



PRAYERS & SQUARES THE PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

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PRAYERQUILT.ORG

Can you touch a prayer?

Can you pull it close and feel its comfort?

You can if it's part of a Prayer Quilt from Prayers & Squares, the Prayer Quilt Ministry. It's a simple idea with powerful results, but our Prayer Quilts are more than just colorful, comforting blankets. The warmth they bring comes from the prayers that are tied into each knot.

The History of Prayers & Squares

A few ladies started an informal quilting group in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in Ranch Bernardo, California. Their only purpose was to have fun making quilts together. Then, a group member's 2-year-old grandson ended up in a coma following heart surgery. His doctors were very pessimistic about Kody's chances for recovery. The ladies decided to make a quilt in vivid primary colors. With no time to quilt it, the layers were tied together as silent prayers were said for Kody. "There must be a prayer tied with each knot" someone remarked. The group's first prayer quilt was rushed to the hospital that night.

Even before he was fully conscious, Kody's little hands were touching the knots on his quilt. After coming out of the coma, the quilt became so important to his recovery that doctors wrote in his medical chart that the quilt was not to leave his side! Through several subsequent surgeries, whenever he needed another needle stick or a scary test, that quilt was right with him, providing comfort and strength for many years. We are sorry to report that Kody died suddenly at age 14 in 2003.



The Birth of a Ministry

During Kody's long hospital stay, parents of other children were asking where they could get prayer quilts for their sick little ones. The quilting ladies realized they had more work to do! In order to involve as many people as possible in the prayer process, they began to bring the quilts to Sunday services and invited the entire congregation to participate in praying and tying the knots. As a result, more prayer quilt requests came in. What had begun as a small project had grown into an active outreach Ministry at Hope UMC.

In 1996 one of the founding members, Wendy Mathson, moved to a neighboring community and started attending the Community Church of Poway. She started Chapter 2 in that congregation with the help of their Women's Fellowship group.

As the two churches received more and more requests for prayer quilts, Wendy realized that more groups would be willing to participate if they had guidance and help getting started. Members of the original group began looking for opportunities to speak to other churches about Prayer Quilts. Wendy put together an information kit for new chapters and brought together a steering committee to organize Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry into a non-profit entity.

Each knot tied on a quilt represents a prayer.

That simple idea is now expressed lovingly by other churches and groups around the world. Prayers & Squares now has many member chapters that share that name, and the common goal to blanket the world in prayer through their Prayer Quilts.