

Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 3 Issue 2

Fall 2000 Editor Clinel "Sissy" Davis

Reaching For The Gold

Mission Statement

Threads of Love is a sewing ministry meeting the needs of tiny premature infants. The ministry is about healing and binding hearts together the hearts of parents at time of uncertainty about their baby's health or when they lose 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. pray that this ministry will have an impact far beyond our expectations.

There are three things that remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13: 13

Threads of Love
First Presbyterian Church
P O Box 2006
Baton Rouge, LA
<http://www.threadsoflove.org>
E-mail: sissy@threadsoflove.org

*May the favor of the Lord our
God rest upon us; establish
the work of our hands for us - yes,
establish the work of our hands.
Psalm 90:17*

Have You Reached Your Goal?

What are your goals in this life? Have you ever stopped long enough to think what is your goal and how can the Lord use you? To be happy and do good while we live are worthy goals for life. Because our days are numbered, we want our work to count, to be effective and productive. We should yearn to see how God can use us and for our work to reflect his perfect love. Each one of us is given a talent, a gift from God. The fruit of our labor is a gift from Him. And our works are a way to serve Him.

Our Threads of Love gifts can give hope to parents when confronted with a sick infant at birth. I remember a letter that I received from a

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young mother... how a little dress gave her hope... it also helped her to see her baby as a baby. Someone had given the hospital a little dress and when she came in for a visit her little girl was dressed in the gown. She told me that was the first time she was able to relate to her baby as a baby and it was the first thing that had given her any hope at all. Her little girl was so tiny and weak she could not even cry. She found a little note in the bed that said, "Mommy, I may be too little to cry, but how do I look in my big girl clothes?"

If you have never been into an neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), you can't image what a scary place that it can be. As you enter you are surrounded with all kinds of machines beeping and lots of technology. There is nothing that vaguely looks like a nursery other than all the tiny infants, each fighting for their life. With something as simple as a gown and a blanket...one can give a parent hope. The Baton Rouge chapter has just finished making and donating forty-seven isolette covers and twenty-one open bed covers to Woman's Hospital on Sept 28th. The covers not only serve to protect the babies from light and noise, but they have added a warm fuzzy, friendly atmosphere to the intensive care unit. As we walked through the unit with all the covers in place, it gave us a joyous feeling knowing that we had made a different in the environment for these little babies to continue to grow and develop. In using our sewing talents we have not only served the Lord, but we are serving the babies, parents and staff with our gift of love.



A Noble deed is a step toward God.

Josiah Gilbert Holland

Friends Are Like Angels



Our friends are like angels,
Who brighten our days.
In all kinds of wonderful,
Magical ways.

Their thoughtfulness comes,
As a gift from above.
And we feel we're surrounded,
by warm, caring love.

Like upside-down rainbows,
Their smiles bring the sun.
And they fill ho-hum moments,
With laughter and fun.

Friends are like angels,
Without any wings.
Blessing our lives,
With the most precious things.

Author Unknown

This little poem say a lot about the friendship that has developed among our sewing monthly workshop friends. I would like to share this e-mail that I received from one of our new sewing friends.

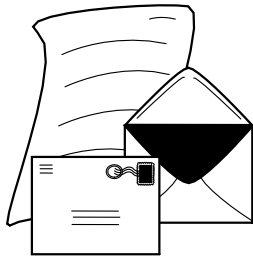
Dear Sissy,

"After reading a newspaper article about the work being done by Threads of Love, I was impressed with the wonderful service you are providing. My heart was touched that the needs of mothers who lost a newborn were being addressed.

Having experienced such a loss twice in my own life (I lost a newborn in 1960 and another in 1967), I can relate to the pain associated with accepting the loss as well as having to make preparation for a funeral. I decided to join your ladies for the recent three day workshop isolette cover .

This was truly a heart warming experience! I have never encountered a group of ladies who worked so well together. They were all so loving and giving in their work and attitudes. They were cheerful and expert in instructing newcomers in their methods and uncomplaining when very frequently interrupted from projects they were completing. Members shared most graciously from their own supplies when another lacked the item. Everyone was cooperative and willingly agreed to switch from one project to another as the need arose. Although I worked an entire day on one little gown, I felt such joy! The time just flew as I was improving my sewing skills with new techniques that were introduced. I could hardly wait for the next day which was equally rewarding. In an effort to help a cause, I have been given a special gift to be a part of this fine group."

Margaret Kuylen



Thank You

Notes

Dear Sissy,
Two years ago I called you because my granddaughter was in NICU in New Jersey. You sent my daughter, Kathryn, a blanket, gown and a hat that you had received from a lady in that area. In May, Gabrielle's little sister, Sara Elaine, was born nine weeks early and weighted 3 lbs and 7 ounces.

At the age of five weeks and weighing 5 lbs, she went home in a beautiful pink smocked dress and hat. When I visited her last week, she wore a long white dress with matching blanket and booties. These items were made by the Cajunettes from Ville Platte, Louisiana.

Threads of Live is a gift that God has sent to assist His beloved little ones. Blessed are those that make all of this possible.

Sincerely,
Hazel

Dear Sissy,

This is a letter of immense gratitude for all your ministry has done to support our medically fragile children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit here at Woman's Hospital. Your efforts have not only supported our desire to further include parents in the care and nurturing of their children, it has helped make our tasks easier and more positive at the bedside for our clinical staff.

When an infant dies, it is a very difficult time for our staff, and your bereavement gown along with the beautiful poem really help the nurse(s) to feel they have something to offer our devastated perants in support as they grieve this tremendous loss.

I wish you could see the joy on a parents face as they approach the bedside and find a special outfit, a beautifully sewn blanket in soft "baby " colors, or a breast feeding "lovie" doll in their infants bed! In this highly technical environment, these tangible "baby" items are so powerful and reassuring to the parents. It really is a baby inside that isolette, even if he or she only weighs a little over a pound! In a time when parents are struggling to deal with a premature delivery or a critically ill full-term infant, these items offer some normalcy in a very surreal environment to them.

And finally, I personally thank you and your ministry for your commitment to make our incubator covers. This item, is so important in our program of developmentally supportive care to our

fragile newborns, and unfortunately the covers are so cost prohibitive on the commercial market, we would not have the possibility of utilizing these very important items without your ministries help. I know our neonatal unit is very large(seventy beds) and you and your ministry have never hesitated to offer your special brand of love to our kids-thank you and God bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely;
Wanda L. Pezant RN/Developmental Specialist
NICU
Woman's Hospital Baton Rouge, LA.



Sewing Tip

When using a blue marker pen to mark on fabric, be sure to soak fabric in clear cold water, after you have finished using the markings. Using a detergent will only set the marker into the fabric.

Coffee Held

If any of you are thinking about getting a chapter started or have a desire for your chapter to expand in growth, try hosting a coffee of tea. For a short protocol and copies of our invitations, and announcements please contact by e-mail. sissy@threadsoflove.org



The Baton Rouge chapter of Threads of Love hosted a coffee and open house last month at

First Presbyterian Church. We have had a lot of exciting things happen as a result of the coffee. First of all we had over sixty women attend the coffee and learn what Threads of Love is all about. They had a chance to see examples of the beautiful little clothes that the Baton Rouge chapter makes. A complete historical display was also available in the heritage room at the church. We invited some of the staff from the hospital and the newspaper, to help us honor our volunteers, friends and board members. A week later the newspaper published a beautiful article on the ministry which also recruited more new people.

This coffee served to help kick off the three day isolette workshop. We have had quite a few new ladies join our group. For the isolette workshop we had 43 ladies who worked almost 500 hours to complete the isloette covers mentioned early in this newsletter.

Monthly the women who sew for “Threads of Love”, gather for a day of sewing and fellowship using their talents to serve the Lord and their community. Recently we were blessed by a Martha Pullen licensed teacher who donates her time to Threads of Love teaching and promoting heirloom sewing. The women who participate in the class donate their little dress to Threads of Love.

After such a exciting summer we are anxiously awaiting to see what future plans God has for Thread of Love.

God evidently does not intend us all to be rich or powerful or great but he does intend us all to be friends.

Ralph Waldo
Emerson

New Chapters

As you can see, we are still growing and added new chapters each month.

Arizona Sew Precious-Threads of Love
P. O. box 1140
Cochise, Arizona 85606
Contact person: Yolanda Fimbres

Orange-Threads of Love
689 No. Highland
Orange, CA 92867
Contact person: Jackie McPheeters
E-mail: tctjackie1@cs.com

Mt Grove Lutheran Church-Threads of Love
RR 3 box 311
Bloomxburg, PA 17815-9207
Contact person: Dottie Book
E-mail: dbook@ccomm.com

Rowland Road Baptist Church
336 Rowland Road
Monroe, LA 71203
Contact person: Marsha Leath
E-mail: mleath@bellsouth.net

something and serve the Lord in doing so. So many of you have experienced the loss of an infant or know someone that has. Wouldn't it be great if everyone that experienced such a loss would receive a Threads of Love gift? If each one of us would reach out and help just one family in their loss we could make a difference at a very difficult time with a little gift of love.

Happy Holidays
Sissy

What sweetness is left in life if you take away friendship? It is like robbing the world of the sun.

Cicero



Note From The Editor

This will be the last newsletter before the holidays and I wish to take this opportunity to wish each one of you and your families a safe and happy holiday. As we celebrate the up coming holidays let's remember to keep the families of the sick infants in our prayers.

If you are not working with a Threads of Love chapter pray about starting one or joining a chapter near you. Let us all make our lives count for