
Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 1 Issue 3

Editor Clinel "Sissy" Davis

Beginning A New Year In God's Work

Mission Statement

Threads of Love is a sewing ministry meeting the needs of tiny premature infants. The ministry is about healing and binding together the hearts of parents at a time of uncertainty about their baby's health or when they have lost an infant. Our mission is to show parents the love of Christ at a time when their personal pain is hard to endure and let them know that God is faithful. Through acts of obedience and donation, His work can and will continue. We pray that this ministry will have an impact far beyond our expectations. We feel that this is a ministry the Lord would have others join in to blanket the country with Threads of Love. There are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love! 1 Corinthians 13:13 God has given us all a talent that we are to use to serve Him. If he is speaking to your heart now, please write us at:

Threads of Love
First Presbyterian Church
P O Box 2006
Baton Rouge, La 70821 e-mail: rldavis@eatel.net

New Friends

Here's wishing each one of you a very happy new year and may the Lord continue to bless each of you in this new year.

Now that the holiday season is over, all the turkey is gone and the tree is taken down it's time to make plans for the coming year. Through this ministry each one of you has taken time out of your busy schedule to show the love that God has for each of us to others and perhaps touch someone in ways that you may never know about. Each stitch that has been sewn was a stitch of true love. Thanks to each of you this ministry is growing and has become a shining light of love to families in a very dark hour of grief. As we begin a new year, and I reflect back on the past year, God is so good to have given me so many new friends. Some of you I have not met or even had the pleasure of talking to; however, each one of you is a special friend. God has truly blessed me with so many new friends.

I have a very special new friend who lives in Mountlake Terrace, Washington and her name is Kimberly Norton. I would like to share with you what a wonderful young lady she truly is. Kimberly is a student at Mountlake Terrace High, and a Running Start Student at Edmonds Community College. Having just turned 16 years old, she is the youngest in her graduating class of 462 and maintains a 4.0 GPA. She has been a member of the National Honor Society throughout high school. Currently, she is also a member of the Interact (service organization), Environmental Commitment Organization

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and Girl Scouts, where she is working on her Gold Award. Kimberly has also done volunteer work for the Edmonds School District Health Fair, Edmonds Community College Kid's College, Denny Youth Center, Seattle Symphony and the Edmonds School District Summer Music School. For seven years she has studied classical flute and piccolo. She is a member of the Wind Ensemble, the Symphony Orchestra, the Pep Band, Marching Band and Flute Choir.

Some of her most peaceful times are spent with her cat, Cookie who Kimberly has had since she was in Kindergarten.

Kimberly read about this ministry in the Reader's Digest and decided to use Threads of Love as her community service project toward her credit for graduation. She is also applying for a \$10,000 scholarship that is based on volunteer service using her involvement with Threads of Love. We wish Kimberly the very best on her scholarship. Her goal is to get the chapter off and running, then turn it over to her church while she is away at college.

However, Kimberly has an even bigger challenge ahead of her in, spite of her youth. She is facing back surgery Thursday, Dec. 17. In addition to a broken vertebrae which is also out of line with the other vertebrae, doctors have found two herniated discs. The herniation is pressing on the nerve and causing her to lose sensation in her left foot. The doctors say this is a highly unusual situation for a 16-year-old and usually don't like to do surgery at this young age. According to her doctor, her situation is very severe. She is living in a great amount of pain on a daily basis and finds it difficult to sit for any length of time. She is still attending classes and working with her ministry for Threads of Love.

Her prognosis should be good but she could have a recovery of about six weeks. Let's all lift Kimberly up in pray that everything will go well for her. She truly is a very special young lady and we wish her the very best and a speedy recovery. Perhaps you would like to send her a card or note, mail it to:

Kimberly Norton
3707 228th Pl. SW
Brier, WA. 98036

That friend, given to you by circumstances over which you have no control, was God's own gift.

Frederick Robertson

Notes Of Thanks

These are some of the notes that the First Baptist Church in Alpharetta, Ga. chapter has received.

Dear Carolyn,

We are so excited about our pretty little gowns and hats for our babies in ICU. I know that they were made and sewn with the love of Christ. I'm also confident that in doing this each of you are filled with joy. As always, when ye do for others, we are really the ones that reap the benefits. Many of our preemies are here for long periods of time and some do not have parents that can afford clothing or can ever be present for much of the time.

Our nurses take great pride in caring and dressing our little ones.

Scottish Rite Children Hosp. Atlanta

P.S. Please keep our children here in your prayers. We are very appreciative of your time and talents.

Love in Christ

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you so much for the Threads of Love. The outfit is adorable. I have never seen anything so tiny before. It is so thoughtful of you to think not only of McKenzie but all of the premature babies at Northside.

Thank you again.
Kristin & Brent

Dear Carolyn,

I wanted to thank you and your church group so very much for the precious little preemie gowns your church group has so lovingly made for our special care babies. I talked with some of the nurses in the nursery and they are so appreciative of the gowns. I had not previously been aware of their need, but yes. The hospital does not have these tiny sizes and often the babies are in need of little gowns.

As I shared with you when we met, we are also always in need of gowns and burial dresses for our miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal babies who die, and are most appreciative of anything that your group is willing to provide for them as well.

I am enclosing our smallest preemie diaper that I could find for your little boy (model) doll and hope it fits him okay!

Thank you again for all of your loving efforts for our babies. I wish I could convey to you just how much each little gown means to the parents of these special babies. Let me know if there's anything I (we) can do for your group, come talk, or share stories about our work with these babies, etc.

Sincerely,
Northside Hospital

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." Mark 9:37

New Idea From Georgia

Carolyn Caswell from First Baptist Church in Alpharetta, Ga has been so kind to share their new idea with us. They are making what they call wrappers to place the miscarried babies in, for those Mothers wishes to see their babies.

We have started making these little wrappers here in Baton Rouge, with great delight from the local hospitals. By making the outside white, the nurses are able to place the babies hand and footprints on the outside, giving the mothers a keepsake.

Supplies:

- 12 inch square of white fabric
- 12 inch square of pastel or tiny print
- 22 inches of 1/4 inch doubled faced ribbon
- 1 prayer card

Place the two pieces of fabric, wrong sides together, finish the edges by hemming or use a sergered roll edge. The corners may be rounded off to make serging easier. Place the ribbon on the white side matching the center of the square and the center of the ribbon. Place the ribbon from one corner to the other and tack in the center. (See #1)

Fold the square as if you were wrapping a baby up, then place a pray card on the inside. (See #2)

These are super easy to make and fill a great need at the hospital. I remember getting a letter last year from a Mother who said she wished she could have seen her baby on something other than a blue bloody disposal pad. Wouldn't it have been nice if this Mother had someone to make a tiny wrapper out of some left over scraps?

Prayer

By Debbie Schmidt

Kind and loving God, thank you that this little one is known by You and safe in Your care. Thank you too, that You understand the grief we feel at the loss of this dear one and of all the hopes and dreams we had for this child. You wept when You saw the brokenness of our world and You weep with us as we grieve.

Bring comfort to the parents, grandparents and siblings of this child.

Enfold them in Your loving arms and assure them of your presence with them.

Give them strength and courage to trust that in Your love their sorrow and suffering can be transformed into blessing and joy.

Grant this mother renewed hope as she faces the future, Give her strength for each task she faces and peace in her heart. These things we ask in Your name.

Amen

New Chapter

Ebenzer Baptist Church
49322 River Road

Hammond, La 70401
Contact person: Auline Dunn

Mary Kay Badgley Threads of Love
576 Dover Ct #1
Mt Morris, Michigan 484558

First Presbyterian Church
114 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, La 71457
Contact person: Marge Mac Kenzie

Huguenot Reformed Church
5501 Ambay Road
Staten Island, New York, 10312
Contact person: Heide Schumann

St Mark Roman Catholic Church
60 Hamilton Ave
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
Contact person: Therese Poisson

Kimberly Norton
3707 228 th Pl. SW
Brier, Wa 98036

This brings us up to a total of 16 Chapters and growing with each newsletter.

Becoming A Chapter Is Easy

Together we can reach and bind a lot of broken hearts. However, it will take all of us working as a group. Signing up as a chapter lets us know who is working with the same goal in mind. Each chapter works independently, but with the same goals in sight, serving as one ministry. Each chapter is in charge of their own funds as that chapter. The Baton Rouge chapter acts as a clearing house for networking the different chapters, and for sharing news, patterns and ideas that other chapters have developed and are willing to share. As a clearing house we publish the newsletter, keep Threads of Love labels on hand for you to purchase at our cost and keep you posted about any good bargains that we may come across. At this time there are no plans for dues, however later we may need to ask for a couple of dollars a year to help with the cost of the newsletter. Becoming a chapter simply means registering with us so we know where each group is located and who's doing this ministry.

We are now in the process of writing by-laws that each group would be asked to sign and agree to.

- For example:
1. We will always glorify the Lord in all that we do.
 2. No one will sell any of the outfits for any reason, either for profit or at cost.

The by-laws will establish standards that we can all live with. This is a ministry that belongs to our Lord and to all of us; together we can make it work!

Changes In Labels

The last order of labels came packaged differently from the way they were in the past. They are now packaged about 329 labels to a pack at a cost of \$5.76. It still works out to about the same cost. They have been costing 1.8 each and now they cost 1.7 each.

Grandfather's Hand

By Deanne Chambliss

On April 14, 1997, Quint and I buried all our hopes and dreams. Our precious little boy was stillborn at 38 ½ weeks. We named him Schafer Paul Chambliss. After the funeral, we wanted to share our photographs of Schafer with all those unable to attend the funeral. Everyone was willing to share in this precious memory of Schafer except my grandfather. He said he did not need to see any pictures. Holding in my tears, I nodded and silently put the pictures away.

It was not until June when I realized why my grandfather declined seeing Schafer's photographs. Diagnosed with lung cancer in December 1993, he had been hanging in there, refusing treatment. One evening we received a phone call to go to the hospital. "The doctors did not give him any chance of surviving through the night. I sat by his bedside, holding his hand. When the sun came up the next morning, his eyes opened and he asked for a sip of coffee. By the end of the day he was in the same condition as the evening before. Doctors once again told us his death would be any time. As I was sitting with him, I kept asking him, to tell Schafer his Mommy and Daddy loved and missed him. Once again as the sun came up the next morning he

squeezed my hand and told me, "He has red hair and dark blue eyes and they are fighting over him!" My grandfather never saw Schafer's pictures and yet, he described him as he would have looked as a two month old.

Those were the last words I would hear from my grandfather, He shut his eyes and drifted off to sleep. As the sun rose on the third morning, my grandfather took his last breath in this world. As I held his hand, I reminded him to kiss my Schafer and tell him we love and miss him with every breath we take. So you see, our baby really is in heaven looking over us.

Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bring little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little children will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them. Mark 10:13-16

Letter Received

I just read an article from a July Family Circle, 1997. I read the article about how your organization makes clothes for preemie's. Well to make a long story short, I have a nephew and two nieces that were preemie's, all weighing in at well under two pounds. They were born in November of 1996. I took great interest in the article due to this fact. My mom now spends some of her time making blankets for the NICU that helped our miracle babies survive. I will have to agree that seeing the kids so small was quite scary, but with cute clothes on, how could they not be perfect. What a wonderful thing to be doing for others.

Sincerely,
Tracy

What's Your News

Write and tell us about your chapter or just share what you are doing with Threads of Love. There has been a number of questions that have come in, with not enough time to answer each letter. Hopefully I will be

able to answer some of your question in some of the upcoming news letters.

Watch for the Spring issue with a pattern of a preemie bonnet and some smocking plates.