

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume Seven, Issue 3



July 2005

FROM SISSY, Director of Threads of Love.....

Once again Threads of Love had a booth at the Martha Pullen Sewing Market in Arlington, Texas this year. As always it was an exciting time for me and a chance to meet lots of ladies who have the love of sewing and want to learn more about how they could serve the Lord with their talent of sewing. Attending this show always gives me a chance to meet some new ladies and ladies who are already a part of one of the Threads of Love chapters. For example, I had lunch with Kelly Butler from the Saginaw chapter and Juli Zoota, from the Fort Worth chapter, on Wednesday the day before the show started. The show also gives me a chance to meet and talk to families who have been touched by the ministry of Threads of Love. We are not looking for a thank you from families whose lives have been touched by our love of sewing; but it is always so encouraging to know that we are making a difference in what we are doing.

Just to show you that God has a sense of humor, I was asked to be in a fashion show on Friday night, as they needed someone my size. I had never done anything like that before, but Martha Pullen and her staff have been so great and supportive of Threads of Love over the years, I just couldn't say no. So Sissy was a model on Friday night!

I would like to share a story told to me by one of those families who received some of the lovely gifts of love donated by one of the chapters in Texas. She came by the booth just to say thank you and let us know that it had meant so much to her and her husband to receive these lovely gifts for their twins. She had delivered twin girls who were born too soon and had to stay in the NIC unit for some time. This Mother shared with me what the little clothes had meant to her and her husband, to be able to see their babies dressed in clothes that fit them and how much they appreciated them. What meant more than anything was the clothing that one of the twins was dressed in when she had to say good-bye to this little one, and how it had touched her heart to know that someone that she did not even know cared enough to spend time making this little dress for her baby.

I know some of you think that your chapter is small and feel like your chapter is not helping out that much, but it takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of these families. Threads of Love may not be making a big splash in the sea of hurt, but we are making a difference. We may be only a ripple in the water, but they know we are there and that we serve an awesome God. Just to let you know how much of a difference we are making as a group.....Threads of Love started placing labels on our garments in the fall of 1997, and as of today we have used over 460,000 labels. It's because of each one of you that we have been able to do this; so you see each one of you are real important, even if you only make a dozen items a year. When you add it all up it makes a big difference.....it takes every one of us sewing and donating these many items to show that they are made in honor of our Lord and to share His light into a dark time in the lives of families who are faced with the uncertain of their baby or in the loss of their precious little one. Never think that you are not making a difference because you are, and continue to keep up the good work and may God bless each of you in all that you do in His honor.

-Sissy Davis

Number of items donated year-to-date in 2005:

44721!

Thank You Notes

Dear Threads of Love,

As you know, my daughter Kaili was born prematurely. She weighed 11lb 9oz & measured 12in long at birth. The doctors said that she had a small chance for survival. But 3 1/2 months later, and experiencing the emotional pain, and staying at the hospital til` early morning hours, and residing at the Ronald McDonald House during that whole time...she finally got to come home. The last time we were at the dr's she weighed 13lb & was over 2ft tall. Had it not been for the staff at Scott & White, the research & technology by March of Dimes.....I don` t think Kaili would be here with us today. Please help this cause so that others may benefit & live. If you can't donate please send this email to someone you think may want to. And please remember, every little bit counts.

Thanks and God Bless! Victoria

Thank you so much for your kindness. Our daughter, Mia, was born 6 weeks premature at CHOC hospital in Orange County California. She became very ill with a bacterial form of meningitis around 1 week old. God has protected her and is healing her, on this her 3 week birthday. Your beautiful blankets and hats have made our family feel as though we had support. I read your prayers to our little angel and dream of the day when she will be home with us. Thank you so much for your love, generosity and kindness. All of which can never be repaid.

This is the 'Poster Baby' from the Heart of Alabama Chapter—McKenzie. She is one year old now. The first picture is when she was three days old, Easter Sunday 2004 and the second is Easter Sunday 2005.



December 12, 2003

Dear Ladies of St. Mark's "Threads of Love",

On Tuesday, November 18, a little girl was born to our daughter and son-in-law at Women and Infants Hospital. This little child was born with severe medical problems. We soon found out that she would not pull through. It was very important to our family that she be baptized. Just before the priest arrived to perform the ceremony, a beautiful little dress, bonnet, and blanket trimmed with little purple embroidery, appeared by her crib. Needless to say, we were all stunned. None of us had even thought about anything like that.

Our little angel was baptized Gillian Rae Moitoso. Because she couldn't be moved, we just laid the little dress and blanket over her and placed the bonnet on her head. She looked beautiful.

"Thank You" doesn't begin to say what we felt that day. We had lots of support from family and friends, but the kindness of strangers has overwhelmed us and you are on the top of that list. Thanks to all of you, Gillian had a baptismal outfit. We have an angel watching over us and we feel sure that she will also watch over you and your families.

We wish we could thank you all personally, but we want you to know that we thank you in our hearts often. Please accept this small token of our gratitude for all you do. We are sure it will help you with the "Threads of Love".

Forever Grateful,



Let Your Light Shine!
Because many of my friends know I'm involved in volunteer work, I received a phone call Sunday night of Memorial Day weekend... "This is (the son of friends). My daughter is a senior at (a local high school) and needs 6 more community service hours by Tuesday to graduate. I was told you might be able to help." I suggested the teenager call me in the morning, and plan on coming over. Threads of Love lovie dolls was our project, and by the time she had to leave for a mid-afternoon job, her request was "This was fun; can I do some more?" She took eight more unfinished lovie dolls home with her to sew on the hats and knot the hands! (Yes, she completed the hours she needed -- which was really only 4, but she did 5 1/2.)
Cathleen

Threads of Love

By Karen Kastner

With thanks to people like Jean Grob, Cecilia Chaisson, and many other winter residents of the Sea Wind Campground at Loyola Beach, some of the physical needs for tiny infants are met through Threads of Love.

Threads of Love is a Christian outreach ministry with headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that has chapters across the country. They provide handmade clothing, blankets, caskets, and other articles made by volunteers from donations for premature or sick babies that range from one to five pounds. Their ultimate, silent message is, "You are loved."

The founder of the sewing ministry was Clinel "Sissy" Davis, who had lost a brother born prematurely. Davis remembered the anguish and the emptiness her family had faced. Years later, in the fall of 1993, Dr. Rachel Hausmann from the Earl K. Long Charity Hospital in Baton Rouge approached the pastor of her church with the need for tiny burial gowns for pediatric patients. With the help of Anna Miller, chairperson of the Christian Community Action Committee of Presbyterian Women, they looked for other volunteers with sewing talents.

The first bolt of material was purchased with a \$100 donation from Katherine Dunham. The church bulletin requested additional help stating "all you need is a lot of love and thread...." Threads

of Love was born! After years of suffering as a surviving sibling, Davis had found a way to begin to heal and was doing something positive from a negative experience in her life.

Jean Grob is in her first year as chapter president; she took over the position from Norma Jean Caswell, from Medina, Texas, who began the organization here six years ago. They now have approximately 50 members at the campground who not only make the sewn items, but also build infant caskets; the men construct them and the ladies finish the inside. One-half of the items they craft annually are donated to Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital in Kingsville; the other half is taken to the hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, when the Grob's

return home in March.

Grob commented, "I am so proud of the people here in the park. We made 421 different items in the past three months." She added that members of the organization continue to handcraft items year round and bring them back in December when they all meet again for another winter in South Texas.

Donations for the Kingsville chapter came from A&R Lumber, Lowes, McCoys, and Zarsky Lumber. More information on Threads of Love can be found online at www.threadsoflove.org.



All you need is a lot of love and thread!
Cecilia Chaisson, from Ontario, Canada (left) and Jean Grob from Bellevue, Nebraska

Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine.

I got to thinking one day about all those women on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back...From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word "refrigeration" mean nothing to you?

How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched 'Jeopardy' on television?

I cannot count the times I called my sister and said, "How about going to lunch in a half hour?" She would gas up and stammer, "I can't. I have clothes on the line. My hair is dirty. I wish I had known yesterday, I had a late breakfast, It looks like rain." And my personal favorite: "It's Monday."She died a few years ago. We never did have lunch together

Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches...We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect!

We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get Stevie toilet-trained. We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet. We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.

When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Rollerblades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord.

My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.

Now...go on and have a nice day. Do something you WANT to...not something on your SHOULD DO list. If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? And why are you waiting?

Have you ever watched kids playing on a merry go round or listened to the rain lapping on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight or gazed at the sun into the fading night? Do you run through each day on the fly? When you ask "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed with the next hundred chores running through your head? Ever told your child, "We'll do it tomorrow." And in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch? Let a good friendship die? Just call to say "Hi"?

When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift! ..Thrown away... Life is not a race. Take it slower. Hear the music before the song is over.

"Life may not be the party we hoped for...but while we are here we might as well dance!"---I like that!

DON'T MISS THE CONVENTION!!!! - September 29-October 1, 2005 – First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge

This year's Threads of Love convention registration is open now (on the website) and will be open to non-chapters beginning July 15th. Here are the classes that you can look forward to.....

- **Pastor's Class - "God's Light Shines in Dark Times"** - This class is especially targeted towards pastors, social workers, lay ministers, funeral directors, and the like.
- **Websites and Microsoft Excel** – Learn how to build a presence on the web for your chapter, and learn how to use Microsoft Excel to organize your chapter inventory.
- **Learn how to make Threads of Love items with your serger** . Learn how to finish off the edges of blankets, wrappers for miscarried babies, how to make a hat and the lovie doll by serger.
- **Edge Finishes by Serger** Get to know your serger how to thread, set the tension, different threads to use in your serger.
- **Basic Heirloom by Serger**—Learn to make pin tucks, attach eyelet or lace, lace insertion with your serger
- **Construction of a burial dress and Learning Machine Appliqué**
- **Heirloom and Decorative Sewing**: Needles, Threads and Stabilizers for Heirloom and Decorative Sewing.
- **Techniques in Heirloom Sewing** Includes lace shaping, magic Madeira appliqué, Australian Madeira appliqué, lace cathedral windows, drawn thread work by machine, gimp work, silk ribbon by machine, straight stitch free motion stitching, bar tack flowers and other techniques
- **Learn Basic Smocking or Improve your smocking skills**—Smocking is as popular today as it ever was and in this class you will learn all that is required to Smock lovely garments
- **Smocking/Construction of Bishop Dress**—Bishops are perfect for babies, preemie and older because the raglan sleeves fit so comfortably and they are not so quickly outgrown
- **Embroider a Baby Bonnet** - In this class you will stitch two of the most beloved of all embroidery stitches...the Featherstitch and Bullion Rose flowers
- **Silk Ribbon Embroidery** - This is a handwork class where you will learn lots of basic silk ribbon stitches on the outer cover of the memory envelope
- **Machine Embroidery and Construction of Memory Envelope**—This is a demonstration/lecture class where you will learn about stabilizers, needles, threads and construction of when making the memory envelopes
- **Heirloom Baby Bonnet by Machine**—Make a beautiful heirloom baby bonnet in this class. Learn how to attach lace and entredeax to fabric
- **Shadow Embroider a Baby Pillow**—Soft, baby pastels create a delicate little design that is suitable for girls or boys on this tiny white pillowcase that will be a sweet addition to any crib or nursery
- **Embroider a baby bib**—Decorative as well as functional, a cute bib will enhance the most practical of baby garments for boys or girls.
- **Embroider a pin cushion**—This little pincushion will make a delightful addition to a sewing room or nursery.
- **How to Make Your Beauty Last: A "New Look" for the Proverbs 31 Woman**—Do you long for a beauty that will last beyond youth and into eternity? Find out how "the fear of the Lord, the beginning of wisdom" will give a beauty that will never fade!
- **The Master's Pattern**—Just as we pick up needle and thread to begin fashioning a beautiful garment, God takes the abilities and talents He has placed within each of us to shape and create a beautiful masterpiece of design, even when we can't see the working of His hand.
- **Pray it like you mean**—It's not a simple three step program to answered prayers, but it will be confidence building and prayer equipping!
- **"Making Memories" - Class for Nurses**—This class will offer nurses and social workers continuing education credits, but is open to anyone interested.

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

ADDRESS LABEL GOES HERE

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!

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.

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There are three things that remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

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