

Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 3 Issue 3

Winter 2001 Editor clinel "Sissy" Davis

Seeking Comfort ?

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

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Comfort Found



For the fourth year Threads of Love held "Season of Hope" service for the families who have lost their precious baby. The service is dedicated to the memory of those precious children lost to miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant death. The service is designed to help, friends, care givers, and the general public remember their precious little child and the dreams they had for them. It is a service where a family can gather with other family members to find healing and comfort in their loss. The service offers a special time of remembering the love still held for a beloved baby.

This year we were fortunate to have the message delivered by Debbie Schmidt, wife of John Schmidt associate pastor of my church. I felt that

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the parents that were in attend was able to identify to her because of the loss of her two children. Like the old saying "You don't understand, until you have walked a mile in those same shoes." It's a message that we all can put into practice in our own lives, not just the families that attended the "Season of Hope" service.

Debbie message was so wonderful that I just had to share it with you.

HEBREWS 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin,. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time need.

My first pregnancy ended in a miscarriage after four months. It was a very sad time for me and a time when I had a lot questions about why God would let it happen. I didn't get the answers to all the questions I had then, but I did learn some important things about God.

In the passage we read, the writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that we have a high priest, an advocate, who is able to understand the sadness and temptations we have as human beings. This high priest is Jesus himself. Jesus is able to sympathize with us because he's been one of us, he's lived in a flesh and blood body. He knew what it was to be hungry, to be thirsty, to be sleepy and feel like snapping at people.

But apart from the earthly life of Jesus, I think that God can sympathize with us, especially with us women who have lost children. At this season of Christmas, all eyes are on the baby in the manger. We tell the story over and over again. We talk about the miracles surrounding this special birth--

the shepherds, the star, the wise men. It's a happy time, a time of celebration as we remember this wonder-filled birth.

But God, outside of time and space, didn't see only the joyful birth of Jesus. God saw the end as well. God saw the agony of the cross, the betrayal by friends, the suffering and abandonment and death of His beloved Son. God knows what it means to experience the loss of a dearly loved child. God knows the heartache and grief that comes with such a loss. No wonder the writer of Hebrews tells us we can approach God's throne with confidence knowing that we will be greeted with mercy. God knows how much we hurt. We can find there, in God's presence, the grace we need in difficult times.

God's son, our Savior Jesus, died and rose again two thousand years ago. The story had a happy ending and has opened the way for us to approach God. But I think in the intervening 2000 years, God continues to experience the grief that comes with the loss of a child. In John 3, Jesus talks to Nicodemus, a Pharisee who has come to him with questions about how to walk with God. Jesus tells Nicodemus that the transition into a life with God is such a drastic change that it is like being born all over again: "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again". Every decision to trust Jesus is a new birth.

God longs to see each of the lives that come from these spiritual births thrive and grow. There are many images in the Old Testament picture God as a loving parent caring for His child with tenderness. The prophet Hosea describes God as a parent teaching a young child to walk, hovering over each step and holding the tiny hands of a toddler. Jeremiah says that even if a nursing mother could forget her child, God will never forget His own.

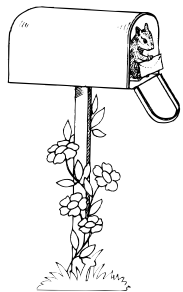
And yet, sometimes we feel as though God *has* forgotten us. And there are things that cause us to turn away from God as well. Grief can often be one of those things. In our loss, it's easy to blame God, to shut Him out of our lives. At times like these,

our spiritual lives can wither and dry up. When we make a choice to shut God out of our grief, God again knows the heartache of loss, the loss of a child to death or to rebellion.

How have you responded to God in your grief? Has this brought you closer to God, given you a deeper understanding and experience of His love? Or, as you mourn the loss of a child, are you a child that brings grief to God, your father? Are you shutting Him out, blaming Him and nursing your own wounds? God loves you and wants to comfort you. God is grieved by death, too. Jesus wept at the loss of his friend, Lazarus.

So take your feelings to God. Tell Him you're angry or hurt. Let Him wrap His arms around you as you grieve. Let Him grieve with you. We have a God who truly understands what you are going through. He wants you to know that in the midst of your sadness, He cares for you and wants to give you peace.

I still don't know why God lets bad things happen. But I do know that He loves you. He longs to be gracious to you. Open your heart to his comfort and love.



Thank You Notes

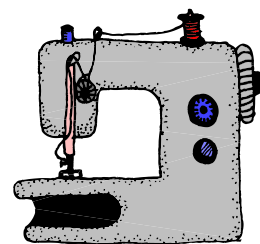
Dear Sissy:
The other night when my husband, Jules and I went to the hospital, we found a beautiful hand made blanket bundling up our daughter, Madison. It brought tears to my eyes to know that even people we do not know are loving and caring for our daughter. I am truly appreciative of your thoughts and prayers, and am very thankful for the beautiful blanket that was made for her. It meant even more

when I noticed that the blanket on the crib next to hers was a different color... you see, Madison had a lavender blanket, and I want you to know that it practically matches her room at home perfect, as we had her walls painted lavender, and the colors on her comforter were the same ones on the beautiful blanket.

I was also happy to find the cross in her crib. I have tied it around the teddy bear's neck that is in her crib, and I feel like Madison is now being watched over even more. I look forward to the day that I can share with her the story behind her blanket. The blanket and cross will be an item that I know both myself and she will treasure for her life. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. I truly hope you have a joyous holiday season, and thank you for making our difficult time a little easier.

Sincerely,
Lisa

Sewing Tip



To give a decorative finish to a little dress, try this method, just remember to rinse the starch out after stitching or your little dress will be too stiff to lie nicely. Stray starch heavily where you wish to embellish, set your machine on a very long straight stitch using a #90 or wing needle, remove your thread from the top and bobbin of the machine. Run a row or two of stitch, after doing the stitching, thread a handle sewing needle with floche or DMC of a contrasting color of thread, weaving the colored thread along the stitching holes left by the needle. This is a simple

technique and easily to do. It can be put down the front, along the hem line or on the edge of the sleeves. It will look like you spend hours getting each little stitch even and it will only take a few minutes to do.

"Yesterday is a canceled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the only cash you have, so invest it wisely!"



New Chapters

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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 up coming news letters.

Help Us Grow

If you know of anyone that we should add to our mailing or e-mail list, please forward their information to us.

If you are not currently part of a chapter . . . are their any churches or hospitals in your area that we could send information to about Threads of Love?

"A cup of cold water" ...a little thing! But life is made up of little things, and he who would rise to a higher usefulness is wise if he cherishes the living yet seeming trifles of daily living.

Floyd W, Tomkins

