



# Threads of Hope

BY AL BARRETT, DIRECTOR OF THREADS OF HOPE

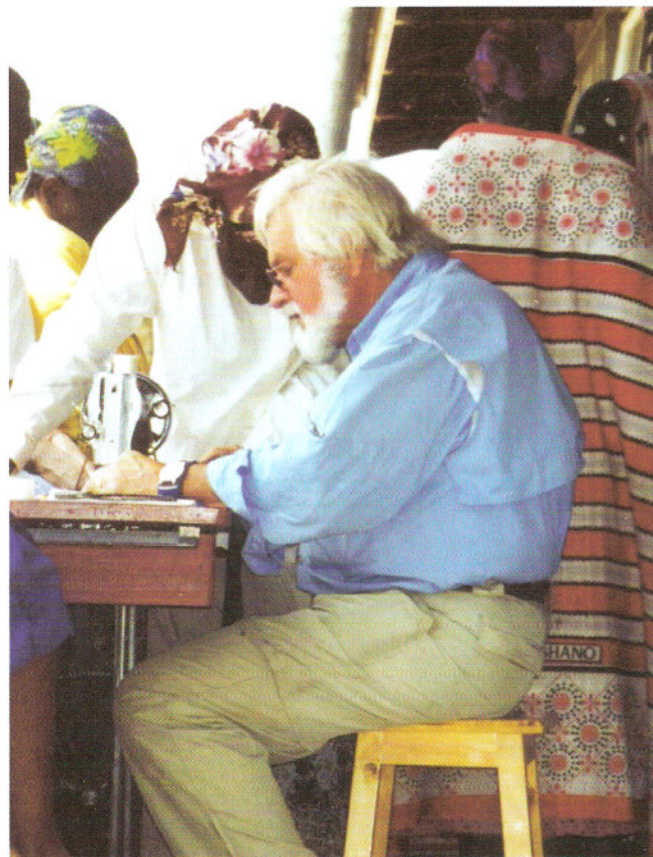
**A** short-term mission trip can be the very event we need to find our place with God. It did just that for me while on my first trip to Russia in 1996, where I met a pastor who supported his family by sewing leather goods. **In 1998, while in Africa on another mission trip, God birthed Threads of Hope, a sewing ministry with a vision to help widows and orphans and indigenous pastors to earn a living with sewing skills.** God has given me a vision that has expanded from purchasing one sewing machine to a global outreach to now more than fifteen countries (seven in Africa).

It all started while I was flying to Tanzania on a short-term mission trip. A “chance” meeting with a Messianic Jewish lawyer seated next to me led to some wonderful conversation. As we landed, he handed me some cash and said, “Put this where it will sow into the kingdom of God.”

This seed money bought the first sewing machine that began this ministry.

I am a self-employed canvas maker by trade. I design and sew custom canvas boat tops, covers, upholstery, etc. I really did not aspire nor have a grand desire to become a missionary. But I did sense the call (tug) and have learned that willingness and obedience is the key. God has expanded this mission through generous giving and equipping in ways only He can

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*Left: Al and Gail Barrett with Maasai women in Kenya who have been helped through Threads of Hope Above: Al Barrett teaching Maasai women in Naikarra, Kenya how to operate a sewing machine.*

do, enabling me to wrap the world with threads of hope, by offering a hand-up instead of a hand out.

A career can end at any time, a calling lasts forever. Sometimes the two can be joined together in a crossroad. **Are you called to serve, go, or send? Or do you just wonder?** Living God's purpose is what truly sets us free.

**Threads of Hope is praying for people to serve with us by becoming sewing trainers to help in the**

**mission field.** We continue to need donated sewing machines, fabric, thread, and other sewing items and funding for projects for the widows in Rwanda

and the orphans in Kenya and Russia. We plan to return to these places and others in the future to further nurture the good work God has begun.

Join us in a sort term mission trip and you will find the opportunity to walk with Him and what a treasure it is!