

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume 11, Issue 1



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Our God is an Awesome God!



God is good!

Can you believe that Threads of Love is 15 years old this fall? As I reflect back on how Threads of Love has grown through the grace of God I realize we have so many things to be grateful for it would be hard to list all of them. God has met our needs at every turn over the past 15 years. He has opened doors in reaching families and touching lives in ways that man could not have had the vision to be such an outreach ministry. Threads of Love has allowed mothers who have lost a baby to reach out to other mothers, thus allowing them to heal their own wounds.

This newsletter is about your chapter and how God has blessed each one of you and your chapters. In this newsletter you will read some of the letters that I have received. Sit back and enjoy what some of the ladies have written about how they or their chapter have been blessed by God.

-Sissy Davis

From Elaine:

The Lord is certainly in the forming of our new chapter, Prayer shawls and Threads of Love ministry in Killeen, Texas. Our church gave a blessing over the blankets and caps that we have already finished during our 8:45 service and our 11:00 a.m. service on July 13. Jonella and I went to Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas to find a contact person we could deliver items to and as we were pulling into what seemed to be a full parking lot, a front space became available. As the blessings came down, the praises went up. The lady at the information desk was very helpful and we proceeded to deliver two prayer shawls along with prayers for comfort and healing. We then went to the maternity ward and were

standing in front of a secure door when the door opened. When we went in we found that they seemed to be familiar with Threads of Love and directed us to the social worker, Jamesia. She informed us that Patti of the premie section was on vacation, but took us to Patti's office so we could know where to drop off items as soon as we received our labels. We are looking forward to working with both of these ladies. While we were there, we asked Jamesia what some of their needs were and she asked for little mittens to keep the babies from scratching themselves. Does anyone have a pattern we could use both for knitted and crochet?

In His Service,
Elaine Passman

The following are some of the ways God has helped the Threads of Love Chapter at Salem Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN.

About 3 years ago I joined a Threads of Love group at my home church in Knoxville, TN. Shortly after I started sewing burial gowns, my husband and I left to join another area church. I was asked if I would start a new chapter of TOL at the new church and so I did. God made it possible for me to take some of the supplies from the first group to get started at the new church, since I was the only sewer at that time, and at least I could continue working on the burial gowns.

Then, after I had gotten approval to start the Salem Baptist Church TOL group, all kinds of obstacles were placed in my way. To name a few: my mother broke her hip and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Literally, I spend days in the hospital and nursing home crocheting caps and tiny baby afghans. God used this experience to get the word out in this area about TOL!

The baby shower was a wonderful idea. People were very responsive and started leaving bags of notions/lengths of fabric/yarn and much more at the display table in the church foyer. By the time the baby shower actually took place, I had about 5 large tubs of supplies which carried us the first year. No question about it, this was God working in the hearts and minds of these folks.

My mother was the first person who made baby quilts for the TOL here just before her accident/illness. I was proud that God was using her at her age to do something to help others. God also used my sister to knit hats and booties for TOL.

As time went on, there were more obstacles placed in my way: I was in a very bad auto accident two years ago which involved major surgery and months and months of rehab. (Wish I could say all is well, but I still have many bad pain days.) During this time, God sent me two faithful sewers to continue sewing burial gowns and day gowns and a lady who crochets.

God also sent me another TOL leader, Debbie Torrence, from Florida who came to Knoxville and met with me. She very generously shared several burial gown sets with out Tennessee group and we appreciate this so much. These came at a time when I was going through a lot of rehab and pain and it was taking our group so long to get enough things finished to donate to UT Hospital NICU.

When I have gotten discouraged about the progress or lack thereof with this ministry, God has either sent me an encourager, financial means to

keep purchasing supplies, or donations of materials (i.e. an elderly lady called one day and said she had heard about TOL and she had lots of yarn to donate). The back of my SUV was absolutely loaded down with boxes and bags of baby yarn.

Also, when I think I'm the only person still cutting/sewing and crocheting, I go to church and check the drop-off box I placed for donations or completed items and find it overflowing with burial gowns, lengths of fabric etc. and I know that God is letting me know TOL is going to be just fine.

To sum it up, every time I started to give up the TOL at Salem God has sent me an encourager, an unexpected donation, a thank you, etc. God is so wonderful !!

-Karol Griffin, Coordinator



A note to Sheila,

We used one of the gowns last week and it was awesome. The nurse said that the baby looked like a little princess and the pictures are beautiful. The parents were extremely appreciative that the gown fit perfectly and that their daughter looked like such a little angel in the white gown. We cannot thank you and your group enough for your contributions. Thanks so much.

-Kathy

*This one will make your day.
I can hear everyone saying
"Aaawww, how sweet"!*



Hey Sybil,

I heard someone asking what we do with the old faded snugglies when they have done their job at HMC NICU and I hope you will be pleased to know they are taken to the animal shelter for continued use with puppies etc. They were glad to get them. Not the beanie bags of course. Thanks for all your hard work. It makes a big difference.

We love you all!

Susan Ferrell

Henry Medical Center

God has been so good to our chapter. He has been faithful in meeting our chapter's needs in so many areas, but one way especially stands out in my mind that I would like to share here. While I was in the "throes" of knowing what to do in the formative years of our chapter that began in 2001, God sent me four wonderful seasoned "angels" who had been working with Threads of Love in the Baton Rouge chapter. Edith, Marie and Mona, and the late Estelle, from the Baton Rouge chapter, came to our Share/Care Days faithfully every month to encourage our work in the Covington area. They were instrumental in helping to guide the chapter in the direction it should be going and encouraged other women who were there with words of encouragement and teaching crocheting and knitting techniques to those interested and bringing patterns for us to learn. Oh how wonderful it was working with them! Since our chapter has had no monthly Share/Care Days since Hurricane Katrina, my angels have still kept in touch with me over the years, still supplying some of our chapter's items for donation to our hospitals and Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Because of their kindness and generosity, our chapter has been able to carry on in spite of the challenges of so few of us sewing these days for Threads of Love. He still cares!

Ruth Sticker, TOL Prayers + Stitches
Covington, LA

God led me to this wonderful ministry and continues to bless me with wonderful volunteers and meeting our needs.

I used to call Sissy when I first started asking her how do I continue to find funding. She just told me to pray and I do that a lot. I speak before many church groups and philanthropic organizations and they always pass the hat or give me a check. It still was a struggle as I didn't have the tax exempt status. Lo and behold, my wonderful volunteers held a huge yard sale and raised the funding to hire a lawyer and now we have our 501c3. That will continue to open many doors.

We have grown to 13 hospitals that we serve, but sometimes that is challenging. We have had so many still-born babies this year, that I have already distributed more gowns then I had all last year. My associate, Donna, cut more gowns until she couldn't cut anymore, so I sent an email to the volunteers and the next day I had handed out 60 gowns to be sewn. God always answers the needs of our chapter on a daily basis. Praise the Lord and all my volunteers

-Jackie McPheeters
Orange County Chapter



How God Has Helped Our Chapter

I want to share something that can only be described as a "God Thing." For many months, Peggy and I have noticed that we always seem to fill our needs for the packets. We presently give about 40-45 packets to UMC for NICU. Some months I get lazy and don't sew or she does, but we have been meeting our NEEDS for many months. I usually give the packets at the end or beginning of each month. But because I am going to be on vacation, I wanted to be sure that UMC had what they needed and so we brought what we had together in today. I haven't made a whole packet in forever, but with what each

of you supplies, we have been able to put together lots of packets.

Today, I had 21 newborn packets and 15 premie packets from all that you have given to TOL. Peggy brought in what she and her mother have been working on. She had 12 premies and 6 newborns. That totals exactly 27 premies and 27 newborns. I am amazed each time that the numbers come up like that. I feel very strongly that God knows what's needed and is at work supplying the need, sometimes in spite of what I do.

-Debbie Shelfer

Dear Sissy,

God has certainly been with us in Carmel, Indiana. On the night we did the emergency kit I believe we had angels with us to be able to do our very first kit. About a week later we took the same amount of time to just make a gown. God has been with us through the whole process of setting up the chapter and sent us magnificent helpers—real pros! We have many donations and people coming out of the woodwork so to speak. This chapter is truly meant to be!

I also would like to write a note of thanks to you and Mary for being so supportive through my Mary Rose's life and death. If it hadn't been for you two I could not have done it. I think I would have gone crazy, literally. I feel that Mary Rose was a blessing from God for her time on earth within womb had meaning and purpose. Her being brought about Threads of Love in Indiana which is most needed. Thank you so very much for being there for me. I will never forget it.

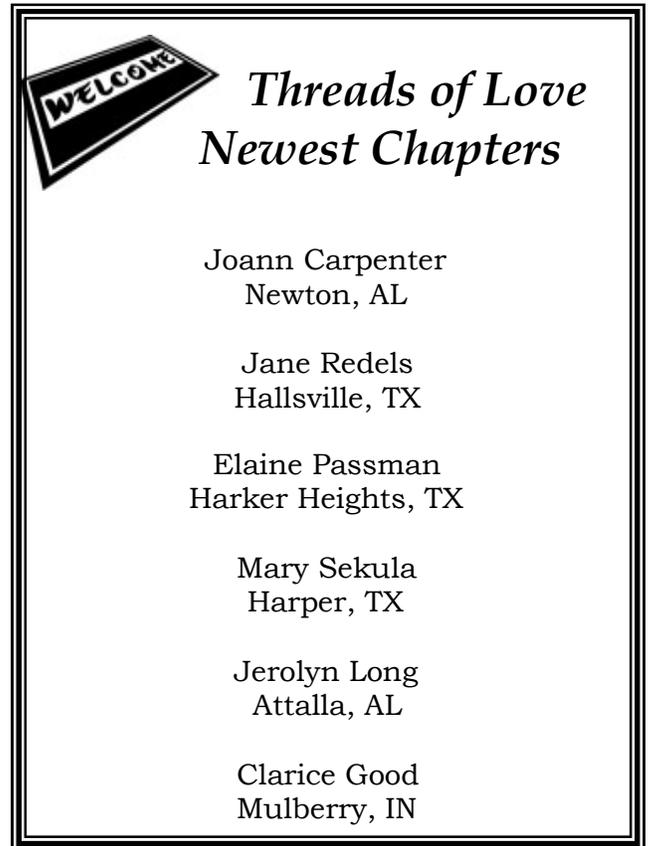
-Sheila Courchaine

Sissy,

Except for an initial start-up fund of \$350 from our parish, the ladies of our chapter had borne the expense of making the items for our local hospitals. As you all know, those poly pellets can get expensive! Two years ago, a young woman in our community gave birth to her 8th child - a stillborn that was clothed with items from our chapter. Several months later, this young mother appeared at the home of one of our members with a thank-you note signed by her, her husband and each of their seven children. It was accompanied by a check for \$70.

We were thrilled of course, that someone had been moved by our handiwork, but this mother wasn't through helping us. Last fall, unbeknownst to us, she organized a run and presented our group with the huge sum of \$1062.12!! It has been such a blessing to us and in May, when our chapter was honored by the hospital where her child was born, we invited her to attend the luncheon with us. She accepted and all of us were treated to a tour of the existing NICU and the incredible state-of-the-art new NICU which opens this month. We all feel that God's hand was working in all of this and we consider this lovely mother one of His angels.

Rose Anne Livingston
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church Chapter



WELCOME

*Threads of Love
Newest Chapters*

Joann Carpenter
Newton, AL

Jane Redels
Hallsville, TX

Elaine Passman
Harker Heights, TX

Mary Sekula
Harper, TX

Jerolyn Long
Attalla, AL

Clarice Good
Mulberry, IN



Happy moments - PRAISE GOD
Difficult moments - SEEK GOD
Quiet moments - WORSHIP GOD
Painful moments - TRUST GOD
Every moment - THANK GOD

Dear Sissy

You asked us for stories about God's provision and blessing on our chapters...well here they are:

When God led Christy and me to read the article in Sew Beautiful Magazine we felt compelled to pray about the ministry although neither of us could sew. Then as we talked to the members of our small, very small, church, and talked to Sissy who encouraged us to follow the Lord's lead, we sent out a mailing inviting members from 30 Trussville area churches who sew, knit, crochet, etc. to come to our "Threads of Love Shower". We had four people come, including ourselves, all of whom had already committed to work with us. We were not discouraged, God had led us into this and He was still waking me up at 4:00 AM to pray about this work. So then He led us to place a small paragraph in the local newspaper's "Good Neighbors" column asking for volunteers. We had over fifty telephone calls from ladies all over a three county area who had sewn, knitted and crocheted for everyone they knew and had closets full of handwork and no one to give it to. They were hungry to use their talents for Jesus. We were thinking far too small for the Lord of Hosts. He owns it all!

We began serving Brookwood Womens Hospital first. And slowly He led us to visit with and deliver to other local hospitals. We wondered how to get involved with University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham, the largest neonatal intensive care unit in the state. Well, Christy gave some samples of our work and prayers to a NICU nurse she knew and asked her to take the items, including a Lovie Doll to her boss in the unit. She was upset when the nurse said she was afraid to talk to her boss about the items because she just wasn't comfortable with it. We waited and prayed. One day a pastor's wife called me and asked if we made burial gowns. She said an old friend had heard that our ladies made them, and had heard about us at the Birmingham Baptist Association. I was told to call the Director of Volunteer Services. I made an appointment to see her. When Christy and I took the items in, the room began to fill with other employees and nurses and we were introduced to a sweet spirited Chaplain. She walked past me and picked up a Lovie Doll and said "now, I know where this came from." She explained that she had recently sat with a mother

whose baby was not going to live long and someone had placed a Lovie Doll in his bed. She said that after the baby breathed his last earthly breath, his mother held the Lovie Doll and said "I'll always cherish this—it was his only toy." The Chaplain looked at the Director and said we want all of this work and prayers to cover our babies.

They have never wavered in their support although questions have come from the March of Dimes - their nurses do what it takes to give our prayers personally and the items with them knowing that is the only way we can and will continue to deliver them. Surely God has blessed this work.

Sissy, you know that I could go on and on, especially since the Lord Jesus has restored my health in the past year. God has taken away the paralysis in my left side. He has enabled me to swallow again and the removal of the feeding tube. Our Lord Jesus in the only one to whom the word Awesome applies!

-Carol
Heart of Alabama Chapter

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble and He knoweth them that trust in Him" - Nahum 1:7



**Happy 10th
to these
Threads of Love Chapters:**

Edith Vaught (October)
Hurst, TX

AND

Therese Poisson (November)
Jamestown, RI

Threads of Love
A Ministry of First Presbyterian Church
of Baton Rouge
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Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Place address label 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.

*Threads of Love
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Sissy Davis, Director
sissy@threadsoflove.org*



- ☺ A sharp tongue can cut my own throat
- ☺ If I want my dreams to come true, I mustn't oversleep
- ☺ Of all the things I wear, my expression is the most important