

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume 13



Issue 1

But God !



Can you believe another year has passed again? I also can't believe that Threads of Love is starting its eighteenth year; my how time flies when you are having fun and watching

the hand of God move. Only God could have accomplished and grown Threads of Love into a nationwide sewing ministry reaching so many families and bring comfort to them at a difficult time in their lives. With the help of all the chapters together we have given out one million, two hundred sixty one thousand, seven hundred seventy items to families since September 1997. I don't have any idea how many was donated between September of 1993 and September 1997. I wasn't counting. I thought I would only be sewing for one of the local hospitals. That was true until we got our first publicity in the local newspaper and the story was picked up by the associated press in September 1994.

In January of 1996 CNN did a story on Threads of Love with Larry Woods on "Across America".

The ministry really began to spread when an article appeared in Family Circle Family magazine in July of 1997. As a result of the article, Threads of Love signed on its first Threads of Love chapter in October with a group of ladies headed up by Carolyn Caswell, later taken off by Faye Chasteen of Alpharetta, Ga. There is also Edith Vaughn Hurst, TX in October 1998; Therese Poisson Jamestown, RI in November 1998 Linda Maraldo Houston, TX; in April 1999; Sarah Webb Ville Platte, LA in May 1999; Liz Page Antonia, TX in June 1999; Marge Hoffmann Wake Forest, N.C in October 1999; Ann Katapski Trabuco Canyon, CA. in May 2000; Jackie Mc Pheeters Placentia, Ca. in July 2000; Carol Kaiser Mena, AR. In November 2000. That gives us ten chapters that have been faithful for the past ten years and we will be adding ten more chapters to that list for 2011. In

February Arleen Balzen of Hondo, TX will celebrate her ten years as a Threads of Love chapter.

Shortly after this article, Readers Digest, wrote an article followed by Butterick Magazine, then Sew Beautiful Magazine. But only God could have done all of this because this ministry never went out looking for publicity.

In the Spring of 1998 our first issue of "Sew Precious In His Sight" was released. In April of 1999 Threads of Love web site was created and went on line for the first time. The first Threads of Love handbook was published in May of 2002. September of 2003 Threads of Love held its first conference in Baton Rouge, La. Since then we have had three others and are working on our fifth conference which will be held in April of 2012.

It takes dedicated ladies like you who love the Lord and want to be a servant unto Him, to make all of this happen. I did the easy part by raising my hand and letting Him take charge. For the past seventeen years He has met all of our needs. I can truly say that we have never been without funds to buy our supplies to make our beautiful little garments to donate to the hospitals. Sometimes I wonder why He chose me to be the one to start this ministry, only God could have done all of this because it's not what Sissy has done. I have only been the vessel by which all of this has been accomplished.

All the glory must be given to our God for only He could have accomplished all of this, there is no way one person could have done this on their own.

I know some of you say that you never get thank you notes or even donation, let's not get discouraged by this. Each one of you stepped out on faith when you began your Threads of Love chapter. Some of you are a small group, some or larger, it takes all of you to make this happen. Remember Threads of Love is like a string of beautiful pearls, each one a different size, some small others larger;

When put together they make a beautiful necklace. All I can say to each one of you keep up the great work that each one of you are doing, after all you are laying up treasures in heaven. Where rust or moth cannot destroy your work done in His name.

All the glory must be given to our God for only He could have accomplished all of this, there is no way I could have done this on my own.

Many times within this ministry we often do not see the immediate results it brings to a mother or a family who have lost a precious child when they are provided one of the sewed items we provide. It is during these times that we can begin to feel that our work is in vain. It is only natural for us to feel the desire to be recognized for our efforts. Yet, we must remember the initial reason why we continue to commit ourselves to working within this ministry. It is not for our glory, but for the Lord's glory. Never forget in those moments when you are sewing that with each pulling of the thread or needle, you are being a tool that the Lord is using to shed hope and light in a darkened hour. Luke 4 is the spoken definition of Jesus concerning his mission's work. In like manner, we too should never forget that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, anointing us, and leading us to proclaim release to the captives. Those who have lost a child due to an untimely death face depression, fear, anxiety, and all the like. So remember, in continuing to commit yourself to sewing these precious items, you are helping these families move beyond the emotions that can hold them captive. Likewise, you are pointing individuals and families to Jesus that they might experience the love that we know to be true in Him. God bless you for all that you continue to do and for the work that is touching hearts for today and for eternity.

Happy Year! Sissy

Encouraging Reminder:

Luke 4:17-18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind. To set free those who are down trodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

Relying on God has to start all over everyday, as

if nothing as yet done. C S Lewis

Thank you notes from our mail box:

My daughter Rylee was in the NICU at Women's Hospital in December of 2008. She was born 6 weeks premature and had surgery about 12 hours after her birth. Your organization brought a hand made doll, a Christmas hospital gown, a stocking, and hand letters to us. Though I never said anything to anyone from your charity, this touched me more than you will ever know. To know that I couldn't be in the NICU with her 24 hours a day, it felt good to know someone else cared about her just as much as I did. She was a twin and her brother was home with me, so I was torn as to where to be. I felt a great deal of love from the people in your organization and for that; I want to say THANK YOU.

Dear Threads of Love,

My daughter was going through her dresser and came across a blanket. I can't believe it has been three years since you all first blessed my heart. She was in the NICU at Brookwood Medical Center after complications during birth. But because of God's grace, I have a very healthy 3 year old. But after all this time, I still remember the way I felt when I walked into that room and saw my small girl covered with the sweetest blanket. I didn't give it to her, but a kind heart did. I never told you all thank you, because I got busy with "life" and a newborn. So I thought I would take the time now to say thanks for being a blessing to me that day. May God bless each one of you and each family that you reach out to.

In Him,
Stacy

Dear Sissy;

I want to thank you for the items we received. I had identical twin girls at 24 weeks. My little angels were miracles to begin with. I had a tubal ligation with the birth of my son in 2008 and had no intention of ever getting pregnant again. This pregnancy was a gift from God, however, we faced problems. At 19 weeks, we found out that they were identical girls. At 21 weeks, we found out that they had twin transfusion syndrome. One baby was sharing its blood with the other one. We had to make a trip to Houston, TX from Walker, LA to see if I was a viable candidate for a laser surgery to stop the twin transfusion syndrome. While we were in TX, the doctors



found a hole in my uterus. It could tear and rip through some major vessels and cause me to bleed internally and die within minutes. The best way to save me would be to terminate the pregnancy. My husband and I took this very hard. We decided to wait to do the procedure back home so we could be with our family. That was on a Wednesday. My OB doctor could not see me till the next Tuesday, which scared me. I did not want to be home and have the hole rip especially with two other children there. I contacted my high risk doctor on Friday and he agreed with me that I should be admitted to the hospital for observation. I stayed in the hospital, pretty much till the babies were born. Katy Jane and Morgan Ann were born on September 4th, 2010. Katy Jane was 1 lb. 5.3 ounces and 12 inches long and Morgan Ann was 1 lb. 3 ounces and 12 inches long. Unfortunately, Morgan Ann was called to be with our Heavenly Father on September 5th, 2010. We were given a package of clothing and blankets and an internment gown made by your organization. I am so appreciative; however I did not use the internment gown. The nurses at the hospital had put it on Morgan Ann and it had gotten soiled, so I decided to make one for her myself, based on the pattern you have online. I just wanted to share my story and tell you thank you so much.

In God's Love,
Deena, Katy Jane, Morgan Ann

Dear Threads of Love,

Thank you so much for the wonderful hats for our pediatric patients. We truly appreciate people like you who are willing and able to use their gifts and talents to bless others!

Thank you!

Torri Manager of Volunteer Service.

Sew Tip

Want to put those spools of thread laying around in your sewing box? Do have a pair of slacks hanging in you closet that you are not wearing because you can't find the right color of blouse to go with



that you are not wearing because you don't have the right color of blouse to wear with them. Here's a tip match your slacks to one of those spools of thread, throw it into your handbag and the next time you go shopping use that spool of thread to match the needed color of that new blouse that you need.



Note from Liz Page:

San Antonio's SARAH (Sewing and Reaching A Heart) Chapter led by Liz Page celebrated eleven years as a Threads of Love chapter by dedicating "Sarah's Workshop", a 5004 square foot modular building, to God's glory on September 12, 2010.

All coming to or through San Antonio are invited to stop by for a visit. We would love to show you what God has provided. It is all to His glory.

To read more about Liz's story please visit our web site at <http://www.threadsoflove.org>



Welcome back Jamie Edwards of Waco, TX to Threads of Love. We all have seasons in our life for different reason, Jamie asked to be placed on our inactive list for a while, but she is back as an active chapter now. I am very delighted to have her back as one of our Threads of Love chapter. We missed you!

Note from Sissy:

I am sorry for such a short news letter this time. Virginia Marshall that had been helping me had to give up helping me due to some health problems, with the news letter each time. Boy do I miss her! Between the holidays and helping to take care of my 93 almost 94 year old Mother I just didn't have the time it takes to learn the software in order to publish "Sew Precious in His Sight" Hopefully I will have learned the program by the time the next letter rolls around or I have found a replacement of Virginia.

You will soon be receiving your update letter for 2011, PLEASE be faithfully in getting that needed information back to us. I need that updated information to help keep your chapter connected with request that come in to me about your chapter.

Threads of Love Foundation

P O Box 73

Watson, LA 70786

Address Label Here

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.

Threads of Love Foundations

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Though I see not nor feel not,
Still by faith if I but reach out in
Faith there is the Spirit to guide me
Along my way, Amen
George F Woolley