

Sew Precious In His Sight

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October 2005

FROM SISSY DAVIS, Director of Threads of Love.....

As all of you know, Katrina and Rita blew into our area and left quite a mess across the bottom part of Louisiana. I would have to say they were very bad girls for a lot of different reasons. One reason is that that we have had to reschedule our convention that was planned for the 29th of September; hopefully I can give you all a new date soon. You cannot even make hotel reservations right now, since so many area hotels are still housing evacuees. When we do have our convention we will have a lot to celebrate and give Him praise for His faithfulness to Threads of Love.

It's hard to know where to start in telling all that has happened and how all of you and your friends have reached out to the little ones and their families who were displaced by the hurricanes. I guess the best place is to start with Courtney (our Assistant Director), Debbie (our nurse on the Board of Directors), and myself. Of all of us I made out the best. Bob and I had four trees blown over and lost about a three square feet of shingles off the roof, so all and all I had very little damage. However Courtney and Debbie didn't make out as well. Courtney's house was almost completely destroyed to a point that she and her family cannot live in it. Debbie had a tree come down on part of her house and the electrical box was pulled off the side of the house when the tree fell, so she is also out of her house for now. But when you look at the damaged left behind in other areas, the three of us all in great shape compared to others who lost everything including their house.

Matthews 25:40 says: *And the King will answer and say to them. "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."* With the support of those who love the Lord, Threads of Love was able to do exactly that.

The outpouring of love that all of you have shown in helping Threads of Love reach out to those families with babies who where displaced or lost everything is proof in the pudding that you love the Lord and what you are doing. Through donations, Threads of Love has been able to purchase eighty-six pack and play cribs, along with lots of baby items to help met the needs of these babies. I have spent over \$5,000 and over \$5,000 have been donated. I shared with a friend last week that I had a problem....the money is coming in faster that I can spend it; to me that shows that what we are doing is in the Lords will. You also know that you can't out-give God. I was trying to keep track of the items that were being donated. That didn't last very long! If any of you have stock in Wal-Mart or Babies-R-Us I am doing a good job of helping them grow! I cleaned out the clearance rack at four of the Wal-Marts in my area. The

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Sissy's Letter, continued

UPS and Fed-Ex drivers are now on a first name basis with me, due to all the boxes of donated clothing that the different chapters have been donating. All together the chapters have donated over 8000 items for me to give out here in the Baton Rouge and southern Louisiana area. Right now I have five boxes in my sewing room and eight boxes in the garage ready to go in my car for delivery to the hospital. On a normal day in the NIC unit at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, they would have 70 to 80 babies and at one time during the peak of displacement the NICU had 125 babies at one time. Talk about wall to wall with babies... it was like "no room at the inn!"

Some of the cribs were donated to the Red Cross center where babies were found sleeping in laundry baskets. Other cribs were given to two different churches who are housing moms with newborns and they too were given the cribs and clothing. With help at the hospital, when each mother who had lost everything was released, she was given a pack and play crib, along with a bag of baby items. The donations of cribs and other items will be going on for a long while!

I am working with Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX to help tend to the needs of evacuee babies there. I will be placing an order on Monday for them to pick up 8 pack and play cribs and sheets for them to distribute in Houston. I have also been given a name of a church in Lake Charles, La. that would be willing to be our contact there, so we can reach out to those babies in Southwest Louisiana as well. As of now I have not been able to put a phone call in there because of so many downed power and telephone lines.

How do I say thank you to all of you that has made this possible? Without your help none of this would have been possible. It's a great example of what a little thread and lots of love can and has done. So from the bottom of my heart thanks and love to each one of you. God bless each one of you and keep up the great work that you are doing in His name.

Your sister in Christ, Sissy

**Don't forget that
the Threads of Love
convention has been
postponed until
the Spring
of 2006.
More details
to follow!**

From Courtney-

Thank you so much for all of your continued prayers and support during the last six weeks. David and I had 8 trees on our house in Mandeville, just across Lake Ponchartrain from New Orleans. Thankfully we had evacuated to Baton Rouge to stay at my parents, packing for a 2 or 3 day weekend. The evacuation ended up lasting four weeks to the day! Add to that the uncertainty over both David's job in New Orleans and my job in Mandeville, trying to entertain our anxious 4-year old, Mary Evelyn, and trying to 'grow' our new baby that is due in March of 2006, and you can imagine that our stress levels were quickly rising. What a difference six weeks makes! By the grace of God, we were both able to keep our jobs, and we were able to find a rental townhome where we can live for the next year while we wait for the baby to be born, and our house to be re-built. During those hard six weeks, I continually received emails from our wonderful Threads of Love family, letting me know that you were praying for my family and me. You'll never know how much that meant. When I saw the impact that the 'Threads ladies' were having on all the babies affected by Hurricane Katrina, I felt, as always, so proud to be a part of this ministry. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus during this time. From the bottom of our hearts, The McPhersons

WELCOME! To our new Chapters



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September 21, 2005

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of 28 Pack and Plays, various baby supplies, handmade baby clothes and blankets, and preemie items to Woman's Hospital in support of relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Your donation will be used to assist our patients and their families who have been impacted by this terrible disaster. A form for your tax records is enclosed.

The events of the last few weeks have left us stunned and shocked. A bright spot has been at Woman's Hospital, where the babies born during the greatest natural disaster our nation has ever seen have given us hope. During the week following the storm, Woman's Hospital admitted a total of 243 infants and 265 mothers. While the initial wave of patients has slowed, we anticipate a continuous stream over the next weeks and months.

Thank you for directly supporting the work of Woman's Hospital in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Your generosity in this time of extreme need is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Teri G. Fontenot
President/CEO

Last July, I delivered my twin girls preterm at St Joseph's Tampa. We didn't know what was in store for them. We received hats and blankets for our girls, which we will always cherish. We were not prepared for their early arrival and the month I spent in the hospital prior to delivery. We had no preemie clothes and these wonderful gifts made the NICU a less sterile environment.

They did wonderfully and came home after only 3 weeks, much to everyone's surprise. They're doing great now and we still use the blankets we received in the hospital.

Thank you for reaching out with prayers and love it really touched me.
Sincerely, Melissa

"Our daughter Madeleine was born 1 month early and had to remain in the NICU for one week. During this time, it was such a welcome gesture of sincerity and love with the gifts of the quilt and positioning aide. During this time it was reassuring to know there are gentle, caring souls having families such as us in their hearts, thoughts and minds.

*Thank you Threads of Love
Gene and Melissa
San Antonio, Texas"*



Check out this picture from the Associated Press on www.cnn.com

Notice the Threads of Love lovie next to the new NICU evacuee baby that was transferred to Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge!!

I met a Susan Benjman last spring at a ladies Christian fellowship meeting where I was the guest speaker. When Katrina blew into town she remembered about the babies and called to see if she could be of help with meeting the needs of our babies in making blankets. As all of you know, there is always a need for more blankets. She then asked if it would be OK if she made the blankets out of poplar fleece so that the center that her mentally handicapped daughter attends could tie the ends of the blankets together. What a neat idea, it just goes to show you that God can use anyone that loves Him and wants to help. I don't know how many of you have ever known one of these precious children, they have such a sweet spirit about them that you can't help but love them. I am always amazed at the doors that God has opened in using Threads of Love, He sees the big picture and we all wear blinders. What a magnificent God we serve.



Dear Sissy, Here are the pictures I promised you. These are the clients at Metro Enterprise, an adult day center for the mentally challenged. They tied the premature baby blankets for me and I will sew the labels you sent me and get them to you. My daughter, Nancy, is in the picture with the flowered top and she is looking at the camera and holding a magazine. She is not able to tie but enjoyed watching. Susan

Hello,

My name is Kristie and I am a Registered Nurse from Waco, TX. I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the adorable baby clothes that you all have donated to our unit. We are so grateful for the time you spend, and love that show to each of our infants through your gift of sewing. I know that the Lord is honored through this ministry and again, I thank you.

~Kristie

What an amazing gift you give! We were in San Antonio on vacation when my water broke 8 weeks early. Baby Jack came into the world and has been making great strides. What a wonderful surprise to see the lovely cap and blanket and booties that you hand-made. As a displaced family, away from home, we are very grateful for the gifts you give and for the spirit of love with which they are given.

Thank you.

thank you*thank you*thank you

Hello Sissy,

I am a member of 1st Pres Baton Rouge and a new mother to premature twin girls - Alison Grace and Kaitlin Faith. First I would like to thank you and all the Threads of Love members for your ministry. It meant so much to me to see the lovey dolls in their beds with them in the NICU at Woman's Hospital. And the fact that it was a direct tie to my home church made it just that much more special.

Second, I have quite a few preemie size outfits that my girls have either out grown or will out grow in the next couple of weeks (Praise God!). I would love for these tiny cloths to go someone who needs them. Could Threads of Love help me find a good home for them? I also have several diaper bags (Woman's hospital gave me 3 of them) and some infant formula that is not the right type for my girls to use. I can arrange for any of these items to be dropped off at the church if you think there is a need for them.

Thank you again for your ministry.

Julie

Today in a Power for Living hand-out at church, I read an article about your organization ~ thankyouthankyouthankyou ~ on behalf of so many women who have had to bear such a loss ~ how I wish there had been something like this when I lost my firstborn ~ he died in utero, and I carried him a month beyond that day. Then, when he was born, everyone just wanted to ignore it, thinking then the pain would go away and disappear. Of course, it didn't. And while I never wavered in my faith, nor questioned God, there still were the feelings of loss, never even being allowed to see or hold this baby boy who had been a part of me for seven months.

While I have two beautiful, grown daughters now, I still miss this baby born many years ago~it took many years to leave my mourning and grief aside. I look forward to the day in Heaven when God introduces him to me!

I will keep you in my prayers, for your love and compassion to these grieving mothers and families.

Linda

Dear Ann and Threads of Love,

Thank you for your nice note back to us. I don't know if many of your volunteers have been inside the NICU at Saddleback Hospital. I want to describe it to you so they get a picture of what your blankets mean to the babies and their parents.

Most moms don't expect to have our babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. When I saw the NICU chapter in my pregnancy book, I skipped over it, thinking I wouldn't have a premature baby or a sick baby. So when this happens, it is a real shock to the parents who don't expect it at all. Our twins were delivered by emergency c-section during a routine doctor's appointment at 32 weeks. Twin B had a problem with his umbilical cord not functioning properly. Not only was I put to sleep for their birth, I didn't even see them in the NICU until 10 hours later when I was awake enough to go by wheelchair!

When I got there, I was scared to see rows of babies in incubators with so many monitors, machines, lines, and tubes. Many are under bright lights and have cloth sunglasses taped over their eyes with Velcro. Many of them can't be held because they have IV lines thru their belly buttons, which is a delicate thing. The only things in there are incubators, open air cribs, machines, and rocking chairs. There are no soft remnants from home.

On the third day, my twin boys were put in a special room with purple lights for their jaundice. Over their incubators, the nurses had placed your blue and green blankets. Since I had not had a baby shower yet, these were the first gifts Todd and Matthew received! The doctor had speculated they were identical, so we had planned that Baby A would be blue and Baby B would be green to tell them apart in clothing. I was so surprised that that's how the nurses put the blankets. Todd got the blue blanket and Matthew got the green one!

After a week, they were down-graded and moved across the hall to the lesser NICU known as "The Growing Room". It is to the right of the elevators when you get off. It is just for well babies to grow and mature until they are ready to go home, which is when they are able to bottle feed all day long instead of the nasal feeding tube. For my babies, that took 24 and 26 days.

Now we are all home and the boys have doubled their weight in the first 8 weeks! Todd who was 5 lbs. at birth, is now 10 lbs. Matthew who was 4 lbs. at birth, is now 8 lbs. They are doing very well. They are going to be baptized at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church here in Costa Mesa on August 21 and we are going to use your blankets to hold them at the altar.

I encourage you to put a little business card or note on the NICU bulletin board on the wall near the nurse's station with the Threads of Love information and address. I think you may hear from more appreciative parents.

Sincerely, Kirsty & David

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ADDRESS LABEL GOES HERE

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.

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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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Thank you Notes

Our Mission

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Threads of Love on CNN