

Sew Precious In His Sight



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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.

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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A Simple Act

Who was Miriam? Miriam was Moses' sister. She was about seven years old when she served God with her one small act of courage. We can see how God used Miriam's one small act of obedience to make a difference in the lives of His people. Miriam literally changed the course of history.

Moses' mother feared the Pharaoh of Egypt, for he had issued a decree that all Levite baby boys were to be killed. At first she hid the baby, but as he grew she could no longer safely hide him. Moses' mother put her faith and trust in God that her baby would be kept safe. She used her talent by weaving a basket of papyrus and placing Moses where Pharaoh's daughter (the princess) would find him. She then instructed Miriam to stand watch to see what would happen to her precious baby. After the princess found Moses, Miriam raced up to the princess, offering to find a wet nurse for the baby. You see, when the princess found Moses she saw him as a gift from the gods, for she was unable to bear children and her heir would someday be king of Egypt. The princess agreed that Miriam should find a nurse for the baby. Miriam went back to find her mother, and Moses' mother was brought into the princess's household to care for her baby. Moses grew under the care and training of his Hebrew Mother. This allowed him the needed training to be obedient to God and become the one to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

We can all be like Miriam by serving God with our talent of sewing and reaching out to someone we will never meet. The Lord is glorified by our eagerness and faithfulness in donating our time in making gifts for Threads of Love. A simple act of using our talents and being obedient to God says to these mothers that not only does God feel your pain, but we do too. Our gifts of love become tools to remind these families that God is faithful and He is there beside them. As we use our sewing talents, we are not only serving God, we are also sowing seeds for Jesus. Just as God used the princess, Miriam and Moses' mother for His divine plan, God can and will use us as part of His plan if we will only be obedient to Him.

-Sissy Davis

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Thanks to the amazing publicity *Threads of Love* has gotten from the article in the March issue of Sew Beautiful, we have signed on a record number of chapters and had inspiring and encouraging letters from servants of God who want to be involved with *Threads of Love*. We wanted to share some of these with you.

Nearly eight months ago, I lost my little Elise. She was born still on July 7, 2001. I was so overwhelmed about the whole thing when I was giving birth to her in the hospital that I couldn't think straight. I was thrilled when the nurses brought me a delicate pink smocked gown for her to wear. I treasure it still in her memory box. I am so thankful for the volunteers that thought ahead for me and my daughter. One of the ways I'd like to remember Elise every year on her birthday is by making a similar gown for another full-term stillborn girl. I read about your organization in *Sew Beautiful* magazine this afternoon, and I wonder if you can put me in touch with a local *Threads of Love* chapter, sign me up for your newsletter, or give me any other information. I enjoy heirloom sewing and lace knitting. Camille

We recently had a preemie born to our family that was less than 2 lbs. We were at odds as to where to get sewing patterns for some clothing for this baby. I was given one of your patterns. I want to thank you. I'm the Aunt to this child that's a total miracle. She is progressing wonderfully and weighs 8 lbs. 4 oz. now. There were some bad moments but God was there & she'll be fine. I have been surprised at how many ways you can take one simple pattern & some creative juices and change these to some of the cutest little gowns. I have also enjoyed making these little garments. I just want to say thanks for your patterns. The instructions are wonderful. **FEED THEM LOVE AND WATCH THEM GROW.**
Thanks, Shirley

I saw the article in *Sew Beautiful* and think this is a wonderful way to glorify God. When my daughter was born she was put into Neonatal Intensive Care for apnea (not breathing). There she received a hand-crocheted blanket and hat from a senior member of the staff at the hospital. This wonderful woman would make these items at night after working all day in the hospital. Even though two years have passed now and my daughter is wonderfully healthy, I will always look on those items with gratitude and love. Your program would help me give back to my community and my fellow brother the way she did. I'd like to say, "Thank You," to *Sew Beautiful* for publishing information about your organization. God has a calling for all of us and I think this may be the one for me!
-Debbie

Dear Sissy- I was interested in the article that appeared in the *Sew Beautiful* issue this month. I was stunned to be more exact. I have been looking for something of this nature to do. You see, my husband and I are the parents of five children: Josh who is 17 years old, our second baby in heaven through miscarriage, Michael and Matthew who would have been four this year and our precious daughter Anna Naomi who is almost three

Michael and Matthew were our twin sons who were born after they had died of a cord accident. They were in the same sac and therefore termed Monoamniotic Twins. I was four months pregnant with them when they died. I had to be put in labor and have these tiny little boys. Their burial gowns provided by the hospital were sweet but now that I have seen this article I realize that there might have been a more special remembrance for my boys. They were so tiny that I was able to hold each baby completely in each hand. I went onto your website and looked up Georgia and was saddened to learn that there are only two chapters in my state, neither one very close to me. I am a beginner sewer, although I want to learn the fine art of heirloom sewing.

Anyway, I want to help in some way. I don't know if I am smart enough to start a chapter here (never done that sort of thing before) but I do wish there was one here. Could I sew and donate on behalf of your organization on my own ? Or do you prefer there to be an organization set up? I have more confidence in my sewing than I do at organizing something like this. I've prayed that God would use the tragedy of losing our boys in a way that would bring glory to His name and healing to those who are hurting, like I was four years ago. Maybe this is the way He intends for me to minister to other moms. I'm sorry this is so long - I wanted to let you know why this seems to be what I'm supposed to do. Any advice will be greatly appreciated.

Blessings, Karen

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

Thank you for the beautiful dress that you made for my daughter Daria. She was born February 23, 2002, at 12:34 in the afternoon and died hours later. She was born only after 5 months of my pregnancy. I'm only 17 and her daddy is 19, and we didn't know what we were going to do. The nurse at Methodist Hospital dressed her in a beautiful gown and gave us pictures of her in a little bassinet with Threads of Love over her tiny head. Once again, thank you for the gown. Her father Robert and I thank you so very much for what you are doing for these children and their families. I never thought in my life that I would be in this situation at my age. Thanks again for making this time in our lives and our families' lives much easier.

Love, Ashlie, Robert and Baby Daria

Dear Ladies,

My husband Drew and I would like to express our thanks for the lovely gown, bonnet, and blanket we received for our daughter Julia. She was stillborn on March 14th. We took numerous pictures of her in the gown, which we will always treasure. She was buried in the gown and bonnet. We kept the beautiful blanket which has her precious hand and footprints on it.

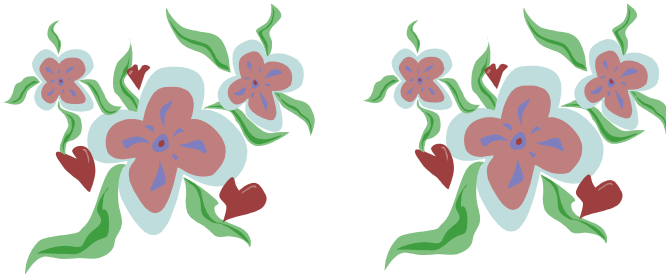
As you can imagine, this has been a most difficult time for our family. We are heartbroken over the loss of our daughter. I have dreamed of having a little girl and of dressing her in smocked dresses and lace (I have all of mine from childhood). Although many of our other dreams for Julia will never come true, thanks to you, one did. I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,
Denise

To whom it may concern:

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our daughter, Faith. We would also like to thank you for your prayers, clothes and just thank you for all you did and are still doing for our daughter.

I am the mother of Faith. I really and truly appreciate everything. Words can not express my feelings for everything you did for my child. Thank you so much and please continue to pray for Faith and my family. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Threads of Love,

Thank you for the Christmas shirts and blankets you provided for our triplets while they were in the NICU. They were born on December 22 and have all come home. It is kind of you to give your time and talents to make these miracles feel welcome.

Thanks,
The Dupuy family

Thank you for the beautiful afghan, hat and booties, that my daughter, Hayden, was given during her stay in NICU at Woman's Hospital. I'd previously heard of your kindness, but never imagined that we'd be a recipient.

Through God's grace, Hayden spent only 30 hours in NICU after her birth on December 20th, and we were all home and reunited with big sister Caitlin in time for Christmas. May God continue to bless you and the work that you do.

THANK YOU'S, CONTINUED

Our daughter, Molly Ann, was born prematurely and with many physical problems. Unfortunately, she was unable to overcome her problems and passed away after a valiant 10-week struggle. During her too short life, Molly received several items from the local Threads of Love Chapter, including a quilt, hat and booties, and most importantly for us, three of the lovie dolls in different sizes. My husband and I slept with the dolls to "scent" them, and Molly loved to hold on to them. We buried the dolls with Molly so that she can have a little of her mommy and daddy with her.

Thank you so much for your organization. Your contributions to Molly made a difficult time a little brighter. I tried to e-mail the La Mirada California Chapter but the message was unable to be received for some reason. I hope you will pass along our thanks to them.

Carrie

Hebrews 1:10
Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

NEW CHAPTER HANDBOOK

Please be praying for Courtney and Sissy as we continue to put together the Threads of Love. We now have 66 chapters in 29 states and 3 countries and have grown to the point where we need to have procedures, patterns, etc. down in a handbook form for all the current chapters and especially for those new chapters signing on.

It takes a tremendous amount of work, however. If you have any ideas for the handbook, or hints and tips that have helped your chapter grow, please e-mail it to sissy@threadsoflove.org or courtney@threadsoflove.org as soon as possible. We can use your help!!!

THREADS OF LOVE IN THE MISSION FIELD



A Medical mission trip from The Healing Place Church here in Baton Rouge recently went to Honduras to treat people in the newly constructed medical clinic at a village in Honduras during December. Here is an excerpt from a letter we received from one of the missionaries:

“At the clinic, the missionaries treated 704 people and ten of them gave their hearts to Christ. I was able to teach a class of 80 women about prenatal care at the church, which I found to be very rewarding. We passed out gift bags filled with baby items to each mother following the conclusion of the class. The mothers were excited, thanked me and hugged my neck in appreciation for this simple gift.

This trip was a truly humbling experience for me. It taught me how blessed we are as Americans to have all our needs met (food, shelter and health care). I no longer take for granted what I know are the blessings of God. Your contributions and prayers made this trip possible and are greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you for your generosity in giving to this mission outreach.”

Threads of Love donated 85 baby gowns, baby blankets and baby caps to put in the diaper bags.



HINT

When stitching on lace, sew with a straight stitch in the header first to anchor the lace to the fabric. Then use a zig zag or favorite heirloom stitch to secure it permanently.

Please note that we have had to drop 15 chapters from our chapter roll for not responding and keeping in touch with us. WE HATE TO DO THIS! If you are a contact person for a chapter, it's imperative that you keep in touch with us via phone, email, fax or regular mail.

“I will praise you, Oh God, with all of my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 9:1



PRAISE GOD....Check out all the new chapters who have signed on in the last several weeks.



Threads of Love—Contact: Carmen Casal—Miami, FL

Tiny Stitches-Threads of Love

Contact: Cathy Bansky—Warren, Ohio E-mail: herbroxx@aol.com

God's Tiny Treasures - Threads of Love

Contact: Dawn Kane—Tullahoma, TN E-mail: edkane@cafes.net

The Littlest Angels-Threads of Love

Contact: Sheri Hoss—Clarksville, VA E-mail: sherih423@msn.com

Fur Elise-Threads of Love

Camille Lewis—Taylors, SC E-mail: cklewis@alumni-indiana.edu

Threads of Love

Contact: Cheryl Wessels E-mail: starshipcreations@cox-internet.com

Threads of Love

Contact: Kathryn Prassas—Bangor, WI E-mail: kay4396@hotmail.com

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Contact: Jeanne Vickers—Saint Hedwig, TX

Loving Hearts-Threads of Love

Contact: Carolyn Cullingford—Monroe, NC E-mail: rollingwiththetide@earthlink.net

Sew Precious-Threads of Love

Contact: Carrie Pelster—High Ridge, Missouri E-mail: rrpelster@msn.com

Mommy's Angels-Threads of Love

Contact: Nancy Goforth—Big Sandy, TN E-mail: nancy@iquestglobal.com

Threads of Love

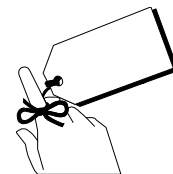
Contact: Michelle Slayman—Indiapolis, IN E-mail: mslaymanrn@ix.netcom.com

Threads of Love—Contact: Barbara Krenshol—Ontario, Canada

Threads of Love—Contact: Christine Spense—Danbury, NC

Dorcas Project—Threads of Love—Contact: Lynn Brewer—Jeanerette, LA

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
AND SAVE
THE DATE!**



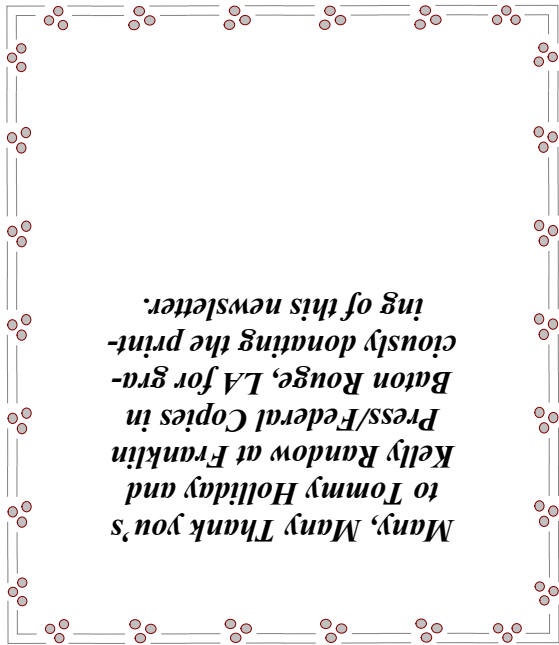
**The first annual
Threads of Love
Convention will be
held next Fall
(October or
November 2003) here
in Baton Rouge, LA.
It's going to be an
unbelievable
experience for
everyone involved in
Threads of Love. We
will have
workshops,
exhibits, discussion
with other Threads of
Love Chapters, good
food, and lots of fun.**

**Stay tuned for a firm
date and more
details, but keep your
calendars open!!!**

**You won't want to
miss this opportunity.**



2 Corinthians 9:15—“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”



Always use a new sewing machine needle when you start a new heirloom project. Use the right needle for the fabric content, weight and thread for your project.

TNIH

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