



# About Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry

## What is Prayers & Squares?

Prayers & Squares is an interfaith outreach ministry that combines the gift of a hand-tied quilt with the gift of prayer for someone in need. The essence of this ministry is in the prayers offered for the recipient; it is not about the quilts.

## What is a Prayer Quilt?

Very simply, a prayer quilt is a quilt that is made with love and tied with prayers. Each knot tied into the quilt represents a prayer that is offered specifically for someone in need of those prayers. As the congregations or other groups, family, and friends gather, knots are tied into the quilt representing prayers, love and concern for the recipient. In most chapters, this happens around the weekly worship service, with recipients lifted in prayer, and an invitation extended to the congregation to tie a knot representing their prayers.

## How did Prayers & Squares begin?

A quilting group was started in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in Rancho Bernardo, California, with no other purpose than to have fun making quilts together. One of the members told about making a quilt while praying for a special young friend who was in a body cast. The idea of making prayer quilts for people in need grew from there.

Hope United Methodist Church made the first prayer quilt for the two-year-old grandson (Kody) of one of its members. Kody was in a coma following heart surgery and doctors were pessimistic about his chances for recovery. The response was a quilt in vivid primary colors, made with many heartfelt prayers (and a few tears). After Kody came out of the coma, his quilt became so important to his recovery that his doctors wrote into

his medical chart that the quilt was not to leave his side. Kody's recovery was an answer to many prayers, and his quilt a source of comfort and strength. Since this first quilt, Prayers & Squares' chapters at hundreds of churches have made thousands of prayer quilts, each for someone in special need.

## Are there any special rules which we must adhere to?

We are primarily a prayer ministry. A new chapter must agree to the Prayers & Squares Three Commandments:

1. Remember the Prayers & Squares Motto: "It's not about the quilt, it's all about the prayers." The goal is to encourage and involve as many people as possible to participate in the prayer effort, not merely to make and give away quilts.
2. Before tying a prayer quilt for an individual, that person must have agreed to accept the gift of prayer in the form of a quilt. (In the case of a child, or if the person in need of prayers is unable to communicate, a loved one may do this.) You should also ask how you might best direct your prayers for that person.
3. No payment can ever be accepted for a prayer quilt. It cannot be sold; it is a gift. Neither the person who receives the quilt, nor the person who requests a quilt for another should be obligated to Prayers & Squares in any way.

## How is the ministry supported?

This ministry relies on donations and other fund raising events. In getting started, chapters have asked for donations of fabric, scraps, quilt tops, and partially finished projects from local quilters, quilt shops, quilt guilds, and of course the congregation.

Of utmost importance is the prayer support of the congregation.

**How do we decide who gets a Prayer Quilt?**

Prayer quilts are given to those persons in physical, emotional, or spiritual crisis. We will not make judgments concerning either the validity of a request or whether someone is “deserving”. God’s grace is available to all. However, do set some guidelines for your chapter, taking into consideration such things as the size of your congregation, the size of the chapter, the time involved in making prayer quilts, and the number of requests. In many chapters, the request for a prayer quilt must come from a member of the congregation (sponsor). That sponsor may be asking for him or herself, a family member, a friend, or someone else. However you are organized, keep in mind the Three Commandments of Prayers & Squares. And take your concerns to the Lord and trust in Him to provide as we’ve seen Him do over and over and over again.

**How can my group become involved and join as a chapter of Prayers & Squares?**

If interested in this ministry, we would like to welcome you as a chapter of Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry. Begin by reading the membership information on the website, [www.prayerquilt.org](http://www.prayerquilt.org). You may use the website to submit an application form. Once your application is received, accepted & processed, you will receive a starter kit containing pre-printed fabric labels, instruction sheets, and some basic supplies. An information video may be ordered through the website which gives some really good information to beginning chapters. Many new chapters show this video at their first organizational meeting as a way to answer questions and generate enthusiasm for the Ministry.

We hope you are inspired to become part of Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry. God bless you as you join us in covering the world with prayer.