

Starr

In 2011 a group of ladies from our 50Plus organization decided to sew simple, little girls' draw-string-ties-at-the-shoulder sundresses for charity. The call went out if anybody had fabric or thread to donate for the project and we got a bulging closet full of supplies. Almost 125 dresses were sent to Haiti and the ladies just kept churning out more dresses (about 400 so far; some went to Gleaning for the World, some to Guatemala).

As a way to raise money for shipping, Jim and I bought an 18" doll and I sewed a cowgirl outfit for her, then we donated it for a silent auction. Two years for Christmas we took a 6-year-old girl's name from the Salvation Army Angel Tree, bought her several outfits and an 18" doll, then I sewed clothes for that doll. I did not remove the gift doll from the package but all the clothes were fitted on my own 18" doll, Dana. (That is Dana's sole purpose of existence....to be a sewing mannequin for doll clothes.) There was never a problem giving away the "Angel Tree" dolls because I had not physically held the dolls. The doll for auction was a "whole 'nuther story". I made the mistake of using her to make sure the clothes fit. When the time came to take her to the silent auction, my heart was so sore.



I understood how Hannah must have felt when she gave Samuel to be raised in the temple. The doll brought a good price for a worthy cause and I sadly went home.



What I did not know was that Jim was in cahoots with the person who got the doll. They pulled some sneaky switches and the doll spent the next 6 weeks at neighbor Becky's house. Then Becky went to a nursing home. No problem...Jim and neighbor Marie had it all worked out. While we were at church Christmas Eve, Marie brought the doll into our house and, when we came home, there was the doll under our tree. Don't you just know I cried!

Because she came home for Christmas, she was renamed Starr and she spends all her time in our den. This year (2012) she has already claimed her rightful place under our tree. I just wanted to share this Christmas love story with you and tell you what a special guy Jim is. I am so blessed!



