

Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 2 Issue 2

Fall 1999 Editor Clinel "Sissy" Davis

Establishing A Solid Foundation

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 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.

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



So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."
Isaiah 28:16

Just as the Lord has laid a firm and solid foundation to build His church on, we must also establish Threads of Love on a solid foundation. To be effective in our ministry we must put our trust in the Lord by allowing Him to be head and master of our lives and head of Threads of Love, for it is His ministry. We must never lose focus of who we are and who we serve. All the glory must always go to the Lord for He alone has made this ministry what it is today. We are only the vessel with which He does His work. When Threads of Love makes the headlines it's hard not let the old ego be puff up and allow the human element come to the surface. It's all about trust and allowing God to be in charge; we only get in the way when we try to handle things ourselves. He will always be faithful in letting us know when He needs our help.

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If we take care of the little details He will take care of the major details.

One of the first questions that usually comes when embarking on a new chapter is, "How does one go about raising money for the ministry?"

The answer to that question is that we must trust the Lord and let Him provide for the needs for His work. Prayer and funding are the greatest need of this ministry, yet we need only busy ourselves with the little details and leave the big problems to the Lord. For He will provide and meet the needs of His children and the needs of this ministry. I can truthfully tell you that we have been doing Threads of Love for almost six years now and we have never been in need of money; the Lord has met our needs so many times before we ever knew of them! Just this past week I had something happen that served as a reminder to me how the Lord is always at work. One of our local hospitals called needing a burial dress for a little baby born with lots of medical problems and deformities which called for special measurements. Over a year ago one of our ladies had given me a beautiful linen christening dress that she had failed to finish. When she gave the dress to me, I had no idea that there would ever be a need of a dress that large. After getting the baby's measurement form the hospital, I found this special little dress tucked away with all of our tiny little dresses. In measuring the dress it was the exact size that was needed for this little baby. Samantha had lived only 16 days but weighed a little more than nine pounds with measurements of nine inches across the shoulders and a neck of 13 inches; she was only 16 inches long. The dress needed to be short-sleeved because her arms and legs were short as a result of deformities. Once again the Lord had shown me the wonders of His love and how He meets our needs sometimes in advance of our knowing of them. As we embark on starting or building a chapter of Threads of Love we too must learn to trust and obey the Lord. Just as Christ built His church on solid rock, we too must build Threads of Love on solid ground or we will not be effective in our mission to serve Him. We must always remember our goal is to serve

others and not be served.

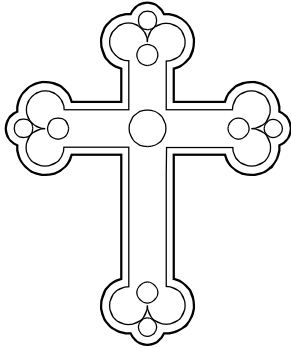
Lovie Dolls Lay Foundation



We have a new project called Lovie dolls and I see how it could be used to help children to start building their lives on a solid foundation at a young age. It is a project that could be used in teaching the young children how they too can serve their community and be servants for the Lord. The little dolls are used to bring comfort to a mother and her preemie baby. The idea comes to us from a chapter in Hurst, Texas. The ladies of St. Phillip Presbyterian Church-Threads of Love Chapter answered the call from Cook Children's Medical Center which was beginning a new program to enhance the level of care to NICU families. These ladies lost no time getting involved! The dolls have a very important purpose. The parents can hold the doll close and by doing so transfer their scent into the materials. When the Lovie doll is placed beside the tiny infant, the child feels that Mommy and Daddy are ever near, whether they are physically present or not. This begins the bonding process between Mom, Dad, and baby, and that makes everyone happy.

Thanks to our dear friends in Hurst, Texas, for sharing their time and talents with us. These dolls help establish a beginning of a firm solid foundation between parents and child. What a beautiful beginning! I encourage you to make (and involve the children in your church in making) these little dolls for the families in your community and be foundation layers for the Lord. What mother's heart would not jump with gladness to receive a little doll made by a young child for her baby.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6



Testimony

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Twelve weeks of constant fear, constant hope against hope, a never-ending challenge to their faith, has taken its toll. What had started as a joyous realization that their third child was on the way took a dramatic turn for the worse three months into the pregnancy. The next three months would be a daily trial of bleeding, cramping, examinations and hospitalizations. Her attending physicians could explain what was happening but seemed powerless to explain why, or to offer anything to stop the recurring threats to their daughter's very existence.

That day the heroic efforts of the medical team, could not stop the bleeding or the contractions. The little girl would be born today. Sixteen weeks early, at best one pound. The parents agonized over what course of action should be taken.

The rapidity of the process soon took the decision making out of their hands, but not the guilt, not the anguish, not the loss, not the pain. With her life measured in minutes, the little girl quickly succumbed to the ravages of prematurity. The devastated parents could barely bring themselves to look upon their lifeless child, but the desire to hold their precious daughter, to touch, to remember, to grieve, soon took hold.

At this point, the nurse removes the child for few minutes while the distraught mother is

cared for. Soon the little girl is returned to grieving parents, only now cleaned and dressed in a simple but beautiful and appropriately sized gown created by living hands for just this occasion. Nothing can begin to assuage the grief at this point. However, the image that will long be remembered is enhanced by the dedicated and selfless work of the "Threads of Love." The lives of these parents as well as the hospital staff are enriched by the efforts of these women who sought only to meet a need.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

By Dr. Gary L. Smith, M. D., P. C.

New Chapters

Threads of Love-St Catherine Ladies Guild
520 West Holding Ave
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Kelly Power-Kean-Threads of Love
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La Mirada, Ca.
Contact Person: Eileen Murray
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9. Poem

1. Fill sock up to where the pattern of the knitting changes. (See 1)
2. Tie open end of sock securely with yarn or crochet thread.
3. Tie 1/4 inch ribbon about three inches to form head & neck. Tie into a bow. (See 2)
4. Fold cuff down forming a bonnet. (See 3)
5. Glue bonnet & bow in place. Glue Threads of Love label at bottom on front.
6. Using fabric markers draw eyes & mouth.
7. Place in plastic bag with poem.

It takes about 20 oz. of fiberfill and 10 yards of ribbon to make 32 dolls. The socks that we use are purchased at Wal-mart for \$4.76 for a pack of eight pairs of tube socks.

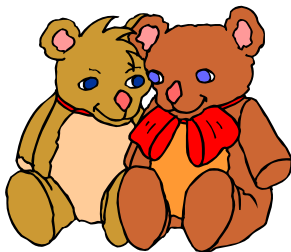
Poem For Lovie Doll

To help wee preemies bond
Their loving efforts spread God's love
Like ripples in a pond

This little doll that has been made
Has purposes quite clear
The scent of love that does not fade
And mummy's always near

In mother's bosom goes the doll
Then lovingly withdrawn
And placed beside that tiny life
Says mummy's never gone

For we're no different in our lives
We all need reassurance
That God's great love is near to us
And it has great endurance
By Donald Mac Kenzie

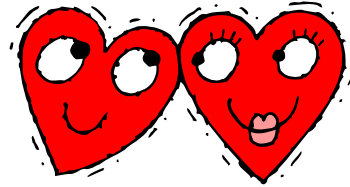


Making Lovies

Materials need:

1. Tolders 24-36 month tube sock.
2. Fiberfill
3. 8 to 10 inches of 1/4 inch satin ribbon.
4. Non-toxic permanent fabric markers (red & black).
5. One Threads of Love label.
6. Yarn or crochet thread.
7. Hot glue gun and sticks.
8. Plastic bag to hold doll.

their child is in heaven and that they will be together in eternity. Great joy should be in their hearts to know that they helped God to “people His heaven.”



Notes of Thanks

To the terrific and very caring people at Threads of Love, we would like to thank you so much for the precious outfit and your prayers for our son while he was in NICU. He is home now and doing wonderfully.

Thank you,

Kelly and Darry

Dear Threads of Love,

My husband and I would like to thank you for the “Lovie” you gave our son, Samuel. It was a lovely gesture and the story on the leaflet was tear jerking.

Samuel came home yesterday and we are very grateful. Thank you again for caring.

Ginger

If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked for God.

George Macdonald



Words of Inspiration

While visiting with some ladies in Ville Platte, La., a lady shared this thought with me and I felt it was a wonderful way of looking at an unfortunate time in the life of a mother and worth sharing with you.

For anyone who has miscarried or lost a child, I believe she needs to realize that every baby, no matter what its stage of development was, will always be important to God for all eternity. They can be so grateful and happy to know that

