

Sew Precious In His Sight

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Story of the Bead – Threads of Love

“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:18



It's neat how the Lord put the right person in place when there is a need. Dee Konstanzer of Sulphur, LA had received a call from one of the nurses at the hospital that her group serves asking if they could come up with an idea of making memory bracelets for the Mother who had suffered a loss. In turn she contacted me. Being a sewer, the first thing that came to mind was to make a bracelet out of fabric, which would not last very long. Bad idea! This was almost a year ago and the idea was pushed to the back of my brain. However when I met Julesa at the Threads of Love Conference in April 2010 the idea sprang to the front of my brain and we began the brainstorming.

If you missed the 2010 conference you really missed a great time of learning and

fellowship. The next Threads of Love conference will be back in LA April 25-28 of 2012. The days have been changed from Thursday–Sunday to Wednesday–Saturday. Some of the ladies had to leave early Sunday morning in order to make their flight to be back home for Monday morning.

The following is Julesa's story and how all of this came together.

Sissy Davis

In late 2009, Susan Myers of the Charlotte, North Carolina Threads of Love Chapter asked me if I knew anyone who made jewelry. Of course, I smiled and said, “I sure do, me!” She had decided to offer a jewelry making class during the upcoming Threads of Love conference in April 2010. I told her I would love to teach a class!

After a couple of months of preparation, design and step-by-step trial and error, I came up with a simple crystal and pearl beaded bracelet. The class was a hit and everyone loved their bracelets. We made several bracelets and I felt successful, happy and full of love the entire weekend. What a joyous event it was for me!

During the remainder of the conference, I met a menagerie of wonderfully creative ladies with a passion I haven't seen in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

years. Mom and I were thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful organization and a fantastic group of ladies!

Next thing I know, Sissy Davis and I were chatting about making a memory bracelet to put into our bereavement packs. That night, I went home and began thinking of a one of a kind bead to put into the bracelet to create the exact feeling of memory for those mommies who needed comfort and support after the loss of their child.

I decided a resin bead with some piece of the Threads of Love organization would be the perfect way to give our love and support to those mommies. I poured a sample with a simple silver heart in the middle, assembled a bracelet and brought a sample to Sissy the next day! She thought it was beautiful and we began to brainstorm on the best way to showcase Threads of Love.

After several iterations, we decided the Threads of Love logo and a simple memory statement, "In Memory of My Child," would accomplish the exact sentiment we were seeking.

This final design presented me with lots of challenges and tests in patience, but I know He brought me to this place for a very specific reason. To me it was a lesson in patience and an opportunity to really collaborate on something to spread His love and compassion.

Back to the bead...

Each and every Threads of Love bead is handmade in three layers by me. We wait 24-48 hours for the beads to fully cure before we pop them out of the heart mold (I can pour up to 75 beads at one time).

After the resin is completely cured, I make sure that the edges are smooth and comfortable to wear on the wrist. Each

bead is then assembled with the sterling silver wire, accent beads and the clasp and inserted into the kits.

The entire process for 75 beads takes approximately 72 hours to make, so you can be sure each and every bead is filled with love and prayer long before it makes it to the mommy's bereavement packs. Because each bead is handmade, they cannot all be perfect, but we do strive to make them as beautiful as we possibly can and we quality check each bead to make sure the imperfections are so slight as to not be noticeable. Thank you all so much for your wonderful support and I am thrilled to be a part of Threads of Love!

Julessa Barnes

Note: If you are interested in placing an order for your Threads of Love chapter with Julessa please contact me for the ordering forms to get the discount that she is giving to the Threads of Love chapters.





SEWING TIP

This tip comes from one of newest chapters, Joyce Daniels of Greensboro, GA

You need to wash flannel when using it to line anything that will be washed in the future. This is the only time that I suggest that you wash your flannel, as you know it's never pretty after being washed; besides we don't want to cause any problem for our little ones if we use a soap that they could have a reaction to.

To wash your flannel before sewing, one whole section fits in your machine. Unroll/unwrap it and circle the center agitator. I filled the machine up with warm water, let it agitate the full cycle and then set it to the spin cycle, no detergent so it didn't need to rinse twice. When you put it in the dryer, if you put 3+ tennis balls in with the flannel, it works really well and it dries and fluffs quickly. Lots of lint in the vent, remember to clean that filter. I folded it in 1/2 lengthwise and wrapped it on an empty bolt I picked up at Joann's. Now, to stitch it up!

Thanks Joyce, great idea!



A Remarkable Puzzle...

Test your Bible skills!

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Victs mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving; she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot... that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit, it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help: books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuations or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete.

Remember – there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph



MAIL BOX...

God bless your Ministry!! I lost a son to stillbirth, and I know how devastating it can be. To have someone there to acknowledge that a stillborn baby is a person, is very important to the parents.

What you do for the babies and families is the definition of compassion and love! May God continue to bless you and keep you!!
Kim (Baton Rouge)

On behalf of the volunteers at Wake Medical, it's patients and staff, I would like to thank the Threads of Love sewers for their generous contributions of infant gowns, baby blankets, baby hats, pillows and Lovies. These items will be shared with our patients and their families.

We appreciate your caring, time and support.
Most sincerely,
Marie, Volunteer/Community

Iwould also personally like to thank you and your ministry for making the hardest time of our lives just a tad bit easier to bear. Because of you all, Kristian was able to be laid to rest in the most beautiful little white gown that we'd never be able to find elsewhere. He wouldn't have even been able to fit into the sleeve of a preemie outfit. You all are truly a God send to people like us, so keep doing what you're doing.

Thanks again, for giving my baby boy a beautiful little gown that we will cherish forever.

Amy

Thanks a million for the preemie gowns for our patients here at SRMC. I will give these to our bereavement nurse, Amanda Devers. She tracks all of our fetal losses and assists the family with arrangements. She and I will be sure these things get to families in need when they are hit with such an unexpected tragedy. I don't know what we'd do without you!

Sincerely,
Deb Fugagli, RN
Woman's Life Center

Your thoughtfulness meant so much to us. I will place the doll next to me then my little one as soon as the nurses tell me I can place items next to my daughter. The tops are perfect. The Baby Journal has come in so handy.

Yours in Christ,
Condo family & Donovan family



Threads of Love Newest Chapters

Joyce Daniel
Greensboro, GA

Marsena Holt
Florence, SC

Haldine Baxter
Auburn, AL

"Marty" Cobb
Memphis, TN

Carrots, Eggs & Coffee



You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and

became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff?

Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

Threads of Love Foundation
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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.

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Remember that everyone is given the same amount of time. (24 hours in a day)
What will determine your success today is what you choose to do with it!