



STITCHES OF FAITH

Written By: Colene Smyer Hank



(1939 Graduation Picture of Pearl Sigman Smyer)

INTRODUCTION TO READER

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

The Bible states that all God’s children have been blessed with gifts from the Spirit to be used for the good of His Kingdom. God has chosen each of us to be here on the earth at this time and place for His own pleasure. He also designed our destiny long before we were even a fleeting thought in the minds of our parents. In addition, He has bestowed upon us the free will to choose how the gifts are developed and used. We must be quiet and

carefully listen to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit and then follow with complete obedience. If the door to our hearts is open, the Holy Spirit will work God's supernatural activity in our lives.

Often, it is very difficult for the common person to realize gifts that appear in the mind's eye as ordinary everyday skills, to be what God has predestined for the betterment of His kingdom. Instead, we connect popular figures in society as being the only ones with extraordinary gifts.

In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul offers a vivid example of how each part of Christ's body of believers is equally important. When one member of the body is weakened or discounted, it affects the entire family. God will first train each child and then use the gift labeled as ordinary in an extraordinary manner at an unexpected time. In fact, having faith and walking with perseverance is imperative in running the race God has laid out for our lives.

At this point, it is important to state this collection of devotional poems with matching photographs is not intended to idolize a human being, but to show how God has used His child's ordinary gift in an extraordinary manner. It is also important to point out that the most dramatic time in the journey has occurred during the sunset of a life. It took 92 years on this earth for His child's walk with God to reach fruition.

THE FOCUS IN THE "STITCHES OF FAITH" COLLECTION IS ALWAYS ON THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. It is the writer's intent to always point out to everyone that the walk is all about God and not self. Therefore, please understand that "Stitches of Faith" is not an attempt to idolize Pearl Smyer or the writer, but to show how God works His will in the lives of those who love Him.

Meet Pearl Sigman Smyer, a young lady just graduating from high school with hopes and dreams like almost every senior. She fell in love with a young minister who set her life in a direction that was totally unexpected and certainly not in her plans.

Then, get to know Pearl Sigman Smyer who became a minister's wife, friend, mother of 4 daughters, grandmother and great grandmother who was already being prepared for her destiny. Many hours of her young life were spent on childcare which seemed the usual for every new mother. She washed and ironed clothing, gave hundreds of baths, sewed up rips in dresses, shortened the length of hems in a frugal attempt of passing garments to the next in line and endlessly replaced lost buttons. She tirelessly stitched angel costumes out of blue, yellow, pink, and white crepe paper for her little girls to proudly wear in Christmas programs.

Then one day when attending the Ladies Aid Society at church, God added even greater depth to her life. It was in this group that the older women mentored her in the art of quilt making. Again, her only thought was how useful they would be during the long cold winters. Her little girls could cozily snuggle together under the soft fabric as old man winter's wind howled and whistled through the trees outside.

Each evening after her family had gone to dreamland; she would sit at the kitchen table and practice her stitches as she followed the easy patterns given to her by her instructors. In fact, it was a well known Smyer family joke that her husband teasingly accused her of accidentally getting a raveling thread on his plate for dinner.

It was during this time that she fell hopelessly in love with the art of making quilts. The love for what she classified as "what all the women did," grew stronger and stronger in her heart. Later, Christmas gifts for her married children were absolutely no problem because they always requested one of her quilts.

Over the years, Pearl made numerous quilts of all colors and designs thinking they were very common and not that special. After all, what would ever cause her to think quilt making had anything to do with God's destiny for her life?

Hold onto your hats, readers, because our God has thoughts that are far above the ones we are able to process. At the conclusion of this collection called "Stitches of Faith," your heart will rejoice at how He is using an 88 year old lady's common gift in a spectacular way that is touching hundreds of children's lives.

Finally, it is a great pleasure to introduce to you the collection of devotional poetry called "Stitches of Faith" that has been designed with my friends at the nursing homes in mind. They are so precious to our Lord and deserving of material that meets their needs. You will note that each devotional contains a photograph of Pearl's beautiful quilt with a matching scripture beneath, followed by a poem on the back. It is also important to point out the writer gives her Heavenly Father all the credit as the author. Each poem was written only after much prayer and meditation.

Although many people have requested personal copies for their home libraries, church Christ Care Groups and ministers have experienced tremendous success in using the material for the home bound or nursing home residents. Since the collection consists of short devotionals, filled with color and alive with hope, they request to hear them again and again.

STITCHES OF FAITH

STITCHES OF FAITH

**The invisible thread of faith, built on trust in Christ the Lord
Is believing life eternal as God's final reward
It's sewing blind stitches by touch, not seeing the needle's eye
Feeling lost scared and alone, while frantically wondering why.**

**Faith is built on each step taken, one straight stitch at a time
In a crazy mixed-up world, wildly spinning without rhyme
Being wrapped in His quilt of love, He comforts the sadness and pain
Softly sheltering each child's soul, from heartaches wind and rain.**

**Faith is facing threads of aging, with confidence, courage and grace
Trusting God for strength and wisdom to finish the final race
Its believing the death of His saints is precious and dear to Him
That we'll be called into His presence, where the Light will never dim**

**God's Word is His intricate pattern, the perfect fabric of life
Offering thread for firm strong stitches during conflicts worries and strife
Our Lord is forever faithful, always loving kind and true
Never leaving or forsaking, and present our whole life through.**



(Velvet Crazy Quilt Handmade by Pearl Smyer)

Hebrews 11: 1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

STITCHES OF FAITH

I BELIEVE

**Each season's new creation rich in promise from above
Formed in the image of God, stamped with His thumbprint of love
Provides an interlude of peace, from lingering shadows and strife
Offering the hope of new beginnings on this complex journey called life.**

**The hardness of winter relaxed by silent footsteps of spring
Under the silvery sheen of sunlight, a truly glorious thing
New leaves of spring form a canopy on branches of nearby trees
That gracefully flutters and rustles in the cool refreshing breeze.**

**As a thousand birds twitter and sing on the wings of morning light
They herald God's new creation, filling our souls with joy and delight.
He teaches the meadow lark to hide her nest in grasses upon the ground
Where her tiny newly laid eggs are hidden, protected safe and sound.**

**How does the curtain fall on each season in perfect time and place
Letting all God's children know who created the human race?
When the cold winds of winter signal the end of another season
How do we know we've been created for His purpose and special reason?**

**The Glory of God surrounds our beings, each and every day
Inviting all to drink in its beauty, while pausing a moment to pray.
Then when twilight settles upon our lives no matter the paths we roam
His star trembles within our hearts as a light to lead us home.**



(Meadow lark designed and stitched by Myrna Jent, daughter of Pearl Smyer)

Jeremiah 10: 12

**God made the earth by His power
He founded the world by His wisdom
And stretched out the heavens by His
understanding.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

PURITY OF HEART

Your gentle fingers dance across the sky painting night into morning blue

Then drape the earth in sunset red when signaling the day is through.

You wrap my soul in endless love; a gift more precious than gold

Yet nothing I own can ever repay; this gem so rare I hold.

Your thoughts higher than the heavens; wisdom much greater than mine

As I'm blessed with gifts for the journey, and a destiny of your design.

Who am I that you're mindful of me, wearing a heart so full of sin

Yet knowing all my futile mistakes, still desiring my soul to win?

Create in me a heart that's pure, with a spirit that's tried and true

That I may follow Your ways more clearly, before my life is through.

Let my heart be a paradise serene, where You delight to linger and walk

A place where we commune together, while enjoying our daily talk.

May purity of heart be my wellspring, that exudes Your golden glow

Reaching out in love to others, from a stream that will forever flow.

Create in me a heart that's pure, making straight and clear my path

That I may lean on Your infinite wisdom, and powerful strength it hath.



(Close up of crazy quilt designed and completed by Pearl Smyer)

Psalm 57: 10

**Create in me a pure heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

MAKE ME A PRAYER

Bend the knees and bow the head in praise to God above

Who desires to be forgiving; slow to anger, rich in love

The Lord is good to all and everything He's made

Always near, forever faithful, with grace that will not fade.

Answering the cry of one and all, who pray in truth and fear

Protecting those who truly love Him, from heaven He will hear

Pray not from your own mind, but using the faith of God

With face between your humble hands, bowed down on rugged sod.

Honoring God in silent reverence, becoming yourself a prayer

A willing jar of clay for God, showing how much you care

Making prayer your life long mission, your life a witness of prayer

Expecting the unexpected, receiving His gifts so rare.

When all is said and done; no matter the paths you've trod

Looking back down memory lane, your answer's always been God

Your Father is what you need, the greatest gift of all

Never leaving or forsaking, always waiting to hear your call.

Walk boldly as a child of God, to His mighty throne of grace

Letting Him cleanse your troubled soul, and all the sin erase

God never ever makes mistakes, and is always right on time

Answering your greatest heart's desire, with radiant joy sublime.



(Appliqué quilt by Pearl Smyer)

Matthew 21: 22

**Whatever things you ask for in prayer,
believing, you will receive.**

SWEET FRAGRANCE OF BLESSINGS

He will bless you and the places surrounding His hill

With showers of blessings your cup He will fill

For we are His people and He is our God

Always present, forever faithful, where e're you trod.

May the riches he provides yield spices and perfumes

Sharing freely with all people, each colorful flower that blooms

Let the gentle winds of change on your fruitful garden blow

As you spread God's loving fragrance, imparting His golden glow.

The Lord will guide you always, fulfilling all your needs

Like a well-watered garden, free of brambles, thorns and weeds

You'll be seen as oaks of righteousness; plantings of the Lord

Reaping the fruit of unfailing love, with God in total accord.

Brighten your little corner, no matter where you are

Reaching out to others whether near to you or far

Freely you've received, freely may you give

A visible sign to others; a model by which to live.

Keep your spiritual fervor focused, with both eyes upon the Lord

Singing songs of praise together, in one bright melodious cord

Thanking God for all the blessings He joyously showers your way

With His promise of eternal love, sent each and every day.



(Appliqué quilt by Pearl Smyer)

Isaiah 30: 18

The Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him.

THE SHEPHERDS' ROSE

**One winter's eve, in distant field's yond, with flurries of snow all around
Shepherds kept watch, over their flocks, asleep on the stone cold ground
As storm clouds thickened, hiding every star, all things were lost to sight
While windswept snow, covered all the sheep, in an icy blanket of white.**

**The wet soaked shepherds, trying to endure, feeling spent and all alone
Saw sky veils part, in a display of light, sent straight from God's own throne
"Peace on earth goodwill toward men" sang the angels in one accord
For to you He is born in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."**

**Not wasting time, they hastened there, to the place the babe was born.
Poor lowly shepherds, possessing not, arrived empty handed and worn
What gift had they, from silver or gold, made special for God's little Boy?
Shyly approaching, with soft steps taken, they bowed in reverence and joy**

**As the shepherds departed, under heaven's glow, a rich and radiant thing
Their feet felt light, with spirits set free, as winter changed into spring.
Soft petals of love, unfolded in each heart, recalling the new born King.
Happy of soul, they proclaimed to all, God's promise He would bring.**

**Why shepherds heard first, we wonder yet, only God can answer and knows
But to their delight, they found that night, Christ the Lord,**





(“Ev’s Rose” In memory of Evelyn Hank—Quilt by Pearl Smyer)

Matthew 2: 11

**“Today in the City of David, a Savior
has been born unto you: He is Christ
the Lord.”**

BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

**One frigid night just before dawn when the earth was silent and bleak
The world was wrapped in hopeless slumber, alone in darkness and weak.
When brilliance, throbbing like diamonds, burst forth from clouds above
As the skies proclaimed the work of God's hands and gift of eternal love.**

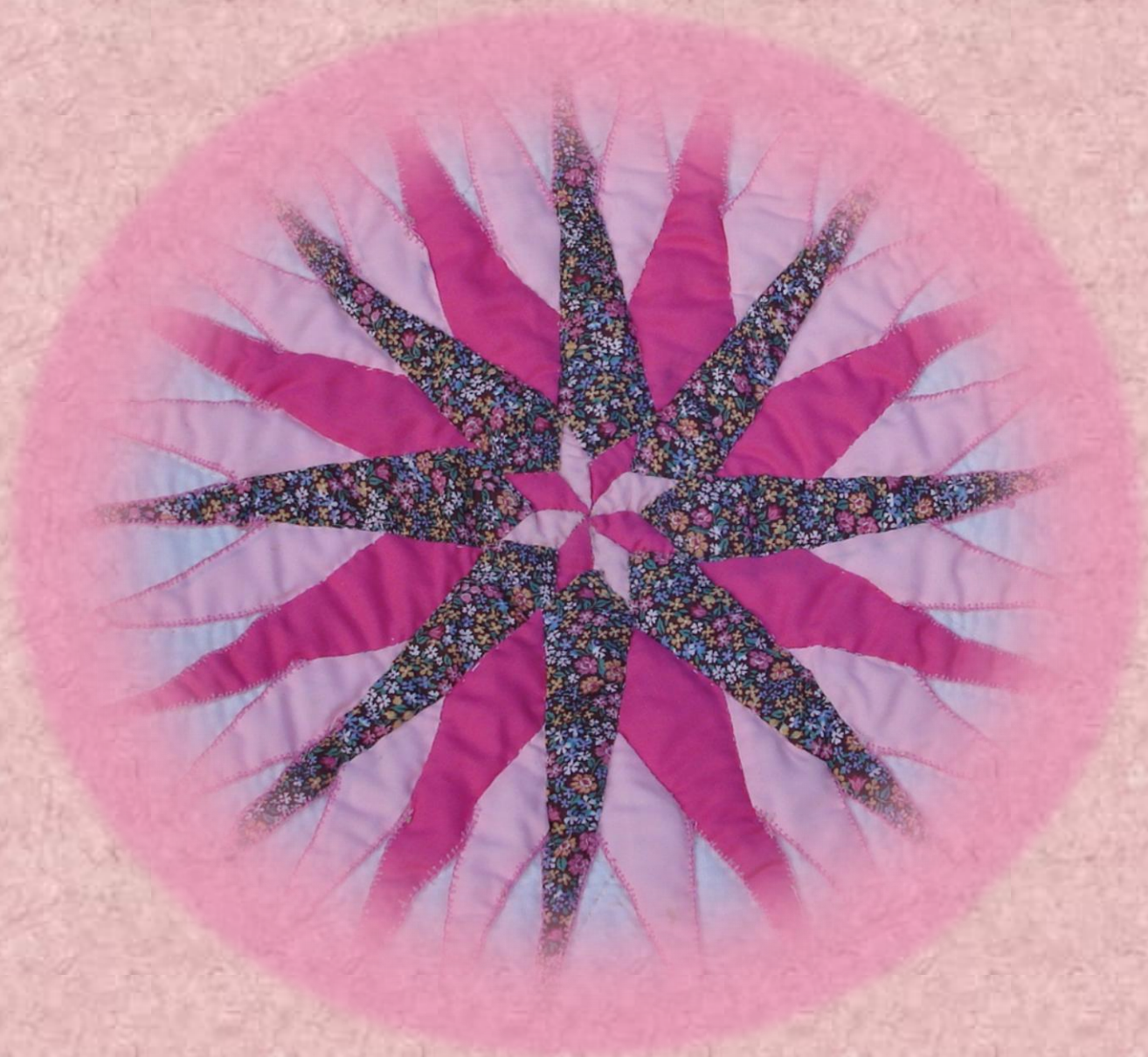
**Arise, shine, for your light has come; the glory of God's all around
'Tis the Morning Star called Jesus, without mark or blemish to be found
Our Savior, Scepter from Israel, shone God's light upon the scene
Offering Bread of Life to the hungry and faith on which to lean.**

**O Morning Star of the dawn, God's angels proclaim Your birth
Our Messiah has come from heaven above, bringing peace upon the earth
His light is the Word from God Almighty that shines in the darkened place
Freely offering the gift of eternal life and forgiveness to the human race.**

**The Magi followed the Star of Jacob from thousands of miles away
Recognizing it as a proclamation, and departed without delay
Their wisdom defined the morning star as announcing a new born king
And rapidly departed on a journey long, with precious gifts to bring.**

**Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you
For it's in His Light, you'll be cleansed like snow, and hope be born anew
Stay true to the Word until a new day dawns never letting your steps depart
Have faith, hold firm, until the Morning Star rises, and glows within your
heart.**





(Sun Burst Pattern quilted by Pearl Smyer)

2 Peter 1: 19

**And we have the word of the prophets
made more certain, and you will do well to
pay attention to it, as to light shining in a
dark place, until the day dawns and the
morning star rises in your hearts.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

A GREAT LIGHT

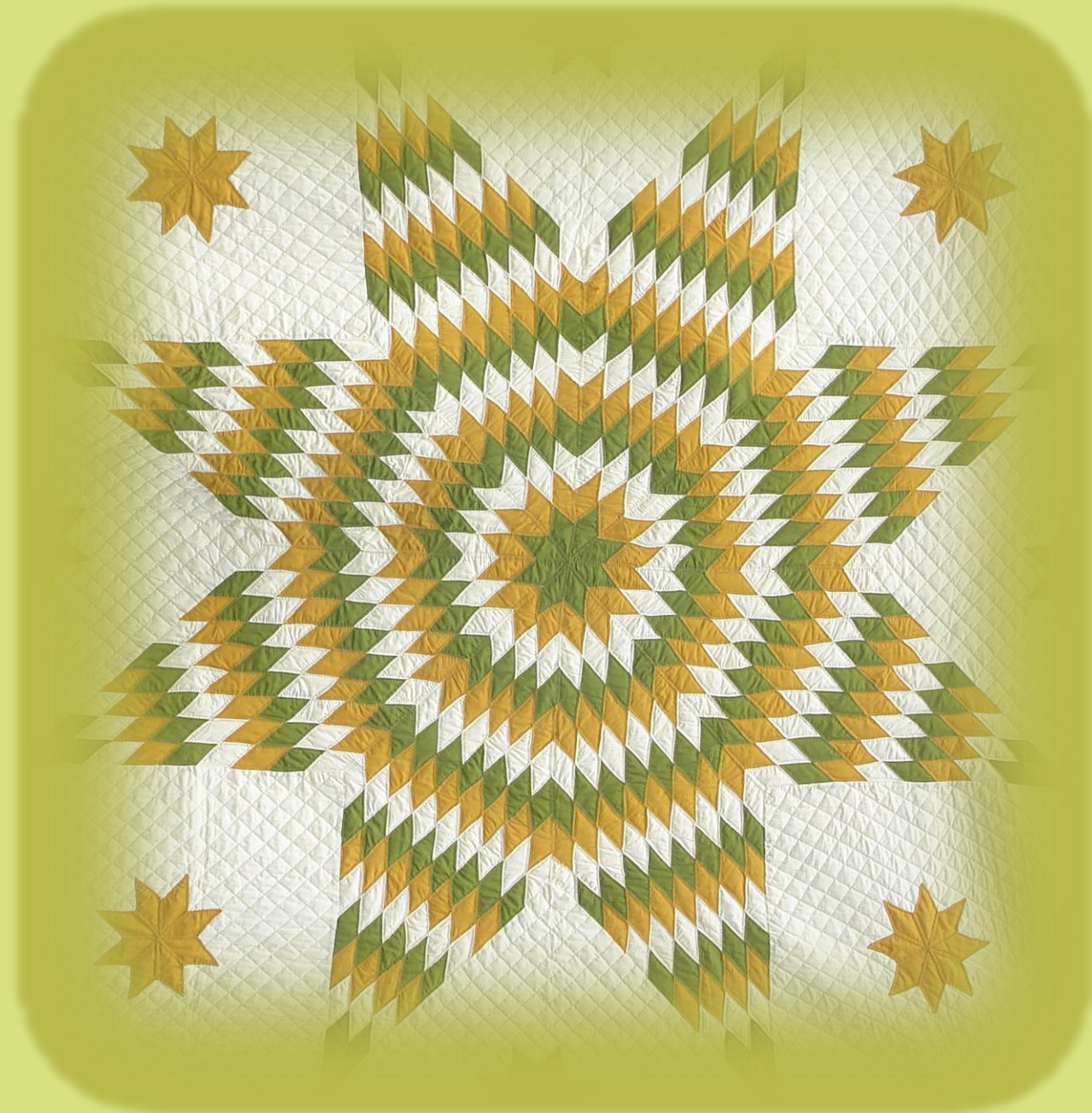
**People walking in darkness have seen a great light
God's covenant now dawning; His star rich and bright
In Him came life; the true Light of men
Offering hope, joy and peace, while forgiving all sin.**

**Blind eyes were opened, causing them to see
Prison doors unlocked, setting captives free
You have delivered us from death, with the offer of life
Giving free will to choose and faith to face strife.**

**The night is nearly over and a new day here
Time to rise and shine, stating Your message loud and clear
Let Your radiance be our armor, that glows in the night
Becoming sons of God, visible in others sight.**

**May each step we take, be a true reflection of You
A road map for others on what to say and do
Gathering new disciples to spread the word of God
Witnessing to others down every path we trod.**

**Your Word lights our way; a Lamp for our feet
That proclaims Jesus Christ to everyone we meet
By this all men hear and know You by name
'Twas for all mankind, to this world You came.**



(Lone Star pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Isaiah 9: 2

**The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

LAMP STANDS FOR GOD

**For God so loved the world, He sent His only Son
As His gift of Light called Jesus, desiring souls to be won
God created all His children to receive His radiant Light
To become His earthly lamp stands, forever glowing and bright**

**His Light shines in darkness with radiant holiness and love
Uniting all His children, reflecting His Light from above
The fuel that fills our lamps, comes not from our own might
But by the Spirit of God, indwelling both day and night**

**We're all His living lamp stands, filled with the Spirit's oil
Alight with God's own presence, for Him we'll work and toil
If our hearts are open to God, our flames will brightly burn
As our minds drink in His Holy Word, that we might live and learn.**

**The anointing of the Spirit, a rich and glorious gift
Transforms our lives forever, and earthly spirits lift
Filled with the Holy Spirit, His fruit will be given to share
Christ's visible light to others, showing how much we care.**



(New Jersey Rose hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before me.

JESUS IS THE VINE

Jesus is the Vine and the Gardener's our God

Growing healthy branches from rich fertile sod

His children are the branches firmly grafted to the vine

As welcome family members to His own bloodline.

Without the Vine's strength branches wither and die

No energy source to live, or will to even try

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we're offered peace with God

A connection to the Vine, down every path we trod.

United with Jesus, branches bear luscious fruit

Growing through His Word as a strong spiritual shoot

Apart from the Vine, nothing happens at all

Barren and cut off, we stumble and fall.

Branches on the Vine receive nourishment from the Lord

Being loved by God as our greatest reward

He disciplines and prunes according to our need

Helping us to grow into His productive seed.

Abide in Him and He'll abide in you

Purified and reconciled; a spirit cleansed anew

Drawing near to Christ, you'll be warmed by His love

Made ready and acceptable to God up above.



(Rambling Rose Pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

John 15: 5

I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; a part from Me, you can do nothing.

John 15: 8

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit showing yourselves to be My disciples.

STITCHES OF FAITH

JESUS "IN WE"

Jesus, the Son of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords

Took the form of a humble servant, not desiring earthly rewards

He was seen talking to the lowly, living at the wrong address

Comforting the weak and poor, easy for others to oppress.

Expected to enter the city royal, seated on a horse to behold

He humbly arrived, no fanfare shown, and on a donkey rode

A bruised reed He would not break or a wick would He snuff out

For showing compassion to others is what He was all about.

In Jesus the weak and burdened can have a place of rest

Finding strength and courage to endure life's most difficult test

His yoke is always easy and burden feather light

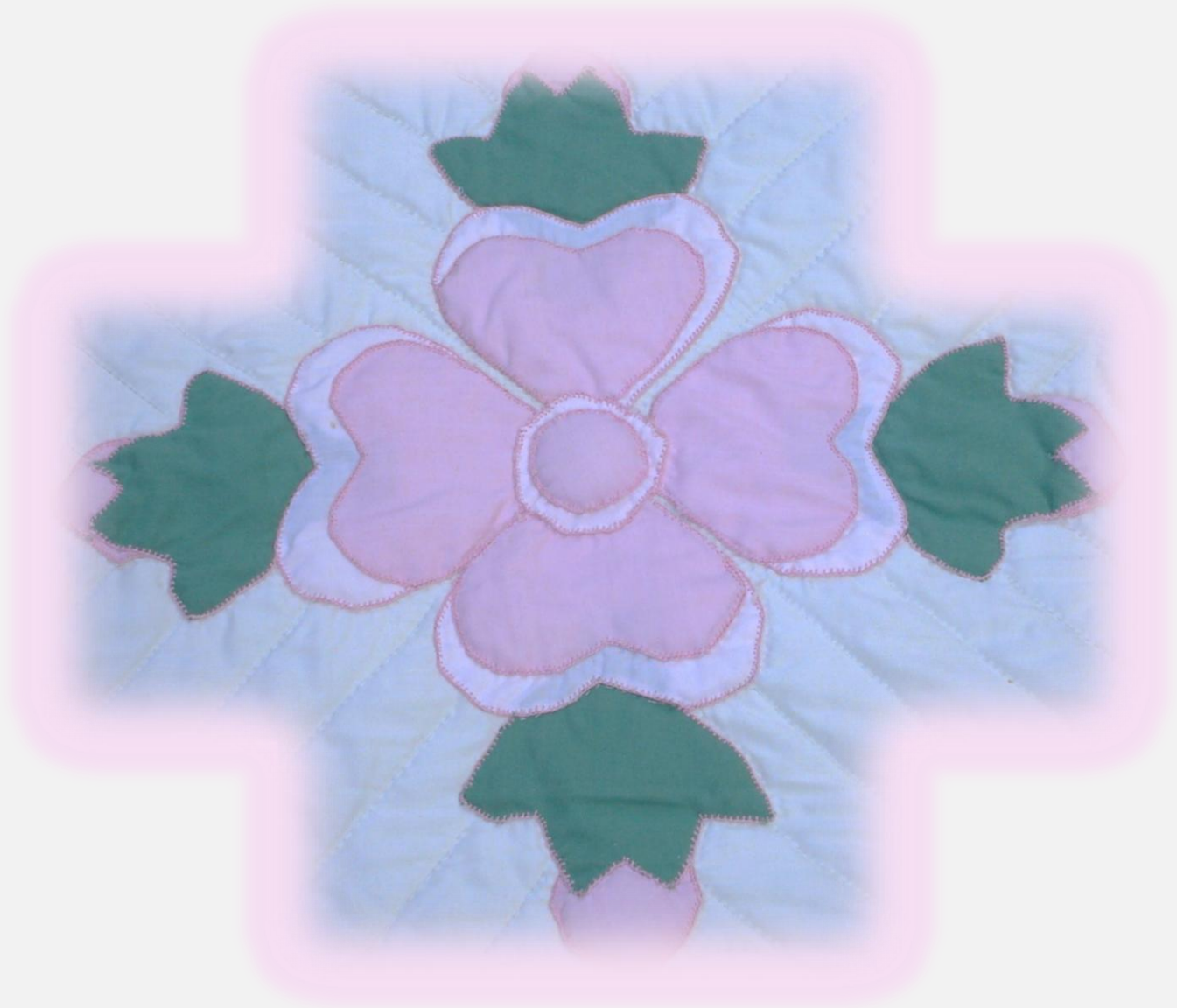
Rich or poor, black or white, all precious in His sight.

He freely gave of Himself and taught us how to love

Laying down His life for others, a model from heaven above

If I gently walk in His radiant Light, others see Jesus "IN ME."

When disciples join hands united in faith, the world sees Jesus "IN WE."



Matthew 25: 35-36

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.

KALEIDOSCOPE OF LOVE

**God's kaleidoscope of love; the Spirit's most precious fruit
Arrives in the commonplace from His own productive shoot
It's seen by the brokenhearted in colorful shapes and hues
As a balm for troubled souls, it heals blesses and soothes.**

**It glows in the smiles of children as they all praise God in song
And across the faces of the old when finding a place to belong
It's felt in the hearts of the hungry standing in a long food line
When meals are given to the family with love on which to dine.**

**God's love is like a banquet; lavish high and long
With immeasurable richness and depth, open to the weak and strong
His love reaches to the heavens; faithfulness to skies above
And wraps our souls like a garment, fitting each heart like a glove.**

**A life will be changed forever, when following the command of our Lord
Offering hope and relief to the suffering; with God in total accord
Giving to one of the least of these, humbly bowed on bended knee
Reflects the meaning of Jesus' words, "You also did it to Me."**



(Kaleidoscope designed and hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Psalm 36: 5

**Your love, O Lord, reaches to the
heavens, Your faithfulness to the
skies.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

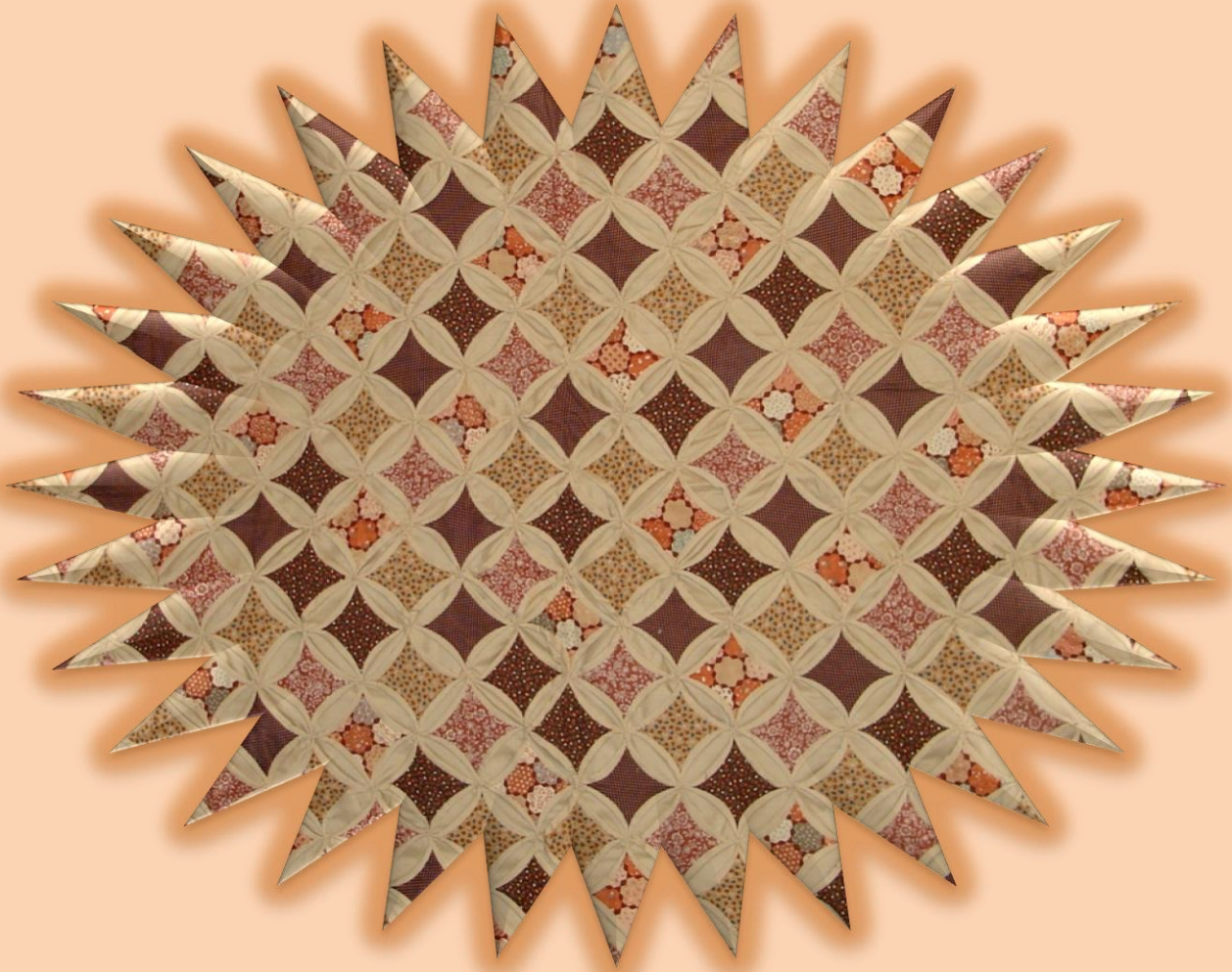
GOD'S CATHEDRAL WINDOW

**'Tis through my cathedral window, God's soft light richly streams
As my tired and hungry soul is infused with radiant beams
Through the power and truth of God; His gift of Celestial Light
My path turns into liquid gold, a truly heavenly sight.**

**These fragile hands will reach toward You, as long as I may live
While bowing down on bended knee, Your praise I will give
I'll sing halleluiah for all to hear in the folds of Your great wings
And my heart will be glad as my spirit's set free, all from the joy it brings.**

**As His own High Priest, God anointed You; a name that will always stand
Interceding between, my Father and me, You sit at His own right hand
Showing trust and faith, I believe in You, with my voice I'll sing and pray
Humbly bowing down at Your feet in peace, arriving without delay.**

**'Tis through my cathedral window, Your Light will always shine
As I proclaim to one and all, Your might and power divine
Your love will shine as stars of Light down every path I roam
When the last star of my life is lit, You'll tenderly call me home.**



(Cathedral Window hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Psalm 36: 91

For with you is the fountain of Life; in Your Light we see Light.

2 Samuel 23: 4

He is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.

STITCHES OF FAITH

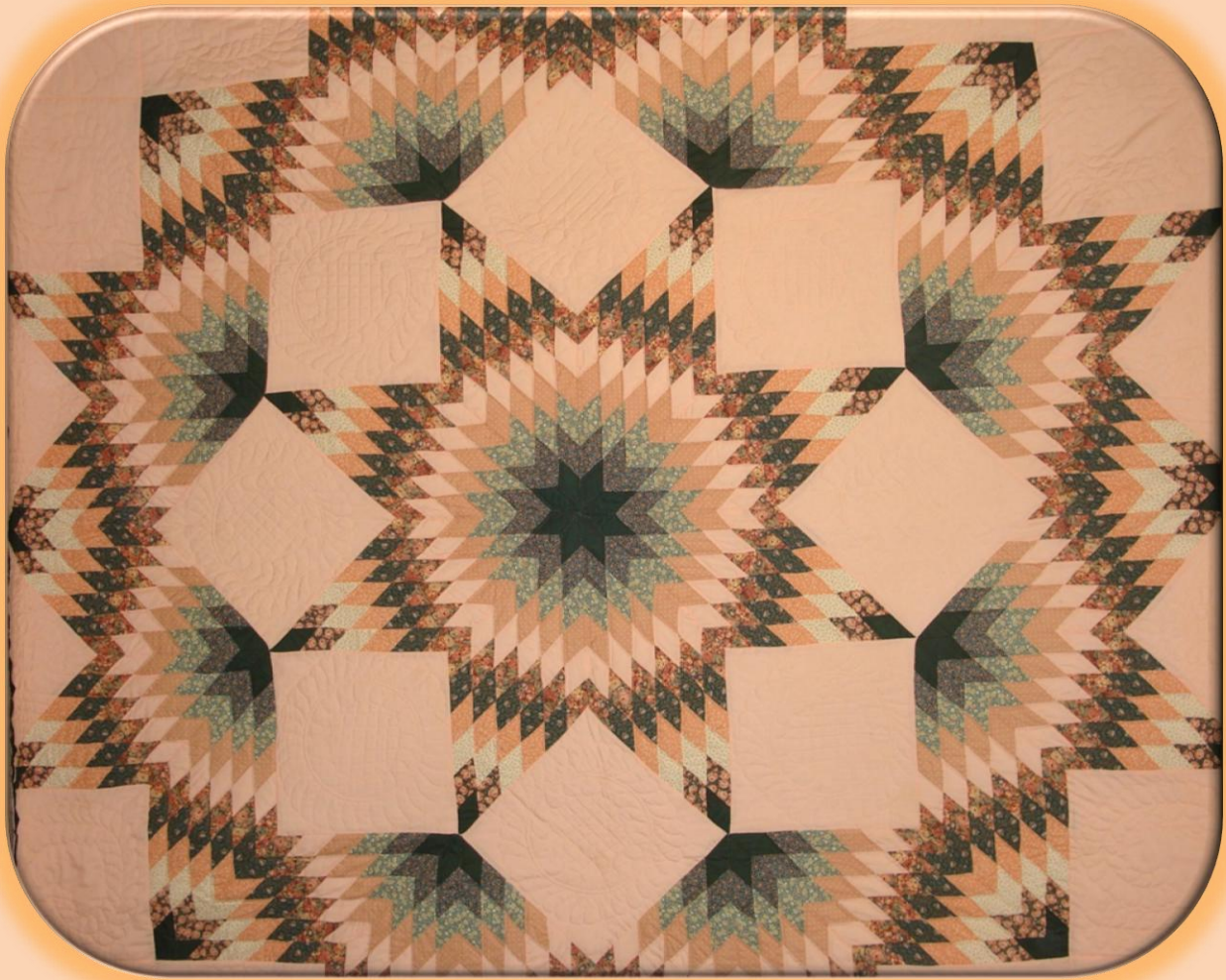
POINTS OF LIGHT

**The silver threads of life weave their way toward points of light
At the touch of God's own hand, our souls are tender and bright
For the Lord shatters darkness and heals our broken hearts
His precepts never fail; always offering brand new starts.**

**Without our Father's presence, we're lonely broken stars
Refreshed by His own Word, become His Light in jars
Our Lord showers down goodness at just the perfect time
And delights in hardy laughter; encouraging joy sublime.**

**Being raised with Christ the Lord, let us set our hearts on Him
Brightly shining with His Light; a glow that will never dim
As we use the Spirit's gifts and fan them into flame
Let us join Him in His suffering, the purpose for which He came.**

**Uniting as points of light, we'll flood this world so dark
Stamping His seal upon our hearts, wearing His own trademark
We can bask in His great love, never abandoned or alone
With His life our debt He paid, our sins He did atone.**



(Broken star pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

1 Thessalonians 5: 5

**You are all sons of the light and
not sons of the dark. We do not
belong to the night or to the
darkness.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

THROUGH THE CLOUDS

God established the clouds through the work of His hands

Created with power and might, His work forever stands

He numbers the clouds through wisdom, and rides upon their wind

They are but dust beneath His feet, from them His blessings He will send.

Extol Him who rides upon the clouds and covers us with His wings

He is our God, Father and Creator; to Him belongs all things

His clouds led the Children of Israel; morning noon and night

Never leaving or forsaking; remaining constant in their sight.

Crucified Jesus, arose from the grave, alive after three days buried

Ascended on the clouds, back to His Father, and up to heaven was carried

Jesus gave freely His life for us, the ultimate gift of love

Grace and forgiveness we would receive, from God's own throne above.

This same Jesus will descend on the clouds, with honor glory and power

Rejoice dear child! Believe and make ready! Only our God knows the hour

Every knee will bow to the King of Kings, and His name every voice declare

On the clouds together, His children will rise, to meet their Savior in the air.



(Biscuit quilt by Pearl Smyer)

Revelation 1: 7

**Look, He is coming with the
clouds, and every eye will see
him.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

CROSSROADS OF LIFE

When you come to a crossroad wondering which way to turn

Lost and all alone, without others showing concern

The hours seem endless, with the nights growing long

All lessons failed without strength to be strong

Cast your worries on the Lord for he truly cares for you

His eyes never waver no matter what you do

So walk boldly to His cross for help in time of need.

Where He'll tenderly heal your wounds and hungry soul will feed.

You have a friend in Jesus, always faithful to the end

Present with open arms, and forgiving love to send

Let not your heart be troubled, cast your worry all on Him

And He'll fill your empty cup, completely to the brim.

No problem is too dark or sinful for our Lord

Free to all repentant hearts; a service you can afford

Christ Jesus is the stronghold, present your whole life through

So lift your eyes up toward the cross; let your life begin anew.



(New Jersey Rose pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Nahum 1: 7

**The Lord is good, a stronghold in the
day of trouble and He knows those who
trust Him.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

JESUS, CHIEF CAPSTONE

**A tested Stone in Zion, the Sovereign Lord did lay
With Christ Himself as Cornerstone; a foundation here to stay
The apostles and prophets together, helped lay God's mighty plan
Firmly built on Christ the Solid Rock; our Messiah, Son of Man.**

**We're invited to join God's household with faith built on His Rock
Accepting our Lord and Savior, being sheep within His flock
Christ the loving Shepherd tends each lamb with tender care
Laying down His life for all, our guilt and sin to bear.**

**Don't build a flimsy house, based on worldly goods and dreams
But one well built on Jesus and God's own heavenly beams
The foundation of our Lord is solid tried and true
And will stand in winds and storms until our walk is through.**

**Members of God's own household will wear His family seal
Being loved honored and cherished, always guarded by His zeal
We'll spend our time in reverence at the foot of God's own throne
The final address being heaven, our glorious eternal home.**



(Log Cabin pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Isaiah 28: 16

**So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I lay
a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious
cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who
trusts will never be dismayed.**

STITCHES OF FAITH
FORGIVENESS

**Forgiveness is never earned but freely given through love
A pure and living example from our Father up above
Because of the cross we have God's forgiveness and grace
For it was Jesus without blemish who died in our place.**

**"Father forgive them," was what John heard Him pray
Interceding for us while slowly dying that day
Mocked and cruelly scorned by the crowd down below
Forgiveness to the criminal, He still would bestow.**

**It served as a reminder that forgiveness we'll not earn
A lesson all God's children must carefully learn
On the cross with Christ, our sinful souls did die
An impossible debt to pay, though we constantly try.**

**I am He who blots out your sins and transgressions
Through purity of heart and your humble confessions
As far as east is from west, your sins I'll forgive
Rejoice in that day, when with Me you will live.**



(Yellow Rose of Texas quilted by Pearl Smyer)

Psalm 103: 12

**As far as the east is from the west, so
far has He removed our transgressions
from us.**

STITCHES OF FAITH

FOOT OF THE CROSS

Every day is Easter when we survey the cross

Victory over death; life's great albatross

At the foot of the cross, let us humbly kneel and hear

Understanding the words of Jesus, listening loud and clear.

"FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

His example of love and forgiveness, meant for us to follow, too

How many times, over, are we told to forget and forgive?

Seventy times seven, every day, as long as we shall live.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior; crucified between two thieves

Offered a poignant example, for anyone who truly believes

"TODAY YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE," he promised the one beside

Letting us know through repentance, we too, with Him can abide.

Jesus announced His work concluded; atonement completely through

His final words, "IT'S FINISHED!" Cleared our debt, no payment due

The only One who saves; is found at the foot of the cross

Jesus, your choice for all eternity; all gain and no loss.



**(Appliquéd velvet quilt designed and quilted by Myrna Jent,
daughter of Pearl Smyer)**

ALTAR CALL

Luke 23: 34

**Father forgive them for they
know not what they do.**



(Pearl Smyer, age 88, leading a 2009 all class parade in a 1935 Plymouth)

AGE 88 AND STILL STITCHING

1 Corinthians 13: 12

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

There are many times during our lives when we question our abilities to discern the still small voice of God. Are we really fulfilling the destiny God has planned for our time here on earth? Is what we are doing truly His plan for our lives or one of our own making?

Also, the hustle and bustle of busy daily schedules prevents us from enjoying the quiet time of reflection necessary for communing with our Heavenly Father. Perhaps it is humanly impossible for people to peer through the rear view mirror of their lives and identify God's silvery thread that has been woven carefully through each of their seasons on this earth. As mere humans, it probably is an impossibility to wrap our feeble minds around His perfect plan for each of us, anyway. After all, He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Today, at age 88, Pearl's motto is to never spend much time looking back over life, but has chosen to keep moving forward instead. She believes self pity and spending time desiring life to be as it was in earlier moments are poor uses of energy. They only serve to impede your journey here on earth.

In addition, at this season of her life, she still believes her gift to be so common that it can't possibly be God's destiny. Regardless of these feelings, she just keeps on stitching those threads of faith.

However, due to tired older eyes, the ability to sew the stitches into fabric must be accomplished through the help of a machine, rather than by hand, now. Even though dark colors offer an additional challenge, she has not lost her love for making quilts. At one point, when her girls called to say hello, she was concentrating so hard she didn't hear the phone. She was on a mission to use all the old clothing from her closets in what she labeled as scrap quilts.

However, God had other plans for her life. There are some points on our journeys when we think the old tanks are out of gas, that our Father has just begun the process of bringing His destiny into fruition.

One day while speaking with her son in law, Pearl learned about an organization called CASA. (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Her son-in-law, Harvey, had just become a volunteer for CASA, and was advocating for the rights of two children. When hearing that many children living in foster homes move from one location to another possessing only the clothes on their backs, and maybe a quilt, it touched her deeply.

Thus, in her usual style of determination, she saw a new vision for all the old scrap quilts she had been putting together. The only adjustment necessary was to make size changes. She even reached out to her friend, Ruby, and convinced her to join with the final tacking of many of the quilts. This motivated Ruby to go on a mission of finding material, batting and thread to support the project.

Suddenly, large black bags filled with completed quilts arrived on her son-in-law's door step marked in great big letters, CASA. As she busily made one quilt after another, she was totally unaware that God was at the helm,

steering her right on course. The quilts she was making were being delivered into the arms of welcoming boys and girls as cherished possessions. The warmth they were feeling from their softness was a direct reflection of God's abundant love. For it is through each of our lives that His love is radiantly illuminated. After all, the greatest fruit of the Spirit is love.

Recently, the last large black bag of Pearl's quilts arrived with a small torn piece of paper on which was written the number 107. Yes! Praise God! That 88 year old soldier for Christ and her side kick, Ruby, had just completed 107 quilts for God's precious children. Did the numbers scratched in pencil mean Pearl and Ruby were sitting admiring the work they had accomplished? Could their voices be heard over the telephone boasting to friends about their work? Oh no! Instead, Pearl could be found in her sewing room working on number 108 for the two friends to tack. God's soldiers of the Cross were obediently marching forward.

Most of the time, we do not know that we have touched the lives of others. We just have faith that God will guide us in the direction of His choice. However, there are precious moments when God gives us a peek deep into life's mirror demonstrating how love affects others.

At this point, dear reader, turn the page and enjoy one of these priceless moments. Your hearts will be full to the brim with emotion. We truly have been created by an awesome God! His love will reign forever and ever! Hallelujah!



(Lone star pattern hand quilted by Pearl Smyer)

CREDITS

**MY HEAVENLY FATHER HAS BEEN THE
AUTHOR OF THIS COLLECTION FROM
BEGINNING TO END. HE IS THE ALPHA
AND OMEGA. I AM HONORED TO HAVE
BEEN HIS WRITER.**

**** A special thanks to Pearl Sigman Smyer for supplying all the beautiful quilts for this collection.**

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****Congratulations to CASA for changing the lives of so many children across the country.**

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