



March 2017

Dear Friends,

I love crafting things and creating things. My focus of late has been on creating quilts. God brought a friend into my life who immersed me into the wonderful world of taking large pieces of fabric, cutting them into smaller pieces and sewing them back together. I say that jokingly as I find it funny that we quilters will purchase yards of material just to cut and sew smaller pieces together into a desired quilt. Years ago, ladies used whatever they could find to piece together a quilt. Flour sacks, old dresses or a farmer's worn out shirt would become the product of a newer something... a quilt that was a necessity to keep them, or their family members warm. Don't get me wrong, I use scraps too and in the case of what God has me doing, much of the material is obtained through generous donations, some are scraps.

Like women of days gone by, the quilts I make are created and given to fulfill a need. I work alongside a group of ladies and men who make quilts for Brother Bryan Mission, Foster and Adopted children, Project Night Night, children of domestic violence and the local NICU(s). I share this because I believe we all have gifts, talents and skills that God has created in us for His purpose.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(Ephesians 2:10)

God had it in His plans that I would meet a dear friend who inspired me to learn quilting. He placed me in an environment where needs would be met.

Some might say, "But you could just buy a blanket to meet those needs. Why go through all the work of making a quilt?" This is true. However, buying the blanket is an easy task for me. There is not much to purchasing a blanket at the store, nor is there much effort or time spent. Quilting takes time and effort. When I quilt, there is an intimacy that takes place at my sewing machine. An intimacy with God. As I hear the humming of the machine I petition God on many levels for the person who will receive the quilt. I pray God will warm their souls with His spirit as their bodies are warmed by the fibers of the quilt. I ask that He fill them with a desire to know Him and to seek Him in all they do. As each piece of fabric comes together to make the quilt whole, I pray that He will pick up the broken pieces in their lives and make whole where there is brokenness.

My list of prayer petitions could go on and on. The point is, we all have something to contribute. Some way to contribute. God created us for His glory and to do good works. We are His handiwork. Do you really grasp the awesomeness of what it is to be God's handiwork? The creator of the universe loves you! He created you for a purpose!

Maybe you have been wondering what your purpose is. What is it that God wants you to be working at? Or you have been thinking, there is nothing for you to do? God has a plan for you. He created you with a purpose to fulfill His plans. I pray you are walking in your purpose. If not, I pray today will be the day you ask God to reveal His purpose to you and begin to step out and walk in His purpose.

Maria Luttrell

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16