, 1981 a little under twenty one (21) years. As with probably any other Children's Officer my age and with several years of service in this agency, I have had great dream for the improvement and the effective, if not classic operation of this agency. One of my great dreams, I have had, is for a Place of Safety or a half way home in Westmoreland.*

*The reality is that at 5 p.m. a person will walk into the office and inform us that a foster care placement has broken down, or a mother has left a child in the market, at an empty home or with persons who are not willing to keep him/her.*

*Just today at 4 p.m. a girl (15 years) arrived in Savanna-la-Mar with another girl. Having refused to enter into an intimate relationship with a man, her life has been threatened. Yes, the police are to take them to the Place of Safety but so often when the police is called, there is no vehicle to transport juveniles to the Place of Safety.*

*On a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday evening when this happens, there is nowhere to place these children. Children's Officer will have to travel to the Granville Place of Safety or Copse, Blossom Gardens or find accommodation out of their own pocket to sustain these children until Court day. A home that offers even temporary accommodation is needed.*

*The prospect of this is given by Mr. James Koch and Mrs. Penny Koch at South Seas Park Whitehouse, Westmoreland. I have known Mr. & Mrs. James Koch since 1998 when they first applied to join the Foster Care Programme of Children's Services Division. They have acquired a house for this purpose to care for children.*

*I have already used this accommodation by the Koch's to place a young Miss and her child (6 month old). She was offered accommodation and in addition a job and full time care for her child. She remained in this facility until her child was old enough to move on. At the moment Mr. and Mrs. Koch are foster parents for five (5) children who are placed from Children's Services Division. I have been in constant contact with this home and, I can say that this couple is interested in our children. They have always offered excellent care to the children that are placed in their care.*

*It is reassuring to me as a Children's Officer that there is a facility available in this parish which will willingly offer a temporary Place of Safety to our children at risk. I can just take up the telephone and ask Mr. & Mrs. Koch to assist us in whatever way we want, for the good and safety of our children.*

*I say all this to appeal to the higher authorities for their consideration in alleviating any burden that would hamper/impede the acquisition of this most welcome and useful place. In the long term, I would (also) recommend that a Children's Home Licence be granted for the more permanent use of this home. We love our children, we say, let us therefore do things that will help them.*

**I am, etc.,**

**Eletia McDonald (Mrs.)**

**Children Officer 1**

**Family Court, Westmoreland**

**Articles by Janet Silvera, Freelance writer**

# KBM Needs YOU!

*There are many ways you can be a part of Kingdom Builders Ministry.*

- Pray for KBM
- Sponsor a Child
- Become an intern
- Give financially
- Come on a short term missions project
- Tell someone else about KBM

Find out more about all of these opportunities at [www.kingdombuildersministries.com](http://www.kingdombuildersministries.com)

## Where Do You Go to Church?

This is a question often asked of us. Since Easter of last year, we had been traveling clear to Montego Bay to a church a friend had started there when we did not have responsibilities to a LEA church here on the south coast. The churches here on the south coast are steeped in tradition and religion not teaching or experiencing the kingdom life we teach our family about. That is until recently. We met a couple at the church in Montego Bay who moved to Jamaica from Canada as missionaries. Art and Debra Cook are anointed pastors. We introduced them to Bishop Weaver, and they have become the LEA Island Directors and moved to Whitehouse! We have become great friends. With just our two families and a few interested people from the area, we have the start of a LEA church in Whitehouse where Christ is the head and truth is preached weekly. Our prayer is to impact the area with the Good News of life and freedom in Jesus. "Come as you are and let Jesus transform you into what He intended you to be!"

My Father's House went **CAMPING!**

Yes, all of us and everything but the kitchen sink loaded up in the van and headed to the Blue Mountains in Jamaica's capital city, Kingston. It was a great experience for all. We had a camp fire and all the "camping stuff" marshmallows, s'mores, roasted hot dogs... This was our celebration for all the completion God has brought us through recently. Praise God!



### Prayer Requests

Trust with us praying for God to provide for all our needs.

- Sherine's health
- Shantel's adoption
- Financial needs
- Future interns

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