
Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 1 Issue 4

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Editor Clinel "Sissy" Davis

God's Glory

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. 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™

First Presbyterian Church

P. O. Box 2006

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God's Vessel

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I have a special story to tell, how God has allowed me to be a servant for Him, and of how great His faithfulness has been in this ministry, my life and the lives of others. The babies and their families been blessed, who have become involved with Threads of Love ministry. I can see how God had prepared my heart for this ministry many years ago when at the age of thirteen, my parents lost a baby boy at birth.

For 30 years I drove a school bus for the East Baton Rouge Parish in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. When I retired in April 1994, I asked myself, "Who am I? What have I done with my life? If I should die tomorrow, what would be said about me?" Mother, grandmother, school bus driver-all these things describe me, but somehow I did not feel that the whole purpose for my life had been accomplished.

"Lord," I began to pray. "Give me something to do that will be worthwhile. Let me make a difference. I do not want to just pass through this world". Then the Lord began to answer my prayer in ways I could never have imagined.

A pediatrician from Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge contacted my pastor with a request for help. She saw a need for tiny burial gowns for infants who were born prematurely and were too sick or too tiny to survive. Regular newborn clothing is too large for these babies. What a ministry this would be to the parents of these babies, thought the doctor. My pastor turned to the women's group at my church to ask if we could help.

Since childhood, I had sewed, I have spent untold hours sewing clothing for my children, grandchildren, and myself. When the appeal for seamstresses to help make preemie clothes was made, God was speaking to me, I had the time, sewing skill, and a heart for helping others.

Anna Miller, another woman at my church, and I joined efforts to find patterns that would fit one-to-three-pound babies. We started with Cabbage Patch doll clothes patterns and, finding them too large, we began to downsize them. Someone gave a special gift of \$100. We used that to purchase fabric and lace. Soon, several other ladies at the church joined us in our endeavor. The only things they needed to furnish to make the little dresses were thread and love. Thus, our ministry, Threads of Love, was begun.

During a visit to Earl K. Long Hospital, the nurse supervisor of the neonatal intensive care unit asked if we could make some tiny day gowns for their premature patients. Of course, Anna and I said yes. Thus, another phase of Threads of Love was begun. We started making preemie day gowns for the babies, which are then given to the families when the babies are presented to the parents. Then we started to knit and crochet tiny stocking caps to include with the gowns and blankets.

All along, God has been faithful to bless our ministry. Just when we needed money for printing or postage costs, or for additional fabric or lace, we would receive unsolicited gifts of money or materials.

Also, we began to receive messages from some of the families who had received our gowns. One letter came from a mother whose baby daughter was too little to even cry. She explained that each day she visited her daughter, who was naked except for the wires and tubes attached to her. One day, when she arrived at the neonatal unit, the nurses had dressed the baby in a day gown and had attached a note which said, "Mommy, I may be little, but how do I look in my big-girl clothes?" It meant so much to this mother to see her baby dressed like other newborns.

Threads of Love has truly been an exciting and challenging "second career" for me. I have done things I didn't think I could do. God has given me the insight, courage and words to reach out to thousands of people. As of now there have been more than 3,000 requests for copies of the Threads of Love patterns. This shows how God can use anyone; all you need is an obedient heart to serve Him. All the glory goes to God in how Threads of Love has grown. Don't think for one moment that I am a smart person. If I was I would never have gotten into a school bus, not once a day, but four times a day and put my back to 60 screaming kids. Threads of Love has grown because of all the obedient hearts willing to serve Him. Because there are so many loving caring people we now have 22 chapters registered.

Each day the Lord's hand is revealed with blessing to His ministry Threads of Love.

By Clinel "Sissy" Davis

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Mary Knight

I am sorry to report that on Fir Jan. 8, 1999 Mary Knight died at the age of 62 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mary will be missed not only by her family and friends, but will be missed as a part of Threads of Love. Mary was married to Larry and had three children and four grandchildren. She enjoyed making doll clothes especially for the 11 1/2" fashion dolls and had begun to do porcelain dolls.

Mary had to have a valve replaced in her heart about two years ago and had been in good health since that time. When she died, she had pneumonia and had not been able to recover from it. Her friend Barbara Malmstrom, who will be taking over from Mary, stated that Mary had enjoyed Threads of Love and couldn't do enough to help the babies.

Barbara Malmstrom be taking over the Chapter Mary had started. I pray that the ladies living in the Salt Lake City area will join with Barbara and help keep Threads of Love going as a tribute to Mary and what she had started.

I would like to share part of a letter that I received from Mary on Sept. 5, 1998. "I make doll clothes and clothes for a new born and baby quilts-used to donate them to the hospital for babies to wear home because a lot of babies never get anything new otherwise. Didn't think about clothes for babies who didn't live. They need some also.

Your idea is wonderful and I have seen that indeed most people want to be paid for items made. This is a different matter and the rewards are greater than money.

I buried two babies of my own. The first one was so yellow (didn't have bile ducts or gal bladder) that white made the baby look horrible. She was buried in a blue velvet dress I had bought for her birthday (she was 15 months when God called her home).

The second baby, also a girl, lived 10 minutes. I didn't have anything for her: so a nurse made her a pair of yellow booties (way too big for little feet) and my

mother-in-law bought her a two-piece yellow newborn outfit that was way too big.

This was in 1962 and 1969- lots of babies are still being born small and lots are still dying at birth despite all the wonderful technology the doctors have today. So I am proud to sew to help these little ones.

Sincerely,
Mary Knight

Remembering

Dear Ann Landers-- I recently delivered a stillborn son. I have found that so many people don't know how to react or what to say. Stillbirths occur much more often than people might think and if I can help educate the public, it might make a difference. My therapist gave me a poem that I would like to share with the general public, and I hope you think it's worth printing, --Jasper, Ala

Dear Jasper-- Indeed it is. Thank you for sending it my way.

Remembering by Elizabeth Dent

Go ahead and mention my child,
The one that died, you know.
Don't worry about hurting me further.
The depth of my pain doesn't show.
Don't worry about making me cry.
I'm already crying inside.
Help me to heal by releasing
The tears that I try to hide.
I'm hurt when you just keep silent,
Pretending he didn't exist.
I'd rather you mention my child,
Knowing that he has been missed.
You asked me how I was doing.
I say "pretty good" or "fine"
But healing is something on going..
I feel it will take a lifetime.

As printed in The Advocate, Baton Rouge, La

Notes of Thanks

Dear Threads of Love Volunteers,

I was so glad to see the article that was written about you in Sunday's paper. I've been wanting to thank you for the beautiful day gown, hat and blanket that my

son Jeremy, received last spring while he was at Woman's Hospital. We were thrilled to have something so precious and handmade to dress him in. We loved the enclosed prayers for premature babies and found that they put into words what I had been unable to express. Jeremy was born three months early and weighted two pounds nine ounces. We give thanks to God that he is a happy healthy little boy about to celebrate his first birthday. We thank you for your kindness. I'm not much of a seamstress but I would love to help you in anyway I can. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Allison

Threads of Love Ministry,

Thank you so much for the adorable nightgowns, hats & blankets. My babies are doing well, they are One month old now, and getting bigger every day. Please keep us in your prayers, and May God bless all of you involved in this wonderful ministry of love.

Thanks again,
Kurt, Mandy, Randi & Rachel

We recently received a letter from Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Alma, Michigan.

I will share part of the letter with you. It shows how this ministry is spreading and how the hand of the Lord is revealed so very often. Someone from Rosebud Church cared and took the time to get in touch with us, and from that they were able to touch the lives of other hurting people.

When someone tells me that she can't be of much help, my answer is. "It's all like a large bucket needing to be filled, and each time a drop is added that puts the bucket closer to being full." So you see, each tiny drop is needed to help fill the needs of so many hurting people.

Threads of Love,

We recently learned about "Threads of Love" when a grandmother in our congregation had a one pound six oz. granddaughter born. The baby lived two weeks. Before she was removed from life support the parents wanted her baptized. The search for appropriate clothing began. The Pastor of Rosebud, Mich., Presbyterian Church, Mary Ann Evans-Justin, informed them of her church's involvement in "Threads of Love." This was such a blessing for the parents and grandparents.

Ladies from our church went to Rosebush for more information and patterns. We are getting our program started. I have completed one dress, bonnet and blanket, and excited about making more.

In Christ,
Gleenie

Questions and Answers

1. What size should the blankets be made? To save on fabric we have been cutting our blankets 26" long and cutting the fabric down the middle when using 44/45' fabric.

2. What fabric should be used to make blankets? Plisse and flannel are both good for blankets.

3. When making burial gowns, I like to use the same fabric for the blankets. We make a single layer and serge the edges for our blankets, and sometimes we will add lace. Finish the edge of the blankets as to what works for you.

4. What materials are to be used for the day gowns? For the day gowns flannel or batiste are both good. My fabric of choice is the batiste weight. So far the hospitals have not requested the flame retardant fabric be used.

5. One of the questions that I had a call on was about the new little wrapper that was in the last newsletter. Are the wrappers used only to hold the prayer card? By placing the card in the wrapper, you don't have to package each wrapper separately. The wrappers are also use to hold a tiny miscarried baby. It's hard to believe that a baby will fit in one. After the mother has had a chance to say her good-bye to her baby, she is then given the wrapper as a keepsake.

6. One of the most asked questions is about the caps. What size should the caps be? If it will fit a small orange, it will fit the preemie babies.

Chapters

Lissa Brown-Threads of Love
1204 Brownwood Lane
Guntersville, Al 35976
Contact person: Lissa Brown

California Angels-Threads of Love
12391 Nutwood Street
Garden Grove, Ca 92840-3026

Contact person: Anita Conger

Precious Blessings-Threads of Love
3578 Hatfeild Cir
Oceanside, Ca
Contact person: Louette Sommers

Christ Episcopal Church
59433 East Irwin Place
Englewood, Co 80122
Contact person: Lucy Newnam

Mary Ann Medina- Threads of Love
1172 Choctaw Ave
La Bella, Florida 33935
Contact person: Mary Ann Medina

First Baptist Church
44 Academy Street
Alpharetta, Georgia 30009
Contact person: Carolyn Caswell

First Presbyterian Church
P O Box 2006
Baton Rouge, La 70821
Contact person: Sissy Davis & Anna Miller

Ebenzer Baptist Church
49322 River Road
Hammond, La 70401
Contact person: Auline Dunn

First Presbyterian Church
114 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, La 71457
Contact person: Marge Mac Kenzie

Mary Kay Badgley-Threads of Love
567 Dover Ct #1
Mt Morris, Michigan 48458
Contact person: Mary Kay Badgley

Rosebush Presbyterian Church
5255 North Mission
Rosebush, Mi 48878
Contact person: Betty Sult

Columbus Baptist Church-Threads of Love
24260 West Main Street
Columbus, New Jersey 08022
Contact persons: Phyliss Dill or Judy Chimienti

Adia Garriban- Threads of Love
112 West Newell Ave

Rutherford, New Jersey 07070
Contact person: Adia Garriban

Huguenot Reformed Church
5501 Ambay Road
Staten Island, New York 10312
Contact person: Heide Schumann

Northwest Women's Club-Threads of Love
6810 Thompson Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Contact person: Pat Bechman

Threads of Love
1761 A Rolling Hills Drive
Twinsburg, Ohio
Contact person: Rosalyn M Dumas

St Mark Roman Catholic Church
60 Hamilton Ave
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
Contact person: Therese Poisson

Linda Maraldo- Threads of Love
5531 Dumfries
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Contact person: Linda Maraldo

St Phillip Presbyterian Church
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Hurst, Texas
Contact person: Edith Vaughn

Oak Island United Methodist
2970 ED Lilbiss Lane
San Antonio, Texas 78264-9302
Contact person: Deanie Compton

Buchanan Sail & Canvas-Threads of Love
890 Alexander Street
Tow, Texas 78672-4994
Contact person: Barbara Cass

Barbara's Doll House & Acc.-Threads of Love
4472 West 5175
South Kearns, Utah 84114
Contact person: Barbara Malmstrom

Kimberly Norton-Threads of Love
3707 228th Pl. SW
Brier, Wa. 98036
Contact person: Kimberly Norton

" I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Stephen Grellet 1773-1855

Thanks from Kimberly

To Threads of Love Ladies,

I appreciate all the get well cards that were sent to me from all across the country. I am sure that they helped in my recovery. Also, thanks you to those women who offered th help with my chapter of Threads of Love. I could never have asked for more help, kindness and care.

Thank you all!

Kimberly

When Kimberly had her surgery the Doctors found a broken vertebrae, two herniated discs that were pressing on the nerve and causing her to lose sensation in her left leg. Kimberly is doing well and returned to school right after the winter break on a part time basis. At this time her Doctor say her back is very unstable and she is probably facing further surgery in the near future. Let's all keep Kimberly in our prayers.

Embroidery Site

For you ladies who have an embroidery machine, there is a cute pair of baby foot prints on the internet. We have been putting the foot prints on some of our little dresses. Using our software and adding bless this baby we have a cute design to add that special touch for that special little dress. The design can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/athens/forum/4375/share10.html>

It's one of the freebies, so please let them know that you do appreciate their work. Jody from Cardinal Country Designs designed the footprints, drop by her site, say hello and please let them know that you are with Threads of Love.

Preemie Bonnet

Smocking Designs