



# Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – May, 2008

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## President's Message:

**Hooray, Hooray, the month of May!** And the weather has been wild all over the U.S. hasn't it? I have had the heater and the air conditioner on in the same month! But none of it is keeping me from the sewing machine...

As I look at some of the pictures and notes that have been sent to me and members of the Board, I am reminded of some of the unexpected blessings of the conference in Texas last month. I think one of my favorite things is how interested the chapters who are celebrating up to 10 years in this organization are reaching out to mentor chapters that are just starting. If you are a chapter that has quilts in the closet you can send to help someone get started, let us know. Or if you would like to do as St. Bart's Episcopal did and send a few quilt tops, the patterns that go with them and pre-cut kits to get someone like the new chapter in Kansas started, let us know. Instead of pen pals, we will have "prayer quilt pals"! Our Board member Nikki Mundt is looking at ways to put groups together.



**Fundraising ideas:** The picture above is from the conference with our Vice-President Carolyn Ketterer trying to give "your height in tickets" to

Jennifer from Texas (who has since moved to California...) Prayers & Squares as an organization only does fundraising at the San Diego Regional conference and the International conference. We usually sell tickets for raffle baskets and one option is "your height in tickets for \$20". This is always very fun! On May 4<sup>th</sup>, we are blessed in San Diego to have **The Pacific Men's Chorale** singing in a concert to benefit Prayers & Squares. Prayer quilt recipients have been invited to bring their quilts for a blessing and re-dedication of the quilts prior to the concert. The PowerPoint of the chapters that I made for the conference will also be shown so that attendees will see Prayers & Squares chapters all over the world. This is partially underwritten by Bud and Betty Dring. Bud is convinced that he has come home from hospice 3 times because of the prayers in his quilt. What kind of fundraisers are you doing (if any) in your chapters? There is a whole discussion of fundraising in our FAQ section on the website if you need more ideas.



*Covering the world  
with our prayers*

## Prayer & Devotion:

It became very clear to us while writing our devotional book "Under A Blanket Of Love", that there are some eloquent, beautiful prayers being spoken over the quilts and workshops in this ministry. We are committed to bringing you prayers from the book as well as new prayers and poems to add to those you may already use. Here is the prayer and story that **Karen Tansey-Becerra, St. Bart's Episcopal, Chapter #5**, wrote and prayed over us to open the conference:

*Before we pray, I would like to start with a story. This story comes from the book The Faith Club and is told by one of the authors, Priscilla Warner. Her father would tell this Yiddish story, affectionately known as "The Paper Bag Story".*

*Imagine this: take all your problems, all of them, from the tiniest annoying concerns to the most horrific, difficult challenges and put all those problems in a brown paper bag.*

*Then imagine if everyone else in the world took all of their problems and put them into their own paper bags. Think of how many bags there would be all piled up into one gigantic mountain of brown paper!*

*Then her father would say: Now, if you were told that you could pick any bag of problems and take it home with you, do you think you'd want someone else's problems? I don't think so! You'd be scampering like crazy to find your own bag in that mountain of brown paper.*

*Toward the end of her father's life, after his business had failed, his fortune lost, and having suffered a terminal disease, Priscilla asked her father if he had to do it all over again, would he still want his own brown paper bag. He did not hesitate when he answered "Absolutely".*

*Let Us Pray:*

*Heavenly Father, we come to you in thanksgiving and in praise. We thank you for gathering us safely together this weekend to celebrate this amazing ministry, which you have called us to do.*

*We thank you for the many hands and hearts that developed and executed this Prayers & Squares Conference.*

*We thank you for the time, talent, and resources that make this ministry possible.*

*We thank you for the bond that we share with every other person in this room-the love of quilting and the belief in prayer. We thank you for the friends that we arrived with and all those we will come to meet this weekend.*

*Tonight Father, we lift up to you our brown paper bags filled with our worries, concerns, and troubles. We ask that you tuck them away and keep them safe so that this weekend we can live in the moment and celebrate this ministry gathering.*

*And at the end of our time together, we will reclaim our own paper bag and take them home. Help us to remember as we travel along life's path to recognize and lift up all those people whom we meet that have brown paper bags that are a little fuller or a lot heavier than our own. Remind us to pray for these people and if appropriate, offer them prayer quilts to cover them in their time of need. It is by serving others that we bring honor to you, Lord. That is the true joy of this ministry.*

*We ask that You remain with us this weekend and send down your Holy Spirit to dwell among us and lead this ministry where You wish it to go.*

*All this we ask through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen*



*We are blessed to be a blessing with this gift of tangible prayer through the ties in these quilts!*

*- Kathy Cueva, President*