

Sew Precious In His Sight

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Threads of Love Puts Smile on Tiny Faces in Honduras

*"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" **Matthew 25:40***

Last March I was asked if Threads of Love would be willing to supply some blankets for an orphanage in Honduras. A team from Greenwell Springs Baptist Church had been down to Honduras and saw a need to build an orphanage; when they found 89 children of different ages living on the streets, some as young as 2 months, that were being taken care of by older siblings. Most of the children had been left as orphans due to their parents having died from AIDS. Having no one to take them in because most of the people in the village could hardly take care of their own children, some of the orphans roamed the street in the nude, sleeping where ever they could find a dry spot and digging through garbage for food. This group of men's hearts were so deeply touched that they immediately began putting together funds to build that so badly needed orphanage. Their plans were to return to Honduras in July with a sea chest full of needed supplies and clothing and to begin a home for these children.

The men have built 73 bunk beds and have gotten the local prison to make the mattress and pillows for the beds. A team member and his wife have supplied sheets and pillow

cases, now all they needed were blankets. I was asked if we could supply 73 blankets for the beds that they would be building, and of course my answer was "yes". One of the men came to the workshop on the day that we were making the blankets and shared with us what he had seen, how little these children had and how appreciative they were of the things that had been given to them on one of the medical mission trips. After hearing his testimony to what he had seen, we wanted to do more, we wound up making 177 blankets and then we decided that we would share our sewing talent with these children by making clothes for them. I send out an email to all of the chapters asking if other chapters wanted to help. The little pillow case dresses, boxer shorts and t-shirts began to arrive for the children. In all, we sent 538 dresses, 207 sets of boxer shorts and t-shirts, along with 188 pairs of underwear and 9 guardian angels. Another couple collected more boy clothes and many pairs of shoes for the children.

Several days after the team of men returned to the states a text message came in saying that they had opened the doors to the orphanage and had put to bed that night 139 children. For some of them this was the first time that they had ever slept in a bed, much less a safe, clean, and dry environment. How that must have warmed the hearts of those

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that had the opportunity to see those bright shining faces enjoy what it was like to have a safe place to sleep and a place to call home.

I asked one of the men on the mission team to tell his story about their trip to Honduras. The following is his story and what it meant to him.

“Greenwell Springs Baptist Church has a mission in Telamar, Honduras. The mission team has been in the process of making repairs to and paint the church in Tornabe and also build and orphanage for the precious ones with no families. Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, along with Threads of Love, put many smiles on these little faces. Close of six hundred (600) dresses and boys shorts and shirts where “handmade” by many chapters of Threads of Love throughout the U.S.

The FSBC mission is in Telamar, Honduras which is the home church for the interpreter we use when we are in Honduras. It is a small mission with approximately 70-80 members, with many small children.

Tornabe is a small village a few miles outside of Telamar where the residents are extremely poor and have very little. They have a church which GSBC is supporting. GSBC supplies one hot meal a day to 70 to 80 little boys and girls who have been orphaned.

As we began to give the clothes to the children and I could see numerous faces, one face was of a small child smiling, another with laughter and often time a tear or two.

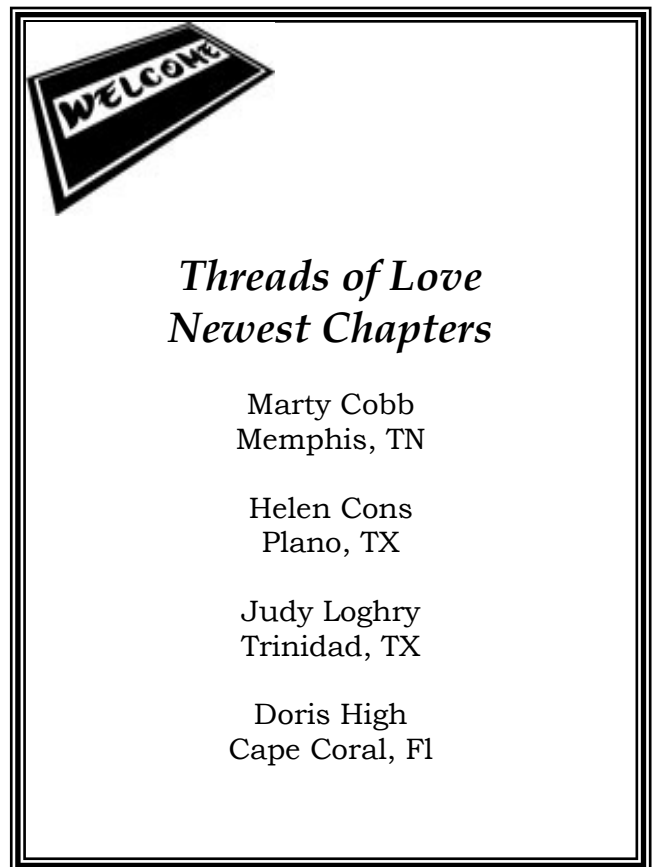
I then could see the faces of ladies of Threads of Love who had made the garments. I knew that they had been sewed together with lots of love and most likely with smiles on their faces too. The ones who sewed those clothes together had done the very best they could do, every little detail

had to be just right in order to receive the little tag on the garment that reads “Threads of Love”.

It was a very touching moment for me as a member of the GSBC Construction Team. I couldn't help but shed a tear of two as I knew some of the ladies that had put their time and love into pleasing and serving the Lord and the little children of Honduras.

The GSBC Mission Team and numerous little ones will be forever grateful to Threads of Love for the generosity, love and overwhelming time spent on all that was offered these children. I know the Lord will richly bless each and every member of Threads of Love.”

By Paul Green



What Happens In Heaven When We Pray?

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, “this is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.”

I looked around in this area and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting our petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, “this is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them.” I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. “This is the Acknowledgment Section” my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. “How is it that there is no work going on here?” I asked.

“So sad” the angel sighed. “After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.”

“How dos one acknowledge God’s blessings?” I asked.

“Simple” the angel answered. “Just say, Thank you, Lord.”

“What blessings should they acknowledge?” I asked.

“If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.”

“If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world. If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world. If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare.”

“If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you’re unique to all those in doubt and despair...”

“Ok, what now? How can I start?”

If you can read this you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are!



From The Mail Box

We just wanted to let all of you know that we appreciate the beautiful things that you make for our babies in the NICU. You will never know how many lives you have touched. Again, we thank you and wanted you to know that God is smiling upon each and every one of you! Thanks, Bereavement Council of Women's Hospital NICU

Thank you to all of you who sew from the heart. What a beautiful way to use these talents given you by our god. Bless all of you. Dorothy, Great grandmother of Kelsie

I am not sure what made me find your contact information today, but I feel that I owe you a long overdue Thanks.

Four years ago my twin boys were born two months premature. It was a very hard time for my family but I will never forget the bean bags that helped cradle their bodies, the hats that helped to keep them warm, and the blankets that snuggled them when I could not. All were donated by a local *Threads of Love* chapter. When my third child was born, also premature, I immediately asked if he was going to get something from *Threads of Love*. He got a hat.

To this day, my twins still sleep with their blankets. I have thought many times about putting them away to keep them from becoming frayed and worn, but my boys just can't sleep without them. I think God has done amazing things through your organization and so I continue to let my babies be snuggled by the gifts of generosity given to them when they needed it the most. God bless all of the volunteers. Thank you so much.

Ariel Boerne, TX

I just wanted to acknowledge *Threads of Love* with a belated, but heartfelt **Thanks!** In 1998 I gave birth to a (1 pound 8oz) little girl, who is now a wonderful and very active little girl. At the time she was born, it was a trying time for me; I had already experienced two miscarriages prior to her birth, coupled with 6 years of infertility. Needless to say her birth was met with mixed emotions - overjoyed that finally I had a baby, but very uneasy due to her premature condition. Seeing all of the tubes and wires attached to her little fragile, unclothed body was overwhelming.

It all seemed unreal, and so did the baby. One day, on one of my countless visits to the NICU at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, I noticed a neatly placed packet that contained a small cap, a gown, a blanket, and a prayer; all with *Threads of Love* on them. I was so excited to finally get some clothes that fit my baby! She finally seemed like a real baby to me. Those items will remain keepsakes.

I had every intention of trying to find an address to contact you, but as you get home with the baby and try to get settled in, before you know it a year has passed, then two, etc. But I heard mention of *Threads of Love* name concerning taking responsibility for the burial of an abandoned babies and that brought to mind the unselfish act of kindness you were showing, but also that same kindness that you had shown to me and my baby. I am forever grateful and I want you to know that this ministry is truly a ministry of Love. Although you may not always be acknowledged, you are touching and blessing the lives of many. What better example of God's unconditional Love is there than the example that you have been over the past years. Know that **YOU ARE A BLESSING! AND THANK YOU ! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,
Greta K.

Dear Threads of Love,

I wanted to let you all know how valuable this ministry really is to parents and loved ones of babies in the NICU. I didn't even know about this ministry until my first child, Lydia, was born on March 25. No one prepared me for her need to go to the NICU. I thought she would be a healthy baby and stay in the room with me like all the other mothers I knew.

But, after having to speed up her delivery because she was in distress, a quick C-section and a few hours in the room with me, Lydia became very sick. She was in respiratory distress and was rushed to the NICU. She would stay there nine days. My first visit to her the next day was so comforting when I saw her little sock baby, positioner and knitted cap. She had it all and I felt so much better knowing someone had thought of her. Later, I learned the items were supplied by a Threads of Love chapter.

I treasure all the items and my daughter still used the positioner to help with her reflux. She is a happy healthy baby. God truly is worthy of our trust and praise. Lydia's prematurity revealed lung and severe heart problems that were totally corrected by the end of the week.

I am sorry it took me so long to write and let you guys know how much you all mean to me and my husband. I pray for your organization often. The items, the prayer cards and the love for Christ you all demonstrate by caring for these little babies and their parents touches so many people. I am eternally grateful for making my baby girl's stay in the NICU a little more comfortable and for helping me and my husband deal with the stress and grief that fills your heart when your baby is away from you.

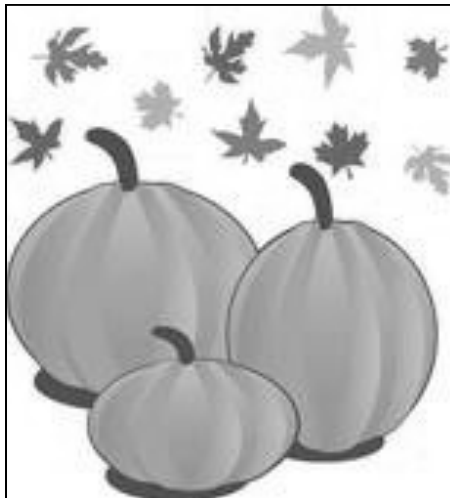
Love in Christ,
Christie

A Tip For Sewing on Buttons



Always mark with a pin the place where the button is to go. Sew the button on over the pin, remove the pin, and wind the thread around the threads that hold the button to the cloth. This makes a firm little stem which raises the button just enough to make it set well in the buttonhole. It also prevents that nailed on look, as well as the homemade look of a spread-open buttonhole which is the result of a too tightly applied button.

Welcome Fall



Memory Hankie

Nina Lee of Bloomfield, Ky. makes a "Tear Hankie" for the Mother's who loss their babies. She changed the name of this project to a Memory Hankie.

Threads of Love Foundation
Post Office Box 73
Watson, LA 70786

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 Foundation
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People will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them feel."