

Quilts Galore!

RING! RING! “Hello?” “Mr. Jim, do you think Miss Lin would like some fabric and thread? My mom passed away and I have some fabric to give away.” Well, don’t you just know Jim knew the answer to that questionyou betcha!

A few days later Linda Goodman, who used to work with us, showed up with a carload of “stuff”sacks and sacks and boxes of fabric, thread, lace, craft supplies, and even a phone jack and an empty mascara case. There were two Walmart bags stuffed with spools of thread. Oh, my! The next day she arrived with more. The heap on our carport was pretty impressive.

I started to work, sorting the mother lode into categories and found it to include a great deal of knit fabric. What to do with all that knit fabric!?! Then God put on my heart that it sure would make toasty, warm quilts for some cold children for the coming winter. “OK, Lord, that will be the plan, never mind the fact that my quilt-making skills are mighty skimpy.”

I walked into the house, fired up the computer and, there on Facebook, was a new page by Gleaning for the World (a charity org. about 15 miles from here) and they were asking for blankets. Ah, Hah!!! A call to them cemented the deal and my quest for quilting expertise began.

Fine, there was plenty of fabric for both tops and backs for about ten quilts but nothing to sandwich between the layers for filler. I stepped out in faith, whacking out 831 ten-inch blocks, trusting that, if God wanted those quilts, He would provide something to use for fill.

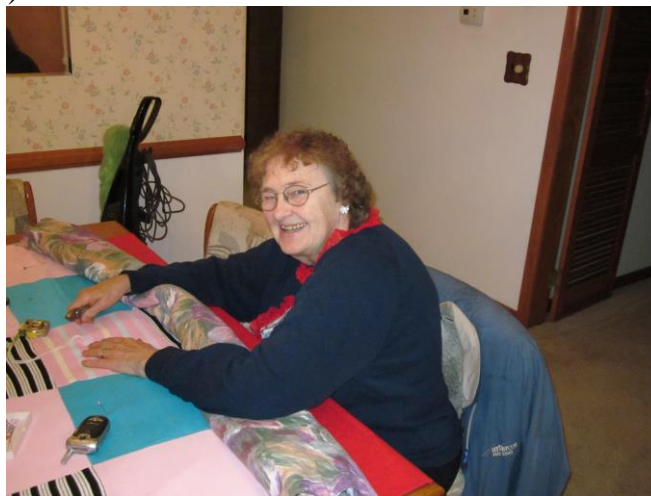
I told my story to JoAnn Willis and she placed a note in the weekly 50Plus news leaflet, asking for gently-used blankets. That yielded 12 large, fuzzy blankets with promises for more to come. When we arrived home with the blankets, guess what? Linda Goodman had been here while we were gone and left another load of goodies. I just had to laugh and realized God wasn’t looking for ten quilts....He wanted twenty.

This was a learning experience for both Jim and me. I learned to use the battery-powered Black and Decker shop shears to buzz through the “squares process” and Jim learned to be VERY careful to not step on stray pins all over the house....and he has found a whole lot of them.

Linda Goodman paid us a fourth visit with still more fabric so there was plenty to make backs for all those tops. Neighbor Dot showed up at our door with a garbage bag full of more blankets. Jim believes that I am Lynchburg’s alternative to Good Will, the Disabled Veterans store and the Salvation Army all rolled into one; folks have found a dandy place for “stuff” they clear out of their own closets. Me? I was happy as a pig in mud, assembling twenty quilts and pins were all over the place. I asked cousins Sylvia and Bill from Illinois to email their big farmhouse table but they did not seem to take my request seriously so our cute little dining room table groaned under piles of quilts in various stages of production.



The biggest challenge was to make all three layers behave long enough so I could tie them together. The combination of gravity, ornery fabrics and my lack of experience made for some fun times before I conquered each quilt. (Lavonne gave me a used quilt frame but some parts were missing so we put it aside.)



Jim knew enough to steer clear of that table without shoes....and to expect more left-overs than usual. He happily “test drove” several of the quilts to make sure they had “snuggle quality”.





The calendar slipped forward to the end of Oct. 2012 and Hurricane Sandy created havoc. Gleaning For the World requested whatever quilts were finished. Jim and I delivered 20 quilts and were so impressed with the facility....no fancy office furniture or heavy drapes in sight.



The twenty quilts were sent to a homeless shelter in New York City.

November and December were filled with Christmas preparations but the quilt factory got cranked up again in January with ten more quilts scattered around the house and Jim learned to

watch out for more pins in his socks. He also took over many household duties so I could keep at the project. (The poor guy has dishpan hands now.)

God is an expert at “just-in-time-inventory” when it comes to blankets for fill. Every time I got low on supplies, He provided. One afternoon I was spinning my wheels, not knowing where the next fill-blanket would come from and the doorbell rang: it was neighbor, Dot, with a fuzzy blanket....and a bagful of craft supplies. Another day neighbor, Marie, came “Yoo-Hooing” across the street with yet another blanket. Oh, yes, and Jim devised a way to alter the quilt frame so it worked beautifully for the last quilts.

February 15th we delivered the last ten quilts to Gleaning for the World.



A few days later we got a call from Gleaning that the quilts had been delivered to “Daily Bread” in Lynchburg. It feels so good to know that many people are warmer now with quilts constructed of fabric, thread, yarn, and fill-blankets that were one hundred per cent donated to the cause by the good people in this area.

And the calls are still coming in from people who want to bring more quilt blocks and filler. Today is March 14 and neighbor Dot just dropped off two huge bags of knit/wool fabric for more quilts. Jim is a bit concerned, tho. He says you could lose a lawn mower in my sewing room.

To God Be the Glory!!!!