

"Carrying the WORD to the world
through personal involvement"



Wrapping the World with



Threads of Hope

A Ministry of Missionary Ventures International

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missionary ventures | Involving People to Impact
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I've been thinking about elephants. We see many of them when in Africa each year. Elephants are social as we know. They grow up in family groups, learning how to care and protect one another. If one is in distress, the whole herd will surround the one in need. They will help and protect. Life is about relationships.

God's word says, "Religion that is pure and faultless is that we help widows and orphans in distress" James 1:27. This has been the focus of **Threads of Hope** since it's inception in 1998 in Kenya East Africa. The mission has grown beyond Kenya and Africa enabling us to bring help to 23 countries around the Globe. God continues to prepare, provide and protect that which we are called to do. We are so blessed!

This year has been very busy. Rather than making our annual trip to Kenya this year, we have been busy collecting and sending sewing machines and materials to new start-ups and enhancing established ones. To start off the year, 6 more motorcycles (funded by the Christian Motorcycle Association) were added to Maasai projects and their Pastors in Kenya. One pastor reported that he was able to begin another church because of the motorbike. More great testimonies have come in from the Maasai Pastors covering the upper end of the Serengeti with the motorbikes, bringing the Gospel everywhere.

We sent 20 sewing machines, an outboard motor and 1500 pounds of fabric, thread, etc to **Honduras Threads of Hope** (Hilos de Esperanza) Sewing Center at our MVI mission facility there run by Scott and Susan Ledford. This enabled them to replicate their sewing outreach in La Ceiba, Honduras.

- **Ecuador** 6 sewing machines were sent to a new sewing outreach by our MVI team leader Celeste Welch
- **Guatemala** 6 Machines to two new outreaches and one pending
- **Dominica Republic** We are packing and ready to send 6 sewing machines to our MVI team there
- **Haiti** Continue to send fabrics and special covers for ministry partners there.
- **Zambia** Helped a newly formed sewing outreach there with 35 women learning to sew in Lusaka.
- **India** We funded 16 sewing machines for newly graduated students, 16 churches were started in North India by Pastor Dinesh Chand using the sewing outreach. 16 villages have 20 to 30 sewing machines. In South India, Pastor Raju Matthew came by and picked up two more sewing machines to bring back making ten we have sent back with him. He tells how important they have been for the women and has the biggest smile while expressing the gratitude.
- **Kenya** This October, two ladies from Meru, Kenya with a small sewing business had all their sewing machines and inventory stolen during a break in. They applied for help and we just arranged for them to receive 3 new sewing machines from our inventory in Nairobi. God has provided a merry Christmas for them by restoring their business with even better equipment.

Our Kenya outreaches are really expanding and many widows and orphans are making a good income from the clothing, bags, and contracts they are getting. We have had more testimonies from the field this year than any other period of time. All thanks to the Lord, your prayers and those that are able to help financially on a regular basis to keep the day-to-day logistics for **Threads of Hope** to continue.

Women in developing countries are much like the matriarch elephant mothers, protecting and raising their children. A sewing machine in their hands can help them feed their family. **It is a gift that keeps on giving! (\$150 in most countries.)**

Gail and I and Team Threads of Hope are grateful for you prayers and support. We wish you a Spirit filled Christmas and Happy New Year.

"...For unto us a savior is born...."

The greatest gift of all

Al Barrett
Threads of Hope, MVI

