

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume Six, Issue One



April, 2003

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 a 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

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Sissy Davis, Director

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BLANKETS FOR MOMS IN PRISON

God opens another door in the ministry of Threads of Love, again saying silently, 'I care about you, you are important because you are one of my children and I love you.' When this ministry started almost ten years ago, I had no idea where God would lead us. He has used Threads of Love in reaching out to so many different people in so many different ways. Through our love of sewing, we have touched the lives of so many families. It may have been in the loss an infant, a premature baby, showing young children the important of making Lovie dolls and then praying for those babies, or giving home bound adults something to fill their time and fill needs. I know there are so many other ways that we don't even know about.

Now Threads of Love is reaching out into women's prisons and touching their lives with our stitches of love. How can this be? In November of last year I was put in touch with a chaplain named Alex Cruz who works at a prison for women in Robstown, TX. He had the vision of how we could reach out to the young women. Alex told me that some of these young girls are pregnant at the time they are booked into the prison. In talking with Alex, he shared with me how so many of these girls come from a background where no one is never nice to them without strings attached to their action. After hearing his story I agreed that we would be more than delighted to help in showing the love of Jesus through our sewing. We decide to send blankets for him to have on hand so when these young mothers delivered their babies, he could give them a blanket and a prayer from us showing Jesus love.

Once again God met our needs , but in ways that showed me that this was in His will. Alex said he would need about twenty-five blankets a year. We agreed that the Baton Rouge chapter of Threads of Love would make these blankets at our January workshop. The December workshop was already filled with other projects for Christmas. Upon getting ready for that meeting, I began to pull out all the knitted and crocheted blankets that had been saved all year long to be used as Christmas gifts for the babies in the NICU unit. While gathering these blankets together in my sewing room, I came across a stack of seventeen blankets that I had put up because they were much to big for our preemie babies. A few days later I received a box containing caps and booties that were too big for our preemies also. I just gave thanks to the Lord for finding this wonderful forgotten treasure. In the meantime I called Carol Miller in Alabama, one of the other chapters, to write a prayer for these mothers and their babies. I must say that she has done an excellent job with the two prayers that are to go with this new project. Thanks Carol! **(continued on Page 2)**

IN THIS ISSUE

Blankets for Babies

New Chapters

Spotlight Chapter—McDonough TOL

Thank you Notes

Rescuing Hugs

(Blankets...continued from page one)

Now I had everything in place, only I was short eight blankets to complete my twenty-five that I had promised Alex. I gathered the blankets, caps, booties and printed prayers to take to the workshop so they could be packaged for mailing.

I could probably stop right here and you could finish the story. Once again God's timing was perfect as always. On the day of the workshop one of our ladies named Edith, walked in carrying a stack of blankets, and said to me, "I don't know what I was thinking, but these blankets are too big for our babies....can you use them anyway?" I just had to ask... "Edith how many blankets did you make?" "Eight," replied Edith. Praise God! Once again He took care of the little details. Please consider adding these blankets to your ministry as a way of sharing the love of Jesus for your chapter.

-Sissy Davis

****Note: Prayers for this project can be found on Page 5 of the newsletter. You can Xerox these prayers as-is, and insert them in your packets. ****

RESCUING HUG

This picture is from an article called "The Rescuing Hug." The article details the first week of life of a set of twins. Apparently, each were in their respective incubators, and one was not expected to live. A hospital nurse fought against the hospital rules, and placed the babies in one incubator. When they were placed together, the healthier of the two threw an arm over her sister in an endearing embrace. The smaller baby's heart rate stabilized and her temperature rose to normal. Let's not forget to embrace the ones we love!



Dear Threads of Love,

I have been wanting to send this note for quite some time but have found it very difficult to do so. You see on February 14 of this year I delivered monoamniotic twin girls at 18 wks. They had not survived living in the same space with each other. This was my first pregnancy. My husband and I were devastated to say the least. When I delivered my girls and got to see and hold them for the first time they were dressed in your beautiful gowns and wrapped in a beautiful blanket. These beautiful things that your group makes have become wonderful mementos of the two little angels that I only had in my arms for a short period of time. These have come to mean so much to my husband and family. I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude for what you have given to us and to the many others that have had to go through the same thing as we did. You are all truly God sent! In fact one of my nurses is a member of your board, Debbie Fowler. My husband and I would very much like to participate in the memorial service that your organization holds every December. Again, Thank you so much for what you do for the precious little babies and may God truly bless you all!!

- Michelle

Dear Threads of Love,

God surely blesses all of our babies and their families with your Godly handiwork.. The personal touches you make in each garment or lovey is so appreciated by all. The week before Christmas a little one was born with many anomalies, such a sad family - their dreams shattered of a "perfectly healthy normal baby."

Once we DRESSED the baby Mom and Dad WERE ABLE TO BOND - looking past the physical abnormalities and see the beauty in this little ones eyes and soul. Dad said with tears in his eyes, "She really is beautiful."

Thanks for your blessings to our "little ones." God bless all, Peggy.
(Chaplain at Santa Rosa Hospital-Texas)

www.threadsoflove.org

The website is always a work in progress. Check it out and you'll see that the website has gotten a 'faceliff!' Check it out!



From Katie Fontenot—Sulphur Threads of Love

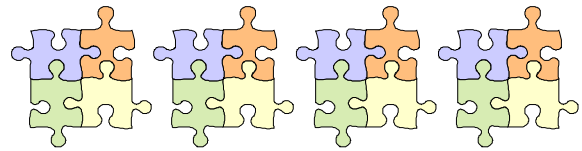
West Cal-Cam hospital asked what they could do to help for TOL, so I asked if any could volunteer with our monthly work shop. Well that never seemed to fit with the schedules of nurses, which I can imagine. So then our initial supplies started to run out, we were out of white bapiste, ribbon and in need of more lace. SO they brainstormed and held a raffle, without our knowing so they could surprise us. We were very surprised indeed, In Dec. they called to arrange a photo with us for the local paper and when we got there they informed us that they had raised \$805.00 for threads of love. Now we are praying for new volunteers to sew for all our angels. Isn't God good.?!?!?!?

I just wanted to acknowledge **Threads of Love** with a belated, but heartfelt **Thanks!** In 1998 I gave birth to a (1pound 8oz) little girl, who is now a wonderful and very active 4-year-old. At the time she was born, it was a trying time for me; I had already experienced two miscarriages prior to her birth, coupled with 6 years of infertility. Needless to say her birth was met with mixed emotions - Overjoyed that finally I had a baby, but very uneasy due to her premature condition. Seeing all of the tubes and wires attached to her little fragile, unclothed body was overwhelming. It all seemed unreal, and so did the baby. One day, on one of my countless visits to the NICU at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, I noticed a neatly placed packet that contained a small cap, a gown, a blanket, and a prayer; all with *Threads of Love* on them. I was so excited to finally get some clothes that fit my baby! She finally seemed like a real baby to me. Those items will remain keepsakes. I had every intention of trying to find an address to contact you, but as you get home with the baby and try to get settled in, before you know it a year has passed, then two, etc. But I heard mention of *Threads of Love* name concerning taking responsibility for the burial of an abandoned baby and that brought to mind the unselfish act of kindness you were showing, bur also that same kindness that you had shown to me and my baby. I am forever grateful and I want you to know that this ministry is truly a ministry of Love. Although you may not always be acknowledged, you are touching and blessing the lives of many. What better example of God's unconditional Love is there than the example that you have been over the past years. Know that **YOU ARE A BLESSING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AND THANK YOU ! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,
Greta

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

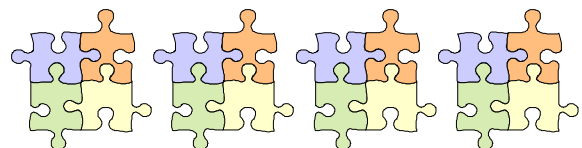
**First Annual Threads of Love
Convention in Baton Rouge, LA
September 25-27, 2003
Registration will be open
for chapters at the end of April.
Registration will be open to the
general public in mid-May. Check
the website at
www.threadsoflove.org !**



A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby.

Finally, he tore a sheet out of his magazine on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby, and said, Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then the world came together."





SPOTLIGHT CHAPTER



Sybil McCullers

McDonough Christian Church Threads of
Love

We have a member of our chapter, Kim Phillips, who is a nurse in the NICU, and she has told us that they use the lovie dolls to lift the babies' shoulders and prop their legs and arms in different positions. We make the Lovies in the smallest size socks as well as the toddler size, and the nurses love them for the tiny ones. I had never thought about it, but the lovies are a perfect "pillow" for weensie little babies. I will ask Kim what she thinks of the bean bag idea. She also has us making little sheets for the isolettes and they love them too. One yard of 42 inch (or whatever size near that the fabric comes) hemmed makes a perfect sheet. I was at the hospital today, and they were using several that we have made for them. Kim is such a blessing to us, she gives us feedback and updates us on what is needed. She was so cute when she gave us the measurements for the sheets. I asked her to measure the little mattresses, and at our next meeting she spoke to all of us and showed us the little blood pressure cuffs and little preemie diapers and teensy pacifiers and all sorts of things that they used for the babies. Then she boldly announced that the mattress measurements were 60 x 75, and we needed to add some to tuck under them. All of us looked at each other and couldn't believe what we heard. I asked if she was sure, and she looked at her notes and said that was correct. I said, "Kim, that would be almost as large as a twin bed." She looked really puzzled and then said really loudly "CENTIMETERS! We measure everything in centimeters.". We just laughed. She said "How on earth can we change that to inches?" I told her not to worry, that measuring tapes had both types of measurements, so we found that they were much smaller than we thought. We have so much fun, and are always saying "If it is this much fun, does it still count?" I won't be able to come to the convention, but I would love to. I am sure it will be wonderful. I hope many good things come from it.

Thanks for everything, Sybil

NEW CHAPTERS

Flathead County Threads of Love – Contact: Judi Boyd
Whitefish, MT E-mail: aspboyd@centurytel.net

Tiny Texan Stitches-Threads of Love-Contact: Jatón Parker
Wallis, TX E-mail: jwalliparks@aol.com

Hannah's Threads of Love – Contact: Kim Buterbaugh
Mocksville, NC E-mail: chefkimnc@aol.com

Loving Little Angels - Threads of Love – Contact: Carmen Ackerman
Windham, ME E-mail: symary2@aol.com

Lee Chapter-Threads of Love – Contact: Nina Lee
Bloomfield, KY E-mail: nlee@bardstown.com

Angels in our Hearts-Threads of Love-Contact: June Schlapia
Stillman Valley, IL No Email

His Tiny Angels – Contact: Camilla Rabon
Farmville, VA E-mail: car@kinex.net

South Austin Threads of Love-Contact: Debbie Schulze
Austin, TX E-mail: jcspunkin@aol.com

Precious Angels-Threads of Love-Contact: Kathleen Kaminski
Lackawanna, NY E-mail:
kaminski@peoplepc.com

Atco Presbyterian Church-Threads of Love-Contact: Linda Zahor-
oiko Shamong, NJ E-mail: l.zaharko@att.net

A Little Something-Threads of Love-Contact: Terry Stafford
Westminster, MD E-mail: alittlesomething2@yahoo.com

Dirt to Dolls by Dani-Threads of Love-Contact: Danielle Meri-
weather Burlington, KS E-mail: dirt_to_dolls@hotmail.com

Marjorie Marks-Threads of Love-Contact: Marjorie Marks
Walterboro, SC E-mail: margiemarks@yahoo.com

Three Stitches Threads of Love-Contact: Laverne Hawk
Enterprise, AL No Email

Sisters of Mercy Threads of Love-Contact: Emmy Bembry
Southfield, MI Email: ebembry@aol.com

Tiny Treasures - Threads of Love Baton Rouge-Contact: Rachel
Howell Baton Rouge, LA E-mail: rachel@intersurf.com

Tampa Threads of Love-Contact: Mary Kong
Tampa, FL E-mail: dkong@tampabay.rr.com

Northwest Austin Threads of Love-Contact: Marguerite Hirsch
Austin, TX E-mail: mvhirsch@earthlink.net

South Fulton Threads of Love-Contact: Jennifer Clotfelter
East Point, GA E-mail: epchurch@juno.com

A Prayer for A Mother in Prison

Heavenly Father, I believe that you are all powerful.

Father, by creating my child

You allowed me to be a Mother.

You must have seen something in me
that others could not.

I pray that You, in your infinite wisdom,
will help me be the kind of person
that my child can be proud of....

the kind of Mother my child deserves.

I pray that one day I

will earn the privilege of raising my child.

When that day comes,

I want to be kind, loving, patient and understanding.

I realize that I face a difficult road;

but I believe that if I trust in you and put my faith in you
that You will be my comfort and guide.

I ask that you might open your word to me as I read my Bible.

Help me to become stronger as I seek to live a godly life.

I ask these things in the name of

Jesus Christ, your Son.

Amen

By Carol R. Miller, a sinner saved by Jesus Christ

A gift from Threads of Love

PO Box 2006 * Baton Rouge, LA 70821

www.threadsoflove.org

A Prayer for My Child

Most Kind and Gracious Heavenly Father,

Thank you for blessing me with this child.

I am humbled by the gift of my child's life.

I pray that you will protect my child,
because I cannot be with him (her).

I do not understand your ways;

but I believe that You can do all things,

so I trust my child to you.

I pray that my child might know that I truly love him (her)

and that I want only what is best for him (her).

I will miss many important moments in my child's life.

I cannot change that;

but I pray for the presence of your Holy Spirit with him (her)
for health, happiness, guidance, and assurance.

I pray that when my child is old enough

he (she) will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,

for He alone is the source of eternal life.

I pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

By Carol R. Miller, a sinner saved by Jesus Christ

A gift from Threads of Love

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I am still confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
And wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:13-14



God Bless America

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