



My Father's House

November - December 2003

Kingdom Builders Ministry

Home At Last!

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August 7, 1999 Shantel Hewitt entered our home. She had entered our hearts a couple years before when she began sitting with Penie at church each Sunday that we attended Petersville LEA. She's always been a little cutie with a tender heart. She would snuggle up to Penie on one side while Jordan was on the other. It was almost as if Shantel chose us. Many Sundays came and went. At the time we were in search of land or building to begin the children's home. God spoke to our hearts to just start right where we were. We filed paper work to become foster parents, and we made an announcement to the LEA pastors that if they knew of any children in need they could direct the families to us. The following Sunday, Shantel's sister, Paula, told us to take Shantel home with us. We insisted on speaking with her parents and found that they were determined on Shantel coming to live with us. Communication being difficult, we weren't quite sure why Shantel, out of all the other children they had. We know now that it was God making straight the path for Shantel's life.

Eight months later when Larry and Angie White accompanied by their son, Everett, led a team from Taylor University to Jamaica. Shantel captured their hearts in that week and adoption proceedings began! Shantel's birth parents were in agreement and willing to terminate their rights so that it could proceed. No one knew the struggle the next three and a half years was going to be to see this vision through. Maybe if we had known, we would have quit long ago. God has His plan and knows just how much of it to share with us to keep us encouraged through 'til the end.

Shantel has grown and blossomed! She remained in contact with her family. Her older sister, Novlette, even came to live at My Father's House in September of 2001. Her parents said, "Take this one and do what you did to that one." Shantel and Novlette have a special bond that will last forever which was promoted by the Lord.

In our care, Shantel was given the opportunity to grow in all ways. She knows and loves the Lord with all her heart. She is bright intellectually and ready to excel in any school in America. She has many adventures ahead of her, but now she has a firm foundation to build on.

Shantel went to Indiana on November 3, 2003. Her adoption will be finalized there. The White family sends their many thanks to all of you who have prayed this through!

Please keep Shantel in you prayers as she makes great adjustments in the future. She would love to hear from the many of you who have met her in Jamaica. Encouraging cards and phone calls are welcomed by her parents as they recognize this time of transition for Shantel.

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Comings & Goings

Our door has been swinging both ways over the past few months. Children as well as adults have come and gone. It's been an emotional time. Even though most have moved on for positive new beginnings, it's difficult to say goodbye. Our eldest, Tricia, has gone to Christ for the Nations in Dallas, Alicia, an intern who was with us for a year, is back in Indiana, Sherine has moved to Montego Bay taking a position as an accountant and Shantel is home in Indiana. A not so joyous departure was encountered with Jada and Paige. Their mother had difficulties working within our guidelines of visitation and behavior while at our home. Since the placement was a private arrangement, she made the decision to remove the girls from our home in August. They now live with their paternal grandmother. We miss them greatly. We entrust them into the care of the Almighty and pray for them continually.

We are pleased to introduce our new interns, Jaime Cartwright and Jessica Schadler. Jessica has committed to serve for six months while Jaime's four month commitment ends in February. They are indispensable! KBM depends upon God's provision in many ways. Volunteer help is a vital part of KBM along with your prayer and financial support. Without any one of these elements, KBM would quickly dissolve.

My Father's House has also welcomed another teenager. Liz came to live with us in August. She has been in 11 homes in her 14 years. Her guardian lives in the USA and came to us desperate for a safe place for Liz before she had to return to the States. Liz's story includes every kind of neglect and abuse. Her temperament is mixed with fear and anger but we see sparkle in her eyes when she absorbs doses of love from the family she has found at My Father's House.

With all the changes in our home over the past few months, we have had many tears, happy and sad. It's caused us to take notice of our lives and how people come and go. We have fallen in love and given away pieces of our hearts to each of the children we have taken in to our homes to live or to visit. Every youth that has been in our care has been loved. We have made our share of mistakes but always with good intentions. Sometimes it gets rough and the load is heavy, but it has always been well worth all challenges. Letting people in, one risks the chance

Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

of heartache when they move on. Let us encourage you to take that risk. That's what life is for. Love the people God puts in your life. Give away a piece of your heart. We can say with confidence that the more you give away the more God gives in return. Just look at Liz's smile!



Covenant Christian Academy

Covenant Christian Academy is the name of our school. Until recently, we have held classes in the lower level of My Father's House. November 3 we moved into a building near the center of Whitehouse. Jesus for Jamaica, a ministry we have teamed up with in the past for other projects, offered us the space for our school. We gladly accepted! The space is still tight but it did open up room for teams to stay in our home. It also give us recognition in the community. We have always had it in our hearts to open our school to the community. There have already been many inquiries about enrollment. With the possibility of two additional rooms becoming available and dependant upon registration this Spring, CCA will likely open its doors to the community Fall 2004! We are praying for qualified teachers for this and next year!

(left) - Jessica is with her Kindergarten class — Daniel, Anita & Boogsie.



(center) Penie presently supervises the high school class seen below



(right) - Jaime is pictured here with Stephen. Jaime supervises the elementary class of 9 students..





A Leg to Stand On

We've had quite an adventure with the medical industry here in Jamaica. Jody Walker came to live with us last September along with her three siblings. She had been hit by a car and was in a full leg cast when she came to My Father's House. A year later the doctor was ready to take out the screws that had helped repair her leg. This simple operation became a serious problem. They removed the screw but did a horrible job of closing the wound. With no post-op instructions, we were ignorant of the problems we were about to face. Jody has no feeling in her shin where the incision had been made so she couldn't inform us of any pain when the infection got bad. It became apparent when the swelling busted out the five stitches the surgeon had put in the eight inch incision. Clinic is held each Tuesday. The following Tuesday they admitted Jody into the hospital to pump her body with antibiotics to ward off the infection

from entering her bone. They planned to perform another surgery to cover the bone with muscle from her calf since the skin was now dead and unable to be drawn together and close up the incision. Although Jim, Penie or both went to the hospital each day to insure the needed care, we found ourselves in a constant battle. Jody's surgery was scheduled for Friday. Jody had had an allergic reaction to the penicillin administered on Wednesday. The next drug the doctor prescribed was not available in the hospital, so Jody had not had any antibiotic since she was admitted. Jim found the prescription shoved in one of Jody's school books Friday before surgery. We took it and had it filled. As upset as we were about the poor care, we can say now that it only adds to the fact that all the glory belongs to God for Jody's miraculous recovery. When the surgeon looked upon the wound, he found it in good enough condition to simply close the wound as it should have been done nearly two weeks before! With no antibiotics, the infection in Jody's leg was reduced to the point that the surgeon was able to simply stitch it up. This time he put in 12 stitches!.

Thanks to all our email prayer partners! Your prayers made a difference! Jody may have a scar on her leg, but it will always be a reminder of how God did move on her behalf! Your continued prayers for Jody's complete healing are deeply appreciated.

Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord? Who can ever praise him half enough?
Psalm 106:2 (NLT)

Please continue to keep us in your prayers. This experience has reminded us of how thankful we are that God has kept us healthy during our stay here in Jamaica. Your prayers for our health are greatly appreciated - more now than ever!

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.
He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, and my stronghold*
Psalm 18:2 (NLT)

A Christmas Wish

Three years ago God blessed us with the wonderful gift of our van. It has served us well day in and day out. Many of you have ridden in it and been thankful for its dependability. Many of you have also ridden in it with a child on your lap! With 18 children, two interns and Jim and Penie in our immediate household now, that puts us at 22 in a 15 passenger bus each Sunday morning. That's if we don't have visitors going with us. It doesn't take great revelation to see that we are in need of another bus. Not only will it serve My Father's House each Sunday but now that our school is down the road, it is needed on many week days when our present van is being used for other errands. Although the school is only a couple miles away, the road is not safe for the children to walk on.

Please pray with us concerning this purchase. God has been faithful to KBM in meeting all of our needs. We trust Him to meet this need as well. If you feel led to be a part of this blessing, please enclose an additional gift for KBM this month. With your help we will be able to purchase another van similar to the one we have, travel more safely and experience much less stress in the transfer of the children to and from school.

Thank you for your faithful contributions! Our supporters' faithful prayers and generosity is what keeps KBM making a difference in the lives of many! May God bless you with your Christmas wish!

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

Prayer Requests

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

- Shantel's transition
- Sherine's health
- Financial needs
- Additional interns
- A van

Find out more about all of these opportunities at www.kingdombuildersministries.com

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Shantel and Jhenelle were flower girls in Christina and Delroy's wedding in September. They did a wonderful job. **Aren't they gorgeous!**

Hello!
From
Anita,
Andre &
Rose
(left-
right)



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