

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume Five, Issue Three



January 2003

Threads of Love's Beloved Baby—Christine Noel Love

For the past seven years Threads of Love has held a memorial service called "Season of Hope." This service was held on Friday, December 6th in our little chapel at First Presbyterian Church here in Baton Rouge. My husband and I were on our way to church when the evening news came on reporting that the body of a newborn had been found the back a garbage truck that morning. I could not imagine how anyone could throw away a baby. We continued on the church and held the Season of Hope service remembering all the little babies that were not with us anymore, but were now in the arms of Jesus. The service is designed to reach out to those parents that have lost their little ones and to give them the hope and courage of continuing on without their babies. It turned out to be one of the best services that we have every had. It seems like each year the service is better than the year before.

However, I couldn't stop thinking about the abandoned baby. What an opportunity to show the love of Christ to a community and simply do right by this little one. Something had to be done so this little life could count for something. I decided to chose the name Christine Noel Love for her—Christine, for Christ, Noel, for the season; and Love, for Threads of Love. I couldn't stand the idea of her being known only as Baby Girl Jane Doe and being buried without any formality.

The following morning I was on the phone with the coroner's office. We are very blessed here in Baton Rouge that Dr. Louis Cataldie, our coroner, loves the Lord and wanted to give this baby a proper burial. He agreed that when the investigation was over he would release the little body to the care of Threads of Love for a Christian funeral. Once again the Lord had His hand in all of this...within two hours after talking with the coroner, all of the funeral arrangements had been donated for her burial by two of the local funeral homes here in Baton Rouge—Greenoaks Memorial Park and Welsh Funeral home.

The night before the funeral I went to the funeral home to take pictures, make hand and foot prints, and dress little Christine, just as Threads of Love has done for thousands of babies all over the country. I went with Debbie Fowler, who is a member of the Threads of Love Board of Directors, and a dear nurse at Woman's Hospital in labor and delivery. We made lots of remembrances of little Christine. As Debbie and I went about our work we questioned why and how a mother could do what Christine's mother had done. After Christine was dressed we each held her—for no other reason than for us to be able to say that someone had cuddled her and held her close. As I held her I thought about all the mothers who had attended the Season of Hope the week before and how their arms must ache to hold their little ones. And here I was, holding a baby that was thrown away like an unwanted piece of trash.

The investigation found that Christine was still alive when she was placed in a garbage bag and left in a pile of trash. The coroner said that the baby was most likely killed from a blow to the head that she received while in the garbage truck. What blows my mind is that Louisiana has what is known as a Safe Haven law. Mothers can take unwanted babies up to 30 days old and place them at a police, sheriff, fire station, or a hospital and walk away...no questions asked. How I wished Christine's mother had done this.

However our Lord can always take something ugly and turn it into something beautiful. As all of the arrangements were unfolding, I received a call from Elaine Courtney who teaches LPN classes at Delta College here in Baton Rouge. The nurses-in-training wanted to know how they could help with the burial for little Christine. We had everything for the funeral at that time so we decided that she would need a marker on her grave. With the help of donations to Threads of Love and the memorial fund at Delta College, we have collected enough donations to mark little Christine's grave. Delta College has set up a memorial fund which they will call Delta's Little Angel in memory of Christine Noel Love. All donations collected from the nurses throughout the year will go to support Threads of Love.

Even though Christine was here on earth for a very short time she has made a tremendous impact on the community. Her funeral had great media coverage by three TV stations and the local newspaper. The paper described the service as a 'heavily religious grave side service, attended by over 50 people.' There was a quote by Dr. Cataldie saying, "This allows for humanization of the child and increases awareness. People don't need to commit homicide if there is an unwanted child."

Little Christine was laid to rest dressed in a pink dress and a pink matching blanket that I made especially for her. She also had a pink smocked bonnet, booties and beautiful crocheted blanket made by some of the Threads of Love volunteers. She was surrounded by a pink lamb, a blue baby doll and a brown bear in her little white casket.

Garnett Slatton, one of the pastors at First Presbyterian, gave the eulogy, and he reminded us not to grieve for little Christine...that she was safe and happy in the loving arms of Jesus. At the end of the funeral, our dear music minister, Nancy Spiller, sang a lullaby to her. Every baby should have a lullaby sung to them; and Christine was no differ-

NEW CHAPTERS

Triumph Church - Women Ablaze—Threads of Love Vicksburg, MS

Contact: Ginny Long **E-mail:** mrsginny@bellsouth.net

Amy's Reflection—Threads of Love

Contact: Jana Brock **E-mail:** janbrock@bellsouth.net

Joyce Rains—Threads of Love

Contact: Joyce Rains **Many, LA**

Bridgeway Threads of Love

Contact: Helga Diggelmann **E-mail:** hnmid@bellsouth.net

Precious Preemies—Tiny Toes

Contact: Melissa Brock **E-mail:** melissa.brock@blockbuster.com

St. Lydia Sisterhood—Threads of Love

Contact: Judith Stuck **E-mail:** jstuck52@yahoo.com

Threads of Love Columbia, MO

Contact: Viola Yoder **E-mail:** viyoder@socket.net

Mary Katherine's Threads of Love

Contact: Jennifer Madison **E-mail:** jmadison@bellsouth.net

First Pres Church - Westfield Threads of Love

Contact: Liz Moran **Westfield, WI**

Kelsey's Inspiration for Threads of Love

Contact: Sheila Adams **E-mail:** bunny64@direcway.com

Washington Metro Area Threads of Love

Contact: Winnie Boothe **E-mail:** winnieb@erols.com

White Rock United Methodist Church

Contact: Narra Tsiagkouris **E-mail:** ntsiagkouris@aol.com

And Sew it Goes—Threads of Love

Contact: Bobbi Smith **E-mail:** BobbiS@aol.com

THANK YOU

Dear Threads of Love Ladies,
Our son, Tanner, was born December 10, 2001 at 29 weeks, 11 weeks early. He was admitted to the NICU at CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County) and stayed there for 7 weeks. While he was there he received several blankies, baby snugglies (lovie dolls) and more. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. It made us feel extra loved and that so many people cared for him. Thank you for all that you do, you are so appreciated!

Love, The Brown Family

If your chapter needs to become inactive for any length of time or for any reason, you MUST let Sissy know (sissy@threadsoflove.org) so we can temporarily take you off the website.

HELPFUL HINT

Always use natural fiber thread to sew heirloom projects. Don't use a thread such as polyester or polyester blend. You want a thread that has no memory and your garment will be free of puckers or gathers in the wrong places.

I am an RN who works in the Special Care Nursery of Women and Infants' Hospital, and I am writing to let you know how much we appreciate your "care packages." The colors, fabrics and little attention to detail really brightens the days of our babies and their families. Parents are just thrilled when their baby is finally "big enough" to wear clothes! And the soft little dolls are ideal for positioning and soothing the babies. You are like angels looking out for these little ones. On behalf of the babies and families, thank you for all of your hard work, thoughts and prayers. Take Care, Megan

This past week a good friend of mine's baby was stillborn. They didn't hear a heartbeat at her checkup and induced labor. The little girl was stillborn, she had severe Downs and Turner Syndromes. That night at their house she was showing me all of the things the hospital gave them. It really touched me when she pulled out the little gown and bonnet. The baby was too small for it being only 6-3/4 oz but the hospital gave it to her along with the blanket they let them hold her in. I can't relay to all of you how much that meant to her, it is something beyond words. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you all so much for all that you do from my friend and from me.

God Bless.

Shari

Hello Sissy,

Just wanted to check in and let you know how chapter "His Littlest Angels" are doing. GREAT! We are keeping busy and are just about ready to get a number of hats, booties, blankets, gowns and hats and demise wraps to two hospitals. Of course with holidays here we have slowed down some with the sewing, but still at it.

I had the chance to give an outfit, blanket, hat and booties to a friend of mine. A young lady at her church had twin girls about 3 weeks ago now. One died before born, so very sad. The other little girl weighed in at 1.6 lbs. but is doing wonderfully, gaining weight and eating. Her mother pumps the milk and takes it daily for the infant. They wanted something nice for Christmas so my friend called me, knowing I make these items. Needless to say I gave them to her. The twins were born at 6 1/2 months. So baby will remain in hospital for about 3 months, but so far with God's Blessings she is doing very well. I was so happy to be able to help when ask. It made my heart swell knowing in some small way I could help the family.

Just wanted to pass this on. I think they are going to take pictures. Hopefully, they give one to me and I can pass that on to you. I'll let you know. God Bless you and your family for helping us all help so many families. I know it swells your heart as well. My chapter is now sewing for two different hospitals. Needless, to say it keeps our little group busy, but we love and enjoy all we can do.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New year.

Sewing with Love,

Sheri—His Littlest Angels Clarksville, Va.

 * Courtney: *
 * A real miracle has happened! When I and another *
 * member went to meet the head nurse of the nursery at *
 * Jackson Hospital last week I took the four burial gowns *
 * I had made. I was expressing to the other member, who *
 * does not sew, that I needed help because I can't sew *
 * everything myself. *
 * I said "we have got to get busy and recruit some help." *
 * As we met with the head nurse, Anna Fulmer, I said the *
 * same thing - I need some help! She said I think I have a *
 * name for you. Thirty minutes earlier an elderly lady *
 * from St. Lukes Methodist Church had come by to see *
 * her and expressed a desire to do some sewing, etc. for *
 * their nursery. She gave me Joan French's name and *
 * number, I called her, took information to her that eve- *
 * ning and last Wednesday when their group met they *
 * decided this is what they wanted to do. Now I have 10 *
 * ladies who knit, sew and crochet. What a Blessing!!!! *
 * I met with them tonight and promised I would order *
 * more handbooks. These ladies were wonderful and *
 * wanting to help so much. Please send them to me as *
 * soon as you can. I hope you haven't sold them all. *
 * I'm so excited that this ministry is coming together so *
 * nicely. Isn't God great? *
 * Connie Sadler *
 * *****

Courtesy of Sherrie Hoss - His Littlest Angels

(Note from SHARE coordinator at local hospital)

Dear Sherrie, I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful outfits you sent for the SHARE babies. I can't begin to express to you my gratitude for taking the time and effort to do this for our bereaved families. The little gowns are precious and just the right size. I love having the blankets; they make the perfect background when we take photographs for the families. But my favorites are the tiny dresses and bonnets you so lovingly crafted. I must admit, I am awed by your thoughtfulness every time I look at them. The families who have benefited from your kindness have also expressed their thanks when I share with them the story of your gift. These people are in so much pain; I believe their suffering is eased somewhat by being able to have a picture of their child in a special outfit made by your loving hands. Your consideration remains a rare memory of their baby since they keep the clothing along with the few other mementos we can give them. I hope to meet you one day and thank you in person. Until then, please know that you have my deepest gratitude. I will remember your kindness every time i make use of your wonderful gifts.

Sincerely, Kathleen, MWH SHARE Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW????

From Sept. 97 to Dec 2002
 Threads of Love chapters have
 donated somewhere around
 215,000 items to local hospital
 across
 America.

**CHAPTERS—Beginning in 2003,
 you will need to give us a monthly up-
 date on the number of articles that your
 chapter has donated, so we can keep a
 'running tally.' You will receive a letter
 with more details.***



SPOTLIGHT CHAPTER
Threads of Love
Keithville, LA Chapter



I just wanted to drop you a note about all the work our Chapter Leader (Brenda Dalton) is doing. She is an amazing woman. Besides taking care of a family and working 12 hr shifts at the hospital, she is constantly spreading the good news about Threads of Love.

She is always available with answers, materials, new ideas, and praising others for their job well done. She works very hard to keep the six hospitals with supplies needed and she is also trying to get us helping the Crisis Pregnancy Center here in Shreveport with layettes for families in need.

No matter what is thrown her way she always has a smile on her face and a hug to give. I do know that she struggles with "good intention" people offering to help but then never following through. But she keeps the faith and makes sure all babies are taken care of. Sincerely, A friend that Cares.

GOD'S ALPHABET

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

First Annual Threads of Love Convention will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge

Thurs—Sat, Sept 25-27, 2003

Tentative Schedule

Thursday

4-6pm Check-in
6-7pm Dinner
7-9pm Kickoff (Keynote Speaker)

Friday

8-9am Continental Breakfast
9-12noon Workshops
12-1pm Lunch
1-4pm Workshops
4-6pm Brainstorming/Walk-around
6pm Dinner on your own/free time

Saturday

8-9am Continental Breakfast
9-12noon Workshops
12-1pm Farewell Luncheon

We plan to have workshops in basic construction (this class will complete a burial gown); heirloom sewing, lace insertion, hand smocking, and more!

All chapter heads will be required to attend a chapter head orientation workshop with Courtney and Sissy.

An exciting feature of the convention will be a workshop for nurses, medical staff, funeral homes and social workers. This will count for continuing education credit for nurses...please try to encourage your nurse contacts at the hospitals to attend!

Stay tuned for the exciting announcement of our keynote speaker!!! You won't want to miss it, we promise!

To whom it may concern,
 I sat down and cried when I read about your fabulous program helping preemie babies in an old copy of Family Circle, and wondered if your program was still in operation. I am the mother of two miracle preemies, and know that there were no clothes available for our babies when they were in the NICU because they were all way too big - even the new preemie clothes for sale in stores were too big and did not accommodate all of the wires and things connected to our babies. I know it would have really meant a lot to me to see our babies dressed up like the 'normal' babies everyone else had. Not having clothes for our babies, and thinking that they might die without ever being dressed was something that haunted me the entire time they were in the hospital. They were so tiny (only 1 pound 9 ounces at one time) and I wanted them to have everything that a 'normal' baby would have had. I also know for those parents who don't every get to see their baby come home, getting to see their baby dressed up so pretty and even to get a keepsake photo would be invaluable. My children's health has required me to stay at home with my babies since they were born, and I have always searched for a way to give something back to help other preemie parents but have never found something I could do while still providing for my own children - but this I CAN DO! I am an accomplished seamstress, and I can do this at home! Please send me any info you may have for a pattern - it would really mean more to me than you can imagine.

Pam



My name is Tracey and it has been 1 year and 6 months since my angel went to Heaven. Some time ago, your organization presented to my mother, Judy, a wrapper and a doll that had been signed by all of my coworkers from St. Tammany Parish Hospital. That came at a time in my life when I was in a particularly bad place. Although I have found nothing that takes my pain away completely, it was a comfort to receive that from you all. I have recently started going to Church at Landmark Church of God, where to my pleasant surprise, I have been taken in and made to feel like family. I have never felt so at home and loved. The Church is pastored by Bro. Ron Allen...he and his wife, Sue provide such a glorious ministry and are so involved with everyone's lives. Last night at Bible study, Miss Sue presented me with another of your wrappers and a prayer card. This, again, comes at a time when I am very much down. I find the Holidays very difficult, although I try to put on a front for my 7 year old daughter, Makayla. It meant so much to receive these items, on both occasions.

I want you to know that I think what you are doing is wonderful. I never realized how many babies are lost until I lost mine. It helps to know that there are people that care enough about us to put forth an effort to bring us comfort. Although it has taken a lot of time, I feel I am on the road to renewing my relationship with God. I will not lie and say I was not mad at God, for he knows that I was. And sometimes I still am, but I also know that He won't give me more than I can handle, so he must think I am very strong to have given me this to live through. Through Him, all things are possible..... Please continue your special kind of ministry and know that you touched my life, not once, but twice.

In His Name, Tracey

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He

Threads of Love
 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

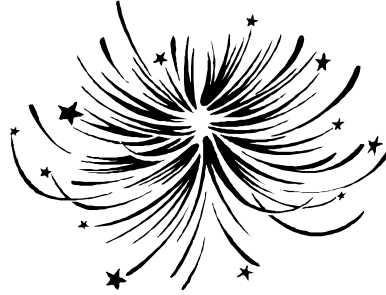
- 1 Corinthians 13:13

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

Threads of Love



A Refiner of Silver
New Chapters!
Spotlight Chapter—Keivthville, LA
Thank you Notes
Convention Information
Christine Noel Love
IN THIS ISSUE

Threads of Love
 A Ministry of First Presbyterian
 Church of Baton Rouge
 763 North Boulevard
 PO Box 2006
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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