

THE BLANKETS

I have driven by this place for literally years. In fact, I remember when the house was remodeled into the facility that it is today—a small home for the elderly. We had eleven afghans and lap blankets that had been given to the Hugs and Kisses branch of The Encouragement Project, and I suggested this spot might be a good place to share these warm encouragements. I just had no idea it would yield such a story!

My mom, Reba, is an incredible help to The Project. She makes a lot of the connections and in-person contacts for both Hugs and Kisses and The Book Drop. So, she took the two bags of blankets and set out.



The lady in charge of the facility was so welcoming, and said that the residents there (two of whom are over 100 years old) would love to have the encouragement of a beautiful blanket, especially since older folks tend to be cold. So she and mom loaded up their arms and trekked around to each room, letting each person choose the color they would like to have. Their responses were extremely special.



When mom returned, she just said, “That was incredible.” Then she had me guess how many residents they had. I said, “Eleven”, thinking that was just how many blankets we had, and about how God so often provides so exactly. But I was wrong. There were twelve folks living there. My face fell, and I quickly said that I would get one made to take back over for the one who was left out. But she smiled. “There were enough,” she said. “But there were only eleven?! We had both counted.” “Don’t know how it happened,” she answered, “but everyone got a blanket.”

If I think about it, I am still baffled by the numbers, but if I think about God, I know absolutely that he can do anything. God does provide exactly. Even when it’s more than we counted on or thought we had. He gives abundantly and generously, because he loves us. He loves you. Be encouraged.



Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

THE GOAL JUST CHANGED...

As we step through these days, God continues to bless and surprise us with an abundance of ways to help people. We had a fresh goal to collect 500 hugs and kisses (scarves and hats) this year — but have decided to revise that number, given that we just had a donation of some 250 items from a nearby church. These warm gifts, plus what has been generously and beautifully made by the special ladies in our knitting/crocheting circles at the retirement centers so far this year, puts the incredible total at well over 300 hugs and kisses and blankets and such already. I am overwhelmed, and very thankful that we can pass these warm goodies along to help those in need.

So... we have now decided to shoot for 1,000 hugs and kisses by the end of the year. This is a huge adjustment, but in faith, we believe that God will provide so we can bless those in need of warmth.

Will you join us?! If you knit or crochet, you can send finished pieces — or If you don't, we also need donations of yarn, or funds for these supplies.



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

It was an unexpected email. One that held a concern that didn't really fit with any current branch of the project. She said she was looking for resources for some transitions coming up in her family's life — and she was looking for encouragement.

I did some research and sent her a few links for the practical help she was looking for. And I offered her the best encouragement there is — to pray for her and her family.

This connection, and a few others in the weeks since, have convinced me that it is time to start a new branch of The Encouragement Project — *The Prayer Circle*.

We are getting a new page set up on the website for prayer requests to be shared with us online, and they can also be sent by email, or over the phone, or in person if we run into each other. We will pray as requests are received, and every Friday morning.

It is a privilege to pray for each other as the things of life come and go. Big things, little things, anything. God is faithful to hear our prayers.

If you are in the area, and would like to join us for our Prayer Circle at 8:30am on Fridays, do let me know.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with the financial gifts and donations of those of you who are interested in helping and encouraging others through this ministry. Gifts of any amount are helpful, and go toward seeing believers encouraged, and those in need helped. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. Would you join us monthly at the...

\$10 ~ *ground level* ~ \$25 ~ *creative level*
\$50 ~ *encouragement level* ~ *other amount*

Checks made payable to "The Encouragement Project" can be mailed to: **The Encouragement Project**
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA 30009

If you prefer to set up a recurring monthly gift, please let us know and we will send you the banking information.

The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

*"But what about you?" [Jesus] asked.
"Who do you say I am?"
Peter answered, "The Christ of God."*

Luke 9:20

CONTACT US... WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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