

Sew Precious In His Sight

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GOD'S FREE GIFT, NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Can you believe it's another new year? What happened to 2006? We at Threads of Love have just finished celebrating Christmas and in a few months we will celebrate Easter. What a wonderful gift that God has given to us! He sent His only Son because we fall so short of living a sinless life and needed a Savior. Jesus came to earth to take on an earthly body and live as one of us for 33 years, but without sinning against God. Then He gladly died in our place, so that we may be washed clean as snow by His precious blood. He paid the price for our sin and now we can stand before the Father free of sin. It is as if we were given a no-limit credit card, paid in full, when we were saved. No strings attached to His gift, just say yes to Him and accept Him into your heart and live for Him.

With the beginning of another new year I have been looking back and thinking how fast the years have flown by. I thought about when I invited Jesus into my life. I was only a few days short of being 10 years old. I can remember it as if it were yesterday; in fact, it is so real even today that I can tell you what I was wearing. The invitation had been given in Sunday School that day, so when the pastor offered the invitation in church after the service, I all but ran down the aisle to say I wanted Jesus to come into my heart. What a beautiful day it was!

It was not until later in life I began to ask the question, what now and where do I go

from here? My mother always taught me to say thank you for any gift given to me. I know Jesus doesn't ask anything from us for our salvation, but we are to live a life reflecting Him the best that we can. All of us are sinners saved only by the Grace of God. Because He gave me such a wonderful gift I wanted to know how I could show Him that I appreciated His gift. I began to pray "let others see Jesus in me." Little did I know that He would take me up on that prayer! It was not long after I started praying that I raised my hand at church to say I would help make baby clothes for infants that died at the local hospital. Thus, Threads of Love came into being. To me, it's my way of saying thank you to Jesus for His gift given to me so freely.

In case you are seeking answers to the same question, I want to share two stories about two different ladies of how they let others see Jesus in them. Threads of Love has a place for anyone that loves Jesus no matter what their talents or limitations are.

I will share their stories on the next page. They are very moving and powerful testimonies of how God can use you even in your nineties, or bind!

In His Service,
Sissy Davis, Director
Threads of Love

The Stories of Two Amazing Ladies....



Let me introduce Esther Glaser who turned 94 at Thanksgiving time. She has been such an inspiration to our Orange Chapter by always coming to our function, and her fingers are always at work. She has been with me for 7 years, and is holding her 950th blanket that she has crocheted for our tiny precious babies. Her blankets are loved by the moms, and they are so soft and such pretty colors. Esther's doctor has told her the good Lord is not ready for her, so just keep crocheting. Her goal for this year is a total of 1000. She's a lovely woman, and sharp as a tack. I feel blessed to have her, not only as a dedicated volunteer, but someone very dear to me. God Bless you Esther, and keep going.

Jackie McPheeters-Orange County, Ca. Chapter

Susan was born premature, is totally blind, and a special preemie who enjoys helping other preemies through Threads of Love. Susan said of herself, "I am interested in Threads of Love because it enables me to make a meaningful worthwhile and much needed contribution to the babies and their families. As the preemies receive a gift from me - from one preemie to another - I am rewarded and feel a sense of purpose and fulfillment from each blanket I complete. My involvement with Threads of Love began after learning of items my sister had completed for the organization. As my job had ended and I had crocheted in the past, taking up an old hobby seemed a wonderful thing to do which would benefit both the preemies and myself."

Susan has been married to Larry, who is also totally blind, for sixteen years. Susan is retired and Larry will be retiring as of December 31. Susan is very organized and has a sighted friend help her with the yarn, which she stores in Ziploc bags labeled in Braille as to the color and type.

These two very special ladies teach us that in spite of age or disabilities there are so many ways to contribute to the work of the group. No matter what your talents or abilities, you can help Threads of Love make a difference.



**- THREADS OF LOVE -
WHAT A TEAM EFFORT!**

As a chapter leader, I recently found myself in need of help from my fellow chapters. The year 2006 was a really tough one for me, personally. In fact, it was hard to keep going. My life was upside down. I had only one helper in my chapter - but what a wonderful helper she was. She's the first one I want to thank. Irma Fails was faster than a speeding bullet when it came to fulfilling the requests of our hospitals. Had it not been for her, our "chapter" would be no more. I had my hands so full with personal issues that I could barely do my part.

A couple of months ago, Irma felt that the time had come for her to move on to something else that had been tugging at her heart. She had been such a blessing to me that I hated to see her go (for very selfish reasons, obviously). Without Irma, I was once again at a turning point. I just didn't see how I could continue to furnish 6 hospitals with all they needed by myself, especially since I was still battling so many personal issues.

Our chapter was going strong but, I just couldn't seem to keep up. I knew I wasn't supposed to give it up. There are too many people out there counting on us, and TOL is part of who I am. All year, I had been asking my hospitals to bear with me - to hold on. They were so encouraging and so supportive - so patient.

In desperation, I wrote to Sissy about my dilemma. I really didn't know what to do. She forwarded my email to all the chapters across America! Wow! What great resources we have in one another. I received replies from many who were eager to help me through this time. It brings tears to my eyes to think of just how many ways TOL ministers to so many people.

In just a few days I began to receive boxes full of all the things I needed - enough to carry my hospitals through the holidays until I can pick

up where I left off. As I opened the boxes, I can't tell you how overwhelmed I was with the love of each of you that were willing to help me. Plus, it was also so wonderful to see the handiwork of others outside my chapter.

To Debbie Torrence, Tampa, FL Chapter; Jackie McPheeters, Orange, CA Chapter; Margot Martin, Winnsboro, LA Chapter; and Brenda Dalton, Shreveport/Bossier Chapter; and to all of you who bless so many around you with all you do for others - God's Word says "Whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do for Me".

May His face shine upon you this Christmas season.

Linda Weaver
Tiny Threads of Love
Hardin, Texas



The Will of God
never takes you to where
the Grace of God
will not protect you



*Prayer...Don't give
God instructions just
report for duty!*



Thank You...

Threads of Love,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the clothes and blankets! I cried when I saw the clothes, it was the sweetest thing ever! We also put the sock toy in their incubators so they will watch over them while we are gone. Your group of ladies are so special and y'all have huge hearts. We love you all! I wish the girls could meet each one of you because they would love the ladies that went out of their way to make them feel comfortable and special.

Love you, Windy and Joe



Christians

By Maya Angelou

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say.. "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say.. "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

Share this with somebody who already has this understanding, as reinforcement. But more importantly, share this with those who do not have a clear understanding of what it means to be a Christian, so that the myth that Christians think they are "perfect" or "better than others" can be dispelled.



FIVE FINGER PRAYER

1. **Your thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The **next finger** is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The **next finger** is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The **fourth finger** is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our **little finger** - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



2006 National Threads of Love Convention Winners Announced

Winners of dress contest :

- ☆ 1st Place went to Pam Malugin of the Columbia, TN Chapter
- ☆ 2nd Place to Twain McCloud of the Walker, LA Chapter
- ☆ 3rd Place to Cely Debetaz of the Baton Rouge, LA Chapter

- ☆ One of the Janome-415 sewing machines (retailing for \$399) was won by the Columbia, TN chapter
- ☆ for having the most attendees at the convention. The second sewing machine went to Anna Marie Trier of Louisville, KY.

- ☆ *Other winners were:*
- ☆ Brenda Cordray, Ponchatoula, LA (bolt of batiste)
- ☆ Susan Myes of Concord, NC (bolt of flannel)
- ☆ Gloria Speakerman of Arlington, TX (bolt of heirloom lace)
- ☆ Amanda Spencer of Wichita Falls, TX (2nd bolt of heirloom lace)

Threads of Love
A Ministry of First Presbyterian Church
Of Baton Rouge
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PO Box 2006
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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*The shortest distance between a
problem and a solution is the
distance between your knees and
the floor.*

*The one who kneels to the Lord
can stand up to anything.*