

Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 4 Issue 1

Fall 2001 Clinel "Sissy" Davis Editor

Let Our Light Shine

Mission Statement

Threads of Love is a sewing ministry serving the needs of newborns and their families in crisis. The ministry is about healing and binding 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 to parents the love of Christ, especially at a time when their personal pain is hard to endure, and to let them know that God is faithful and that His peace and serenity extend far beyond the situation. Through acts of obedience and donation, His work can and will continue. We pray that this ministry will have an impact far beyond our expectations.

We feel that this is a ministry the Lord would have others join in to blanket the country with Threads of Love. *There are three things that remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13* God has given us all a talent that we are to use to serve Him. If He is speaking to your heart now, please write us at: Threads of Love

Threads of Love
P. O. Box 2006
Baton Rouge, LA. 70821


Or visit our web site at <http://www.threadsoflove.org>


E-mail: sissy@threadsoflove.org

Shining lights

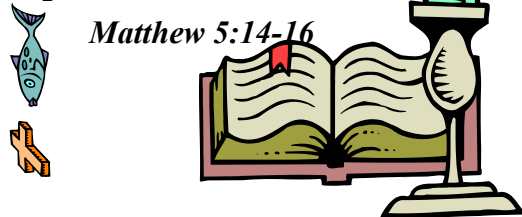


 **14** *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

 **15** *Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*

 **16** *In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.*

Matthew 5:14-16



In the last quarterly of "Sew Precious in His Sight" we focused on making some differences by our works and how our work can make a difference in our lives. In this quarterly we will see how three women have shepherded their chapters and made a difference by bringing love, comfort and hope to parents and family members. Through their labor of love they have also exhibited to their community the love of Christ at a time of uncertainty in the lives of parents and their babies.

If God has done something wonderful, we

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should let other people know about it so that He may be glorified. We should let God's light shine through us into a dark world. God depends on each of us to be a beacon of truth, showing others what Christ is like. By trying to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others we let the love of Christ shine through. The stitches of love made with love by all who work with Threads of Love are beacons to others to show the love that Christ has for all.

The women in Threads of Love have not put their light under a basket, but up on a stand for the world to see. Since September of 1993 we have grown from one chapter to 61 chapters, holding up our light for all to see. Praise the Lord, for He has truly blessed Threads of Love with so many loving, caring, talented women who love the Lord. Jesus said that each of us should be a bright light to a dark world. Have you ever thought that a needle could be a shining light unto a dark world? It can and has been for Therese Poisson of Rhode Island Margie MacKenzie of Louisiana, and Liz Page of Texas .

I have received articles about three such ladies who have caught the attention of the press of the work that they are doing in their community. They have been letting their light shine brightly in their community and bringing brightness to a dark situation for families of sick and dying infants. Here are their stories:

A Stitch in time makes moms smile:

Therese Poisson joined Threads of Love in the Winter of 1996. After retiring in 1997 Therese convinced St. Mark's Church in Jamestown, RI, to sponsor the chapter and begun recruiting volunteers. Last year they made more than 400 packets of clothing for babies at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence.

Both Therese and her daughter can relate to these babies and parents. They know first hand what this means, Therese lost her first baby after carrying it to term. and her daughter is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit. Therese didn't dwell on her tragedy but turned it into a shining light to other mothers who lose a baby. Therese says the gratification is a two-way street. She received the following letter.

Dear Mrs. Poisson: we recently gave birth to quadruplets and they are now in the Special Care nursery at Women and Infants Hospital. We would like to thank you for the Threads of Love PEACE packages they received. The little gowns and hats look so cute on our babies. Please accept this small gift as a token of our appreciation and use it toward your Threads of Love Project."

High Tech, Low Tech, and Threads of Love:

First Presbyterian Church of Natchitoches, LA, has a chapter headed up by Margie MacKenzie. Margie and her group joined us in the Summer of 1999. They too have been very busy lighting lamps for the Lord at Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport. Each item sewn has a label attached that reads "Threads of Love" and a card is attached that expresses the group's witness. It reads "Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them; for such is the Kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

Margie and her group have designed, made and donated isolette covers to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Shreveport. Bob (yes, Bob) and Margaret Harling designed isolette covers to LSU specs using some discarded cardboard boxes as a frame, and then handmade the patterns to be used by the sewers.

These covers are very important to the well-being of the babies so that they may have proper surroundings, needed for growth. It is important that they be kept warm, and that quite and the lights from the overhead lights be kept out of the isolettes. When the babies go into a deep sleep, they they do most of their weight gain and developing. The women not only supply what the babies need, but add a pretty touch to a world of high technology. The NIC unit can be a scary place for new moms and dads. The covers add a gentle and bright touch to the nursery. These gifts of love are a bright light to many lives at a time of stress and uncertainty.

Clothed in Love:

The Sarah-Threads of Love joined us in the winter of 1999. Liz Page of San Antonio, TX named the chapter for a granddaughter, who was lost in the sixth month by her daughter. Sarah also stands for Sewing And Reaching A Heart.

Every Tuesday the Sarah chapter meets at Oak Hills Church of Christ where they make handmade booties, hats, clothing, blankets, incubator accessories, incubator covers, laundry bags, bean bags and burial gowns. Methodist Children's Hospital and Christus Santa Rosa Health Care are just two of the local hospitals that they supply clothes to.

Chris Bullard put Liz up for nomination for the Jefferson Award from the work she does for Threads of Love. Liz along with four others was honored at a dinner in May for the 2001 Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award was established in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and then Sen. Robert Taft Jr. The American Institute for Public Service presents the Jefferson Awards locally and nationally.

The San Antonio Express -News sponsors the award locally.

Of the five winners, Liz was then chosen to go to Washington in June for the national Jefferson Award competition. Here's another example of not putting your light under a basket. Liz put her lamp on a stand and her light shown brightly for all to see.

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.
Henry David Thomas
Let our Light Shine

When I started working on this newsletter, in late June, I could not have imaged how important it would be to have our lights shining so brightly. Before I start each newsletter, I call upon the Lord to reveal to me what theme I should use. Now I know why He has led me to choose the stories and theme for this quarterly. This is probably one of the most important news letters that I will ever write. As our nation is recovering from the shock of the terrorist attack, we have the task of letting our light shine brightly with peace, hope and comfort that we find in our Lord. We as a nation must turn our eyes back to the Lord. Let us be that example for all to see.

I call upon each of you to be a shining light, at a time when we need to stand united and stand mighty. We are all in a position to let our light shine radiantly as Christians bestowing hope and comfort by letting others see the love that we have, not only for these babies and their families, but that of each other and America. We must all join together in prayer and

thread this land with our love for the Lord. Remember God is in control and He sees the big picture, so seek Him for your comfort and peace. In Christ, Sissy



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Editors Note

The mission statement has been reworded to fit a broader range of care for infants. If you remember, we have started doing Hugga babies for the cardiac units. The Baton Rouge chapter has been asked to make and furnish going home outfits for babies that are to be adopted. Some of these babies would otherwise have been aborted if their mother had not been ministered to by a Christian organization. When these babies first leave the hospital they are placed in Christian foster homes until the legal paper work is completed. Biological babies are kept by the foster parents, sometimes as long as a year, until they can be placed. The going home outfits give the baby some reminders of its early months. This seems to be an important issue later with children who are adopted. With our gifts of love the first clothes these babies wear upon leaving the hospital are made with love and wrapped in love by women who love the Lord. Wouldn't it be nice if every child could leave the hospital wrapped in this kind of love?

New Chapters

Thanks to the ladies listed below have register as a chapter with us. If you would like to join these ladies in their effects of ministering to mothers in your state, please contact them. The idea of registering with us so

other in your area may join together and work as a group. If you are now servicing a hospital in your area will you consider registering so we may connect you with ladies willing to help?

Sew Precious Angels-Threads of Love
1591 East Park Ave # 223
Enterprise, Al 36330
Contact Person: Ann Mc Gaughey

New Heights Baptist Church
1003 Ruby Road
Alma, AR 72921
Contact Person: Joan Yancey

Threads of Love

1301 Airport Road
Panama City, Fl. 32405
Contact person: Reese Suzanne Russell

Threads of Love
7420 Dennis Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
Contact Person: Carol Bentler

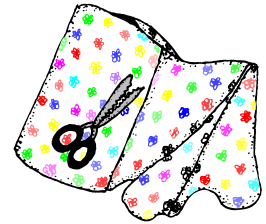
Wabash Valley-Threads of Love
1724 Garfield Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47904
contact Person: Leah Short

Threads of Love
711 East Second Ave.
Covington, LA 70433
Contact Person: Ruth Sticker

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
865 Hatchell Lane
Denham Springs, LA 70726
Contact Person: Bobbie Gallia

Threads of Love
2810 Common Street.
Lake Charles, LA 70663
Contact Person: Katie Fontenot

Talitha & Olivia's-Threads of Love
1720 East Sandy Ridge Road



Monroe, NC 28112

Servant Hearts-Threads of Love
1511 Wildwood Point
Leesville, SC 29070
Contact Person: Brenda Thompson

Dorcas-Threads of Love
281 County Road 265
Hondo, TX 78861-6005
Contact Person: Arleen Balzen

Little Lambs-Threads of Love
P. O. Box 251
Nine Falls, Wa. 99026
Contact Person Gigi O'Neel

Sewing Tip

Pre-wash all linen or linen blend before you cut out your project. Iron the linen or linen blend while it is still damp. It will then iron out smooth and without creases or wrinkles.

Have a good sewing tip that you would like to share? Please mail it to 37184 Oak Shadow Court, Denham Springs, LA 70706.

Thank You Notes

Ann Katapski from the South Orange County of Trabuco Canyon CA received the following thank you notes. Please send me any thanks notes that you get that you would like to share with users so they can be put in the news letters. Thanks for sharing Ann. Remember to add your mailing address to all the prayers and poems that go in the packets for the hospital. So many times parents want to say thank you, but have no way of contacting your chapter.

Dear Ann,

Serena loves her new blanket. Thank you so much and please pass on to the "loving hands" how appreciated and beautiful the blanket is to us. Thanks so much, Celeste & Jim

Ann,

Well my James is five weeks as of this last Saturday. What a blessing he is to our family. I'm writing to graciously thank you for the hand knit blanket and booties we received at CHOC. At such a traumatic and emotional time for my husband and me, it really warmed our hearts to walk in the ICU and see James in the crocheted blanket. I am a sewer, well not anymore for now, so I can appreciate the time spent in making this beautiful blanket. If you know who made this, please thank them for their most beautiful gift. James respiratory system is normal now, and his collar bone is on the mend. Thanks again for your kindness.

Love, Natalie

Sissy,

In a recent conversation with the social worker I interact with at my hospital, I learned of how the lovie dolls were recently used. There was a set of triplets born of which one was not going to survive. The lovie doll was placed with the sick infant and then given to

the remaining siblings after the baby died. This helps to complete the bonding process. Mission Hospital/Children's Hospital at Mission also used this same method with a set of twins at the same time. A touching story.

Ann

Sissy,

Thanks again to you and the wonderful members of the Threads of Love ministry. My heart is filled with joy every day that I watch baby Davin blossoming (he's six months now). I believe that the nurturing gifts and clothing you provided my twins helped them to live.

Although Derris is in heaven, he lives, too! Jesus has our little lamb in His arms.

Please accept this financial love offering to continue your ministry to families.

Love Rich & Michelle

Dear Members of the Threads of Love Ministry,

Our son Paul Michael was born in May and he died at Women's hospital in June at which time we received your one of your outfits.

We thank you for the precious keepsake during this difficult time. Thanks for your ministry.

When our baby died, in my arms, I was extremely heartbroken. The prayer enclosed with the keepsake helps us remember that our child is now in the loving arms of our Lord. Thank you for the care you put into the keepsakes.

Love In Christ,
Bonnie and Mike

Make a rule, and pray God to help you to keep it. Never, if possible, lie down at night without being able to say, "I have made one human being, at least, a little wiser, a little happier, or a little better this day."

Charles Kingley

I want to share this scripture with you, I found comfort in it the next day after the terrorists attack on our nation.

Isaiah 40:1-5

1. Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3. A voice of one calling; "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

4. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

5. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."