

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume Six, Issue Four



July 2004

As we go through life we pass people as ships in the night and then there are others that touch our lives in a special way. Peggy was one of those people that touched my life in a very special way. It is with sadness of heart to have to write this letter, but I want to remember Peggy like I remember seeing her for the last time.

Peggy Meletio, was received into the arms of her loving Lord on May 3, 2004. She attended Virginia Intermont

College and moved to Dallas where she was a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. Peggy married John E. Meletio in 1970. She generously gave her time to many Christian organizations, including Park Cities Baptist Church, Former chairman of Dallas Prayer Ministry, founder of the Dallas Threads of Love chapter, People To People Christian Counseling, many bible study groups, speaker and member of Christian Women's Club, Richardson Junior League and Pathways Book Club. Peggy was one of those people that you will always remember for she left a mark on all of her friends and family.

I first met Peggy at the Martha Pullen Sewing Market in Arlington, Texas last year. I liked her the instant that she came into our Threads of Love booth. After talking to her for a very few moments you could feel the love of Christ that radiated from her.

The ones of you that attend the Threads of Love convention will surely remember Peggy. She was a wonderful person with a beautiful smile. I take comfort in knowing that she must be sitting at the feet of our Lord with that beautiful smile and a glow on her face. I was so looking forward to seeing again this year at the Martha Pullen Sewing Market. It was sad for me to go back there again this year knowing that she would not be coming by the booth to say hello. She will always be there with me in spirit and in my heart each year.

We will not say goodbye to Peggy, but 'good-night' for one of these mornings, we too will be at the feet of Jesus with Peggy. I only knew Peggy for a short time, but I received such a blessing just knowing her for that short time.

IN LOVING MEMORY Peggy Meletio 1949-2004

Bits and Pieces

People
People important to you,
People unimportant to you
Pass through your lives
Touch it with love or
carelessness, and move on.

There are people who
leave you and you breathe
a sigh of relief and
wonder why you ever had
to come in contact with
them.

There are people who
leave you and you breathe
a sigh of remorse and
wonder why they had to
go away and leave such a
gaping hole.

Friends leave friends,
Children leave parents,
Acquaintances move on.
I believe in God's master
plan in lives.

He moves people in and
out of each other's lives,
each leaving their mark
on the other.

Pray to God to accept the
bits and pieces in humility
and wonder

And never question
And never, ever regret
Bits and Pieces.

-KKP/CKM

She was so excited about joining Threads of Love and sharing her talents of love with all the little ones and their families. I remember telling her that when she joined in our efforts that she needed to hang onto her hat, for she was in for the ride of her life. Several weeks after she joined with us, she called and said that she needed to buy herself a new hat...that it had been such a ride that she had lost her hat! Another time she called and defined her chapter as my 'preemie chapter.' The next time she called, I asked her if she was still in the NIC unit. Her remark to me was that she would always be in Jesus's NIC unit, because she would always need Him. I choose to remember Peggy that way—in her joy and love that she showed to everyone in her company.

A week before Peggy died, she was on my mind a lot. I just dismissed it, assuming that it was because I would be seeing her the next week. Now I know that it was God nudging me to stop my busy work and pray for Peggy. See, even in her death she taught me something. From now on when someone comes to mind, I will stop and pray for that person.

I encourage you to do the same. When God gives you that nudge and puts someone's name on your heart, stop and pray for that person. We may never know what our prayers were for. We can be confident that the Lord hears our prayer. It's important to stop, listen and not do as I did on that day, and continue with 'busy work' for the Lord. I missed an opportunity to pray for a sister in Christ and didn't listen to that voice. Could I have made a difference? I don't know and that's not important. What is important is to be obedient to the Lord. Learn from my mistake.

Let's remember to pray for her husband John and her two children, Debra and David.

Thanks for hearing me out, it helps!

Sissy Davis, Director

*Thanks be to God for Nancy Young, who has agreed to take over Peggy's chapter. The new chapter is aptly named "Peggy's Threads of Love". Nancy can be reached at djyi@swbell.net

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

Dear Threads of Love,

I would just like to thank each and everyone involved with the "Threads of Love" organization.

My baby was born two months premature...five years ago. As a mother in my mid twenties at the time, I had already had one miscarriage and was now diagnosed with toxemia and was not sure what was going to happen to my baby.

I was transferred from a small rural hospital to Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge where I was told I would have to deliver very soon or chance losing my baby AND my life as well. My husband and I prayed more than I even thought possible. And with God by our sides, I gave birth to a three pound baby girl. She remained in the NICU for five weeks and left the hospital weighing in at five pounds!!

I can't say enough good about the staff at the hospital, but it was the tiny care package that I received from your organization that truly touched my heart! I still have the items that you all made with lots of love and care and will keep them forever. They are just a small reminder that no matter how she can put me to test at times, that she is the most wonderful thing that God has ever given me!

I think that all of you are true angels sent straight from heaven. My cousin is now going through the same thing in the state of Virginia. I hope that she has as caring supporters as I had.

Thanks for all you do,
Christy

Dear Linda,

Thank you so much for the uplifting email concerning "Our Little Angel". His was... is... so precious and sweet! I know his life, though the "time" of it wasn't very long... the strength he showed will go on forever. Please thank the group, once again, for his Gown Set. I couldn't stand the thought of sending him away, wrapped in a just a blanket, only then to be put in a bag. The funeral home was so great to us at that moment. They allowed me to finish bathing him, and after that, the nurse helped me dress him in the outfit you all so loving gave. We have pictures of him in it. He was beautiful!!!

This was one of the very 1st instances, in Braelin's death, that the Lord proved Himself to me...in meeting even the "small" desires I had in my heart. When I had our firstborn, Benjamin ~ who is 3, I ALWAYS dressed him in boy gowns ~ almost exact to what you all sent. I couldn't wait to dress Braelin in one ~ not believing it to be at a time like the one we were faced with ~ but even in that time, the Lord saw a small desire of my heart...and met it! I'm thankful unto Him for you all. It's amazing to see where the Lord will lead a person, after such a devastating trial...but He will.....if we'll just trust Him, and allow Him to work through us.

Please continue to remember our family, as I know the Lord is going to see us through.

Much Love and prayers to you ~

Love In Christ,

Benny, Bren, Benjamin

& Our "Angel Winged" Baby, Braelin

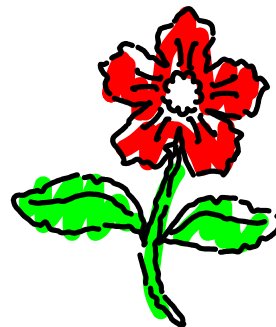
Dear Debbie:

On April 30th I watched as you tenderly cared for my daughter's tiny dead baby. You handled her with such gentleness as though, at that time, there was nothing in the world more important to you. What a blessing it was to have you there at that very sad time in our lives.

Many times, since that day, you have popped into my mind. Whenever that happens I offer up a prayer that you will be sustained in this much needed ministry you provide to the families of these dear babies. What a comfort to have you treat these precious ones with such respect.

May God continually bless you and give you the peace that comes from knowing you are in His will.

Sandra



WIT AND WISDOM

- "Don't let your worries get the best of you, remember, Moses started out as a basket case."
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited - until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTERS!

Ascension Threads of Love – Lafayette, LA
Contact: Christine Brosky
Email: bbrodu319@cs.com

Southside Baptist Church – Threads of Love - Savannah, GA
Contact: Liz Claxton
Email: inlclaxton@aol.com

Christ the King Lutheran Church – Threads of Love
Bellevue, NE
Contact: Jean Grob (No Email)

North Austin – Threads of Love – Austin, TX
Contact: Georgia Tabor
Email: gtabor8@aol.com

Threads of Love – Irmo, SC
Contact: Sally Gripsy (No Email)

Honoring Susan Lake Norman – Threads of Love
Contact: Lisa Marion—Email: ourphalt@charter.net
Sherrills Ford, NC

Charlotte NC area – Threads of Love
Contact: Susan Myers—Email: arlee453@yahoo.com
Concord, NC

Anna Catherine's Threads of Love
Contact: Sandra Smith—Email: CherokeeDaystar@aol.com

Currey Creek Baptist –
Jonathan Chapter of Threads of Love
Boerne, TX.
Polly Bond—Email: bpbond@gvvc.com

Dear Threads of Love,

What a wonderful ministry! I lost my daughter, Sophie, Feb. 5, - the day she was born. Although there is not a Threads of Love ministry at our local hospital, someone had made and donated a dress that we were able to use. It was so helpful to us knowing that other people, people we didn't even know, were concerned about the pain we were going through. I hope to spend more time looking through your web site and try some of the patterns to donate to our hospital. I realize how important this ministry is and hope to do my part. Thank you for starting such a program.

Dear Heart of Alabama -
Threads of Love

"I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My name is Jamie and as of last Monday, I am a new mother. My baby, McKenzie Grace, was born 15 weeks premature. She weighed 1 pound and 7.5 ounces when she was born, and has been in RNICU at UAB since Monday April 5th. The NICU has become my home away from home.

You will never know what it has meant to my husband and me to walk in that room and find all the gifts that were made for McKenzie. First the little Easter Dress (sleepy vest), then the Lovie Doll, the quilt and the little hat. What a ministry you have. I can't tell you what it means, don't think I could even begin to put into words what it means to have these gifts you made for McKenzie.

I am enclosing a couple of pictures of her in her Easter Dress and then with her goodies all around her. As your group is working on all these gifts, look at this picture from time to time and know what a blessing you have been in the life of this family.

If you have ever questioned your ministry, know that this is a welcomed part of the life of any mother with a wee one in a NICU. Never even meeting you, you have touched our lives already."

Dear Threads of Love,

What a blessing the beautiful little clothes were this past week. My daughter's little Anna Catherine was only at 20 weeks gestation when she was dressed in a sweet little dress with matching bonnet and blanket. Her burial will be Monday, May 3.

Loved ones often wonder what purpose was served in such a short life, but perhaps I know the answer in this case. I had heard of your organization, but had never benefited from it personally. I was deeply touched with such Christ-like love and feel led to start a chapter for north Louisiana. It could be God's plan to use Anna Catherine to reach out to many more grieving families in this part of the state.

Thank you cannot begin to express our gratitude. The reward for all the wonderful people who are involved in this organization will be from the Everlasting God.

Blessings to Threads of Love, Sandra

*"Make yourselves
holy, for
tomorrow the
Lord will
do great
things
among you"
Joshua 3:5*

*Threads of Love,
I wanted to sincerely thank you for the gown and blanket you provided to Our Lady of the Lake for my son. He died there on October 31, 2003 and was dressed in your beautiful clothing and blessed. It was a great comfort to me and will always serve as a remembrance of him.
Sincerely, Beth*

*Dear Threads of Love,
I can't begin to express how wonderful I think your organization is. I lost my baby, Shelby, last week. She was buried with your love surrounding her. Thank God for people like you. I am truly touched by your kindness.
Love, Alicia*

Hello, my name is Chantelle. I had a premature daughter seventeen months ago and I saw your documentary on the news. I think what you are doing is wonderful. It really is a hard and trying time when your child is struggling for their life right before your eyes and you can do nothing to help except to be there for them. My daughter (Ormyah) was born at 23 weeks, and weighed one pound and seven ounces and was twelve inches long. Now she is eighteen pounds! She is doing real well and it's people like your organization that make the situation a little easier! I will be sending a donation of threads I hope you will put to some use.
God Bless You All,
Chantelle

*Dear Threads of Love,
A dear neighborhood friend was carrying a baby who had been diagnosed with Chromosome 18. Although she never lost hope that her baby girl would be born alive, I was preparing for the poor survival rate the doctors gave her. I found your website online after doing a search for Premature Baby Internment Gown Patterns. On February 4, Daisy Mary was stillborn. I took over the set after my friend got home from the hospital. I never used the words 'burial' or 'internment.' Instead, I told her I had sewn this hoping she could have used it as a baptismal gown for Daisy Mary. She told me their Priest had blessed the gown and that is what Daisy Mary was buried in. Enclosed is a donation for your wonderful organization.
Thank you again,
Carolea*

Chapter Testimonies

From Liz Page (SARAH Chapter)

I just had such a moving experience. A girl called and asked if she could buy a burial gown. I asked if she had not gotten one at the hospital. We just started serving University Hospital since Oak Island TOL stopped. Yes, she had gotten one but she wanted to keep it as it was so beautiful! They were a precious couple and so overwhelmed by TOL. They had not heard of it before and had never had a need. She said, "Please tell your ladies - don't ever stop!!!"

From Sharon Hunwick, one of our newest chapters.....

Well we had our very first formal meeting of our TOL group at the church today. Very fast learners we did the Lovie Dolls and now for the great news I now have my quota for June so I can dedicate more time to making the other things. When you said hold on to my hat I never imagined it could be this fun. I am loving every minute of it. The more I do the more I want to do if that makes sense to you. We have just the right size-group of 8 so I can do a one on one at my house. I have never taught a class of any kind before and I brought everything but the kitchen sink with me and still I found I left things home that I could have used. Doing a one on one at my house I have a spare sewing machine and that will help out immensely. I won't have to bring my whole sewing closet or stash drawers

Well just thought you would like to find out how our very first get together went. I am so excited can you tell does it show? Since it took so long for the mail to get out here to Reno, I think I am going to be ordering another 2 pkgs. of labels just to have on hand. I like to keep my stash up some just in case we get going faster and faster and can't stop sewing—HA! like I would anyway!

Chapter News - IMPORTANT!

From Sharon Hunwick, South Reno United Methodist - Loving Hands - Threads of Love

I can't thank you enough for posting the directions again on the sleep positioning pillows because I used to use flannel. Please, please re-send a warning to all chapters that use flannel for this project that it's not such a good material for this purpose. If they line it with something else this is fine but I read that the flannel wasn't strong enough to hold the pellets so I called my hospital and in fact they did indeed have a blow out. I will tonight redeliver a new batch made out of fleece. I like the way they come out much better than the flannel they are softer.

God Bless our Nurses!

We all know how rewarding it can be to sew for or donate to Threads of Love. Some of us have been beneficiaries of Threads of Love's generosity. The real heroes, though, are our L&D nurses who take the time to make memories and tenderly dress these sweet babies who die, or the NICU nurses who work with these babies no bigger than the size of your palm.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO!



To My Nurse,
I hardly remember your face,
I had to ask about your name
But I will always remember your heart.

That's why I want to take a brief moment to tell you what a blessing you are. The compassion you showed my daughter and son-in-law, and our little precious, Jeffery, was above and beyond anything we had hoped for. You helped our family to make the transition from our dreams to our reality, as painless as this reality could possibly be. The loving care that you gave our grandson was that of an angel, With every tender touch and every soft word spoken, You carried us through our grandson's painful death. May God save a place in heaven for you, where you can continue to care for God's flowers that never bloom. God bless you today and always, Jeffrey's grandmother

Dear Threads of Love,
"I am a 3 - 11 NICU nurse at Medical Center East in Birmingham, AL and I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful gifts you provide for the babies! A lot of these parents are hurting because things didn't turn out like they dreamed. Some of them can't even hold their babies yet. I wish you could see how they look when they pick something out for their baby. When they are able to dress their infant for the first time or cover them with one of your sweet blankets it is truly a memorable moment. Some moms are only able to give their baby something to cuddle, but I see that your gift will be treasured forever. What a wonderful ministry you have and I pray God's special blessings on each of you. If you ever wonder if what you do really matters, I can tell you from many, many experiences with our parents that it does! Thank you again for such a wonderful act of love!"
Sincerely,
Melanie NICU - Medical Center East

"I'm 13 and have leukaemia. It's not fun having leukaemia. People like my nurses make my life easier even if they have to do things to me I don't like. They hold my hand and wipe my face when I cry which I hadn't done for a long time and worried somebody would think I was a sissy. Nurses and angels mean something good to kids like me." **Devy, Canada**

"I am fond of nurses. They treated me well. They help people." **Nine year old schoolgirl, Botswana.**

".. technological improvements do not do away with the importance of having that link with an individual, that response from another human being, which is what nursing perhaps defines most clearly."

Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal of England

"Nurses have been pivotal to my own recovery and health. I know this is also true for millions around the world who are restored to health and comforted in illness by the caring, compassion and expertise of nurses."

'Superman' Christopher Reeve, Actor and Director

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 First Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 2006
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 Website: www.threadslove.org
 Sissy Davis, Director
 sissy@threadslove.org
 Courtney McPherson, Assistant Director
 courtney@threadslove.org*

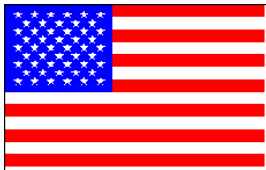
- 1 Corinthians 13:13
**There are three things that
 remain: faith, hope and love;
 and the greatest of these is
 love.**

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.

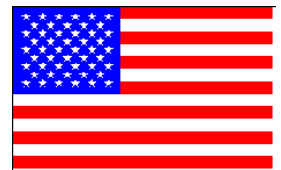
Mission Statement

IN THIS ISSUE
Thank you notes galore!
In loving memory of Peggy Meletio
New Chapters
A Tribute to Nurses

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 A Ministry of First Presbyterian
 Church of Baton Rouge
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God Bless America



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