

Living Fulltime in a Recreational Vehicle (RV)

Upon our retirement in New Hampshire where none of our kids had ever lived, we chose to sell the house, most of our stuff, buy a motorhome and travel till we decided to stop! Our kids now had families in western Washington State, Colorado, and Texas and we wanted to be able to visit them and our grandchildren (plus those that were coming while we traveled). It was a great decision for us but it is not for everyone as you are in very tight quarters 24/7! This lifestyle allowed us to visit family and friends around the country. We found a mission organization, NOMADS, that allowed us to participate in helping Christian agencies with work they needed help doing. Other places like the YMCA camps in Colorado and Missouri needed help during the summers where we volunteered and parked our RV for our living accommodations. We finally found an RV park in Arizona that needed a cable TV and telephone maintenance guy during the six months (fall to early spring time frame) to live and work in the park. We only went for one year but liked it so much we stayed for 10 years during the busy season. The other six months of those years we were back in the motorhome traveling. It was a great life as we meet many wonderful people also living this lifestyle. The attached photos are of our motorhomes during those years, the first was a 36' Winnebago and the next one was a 40' Winnebago. That part of our life was from 1999 to 2015. We sold the motorhome and moved to Colorado near our daughter.





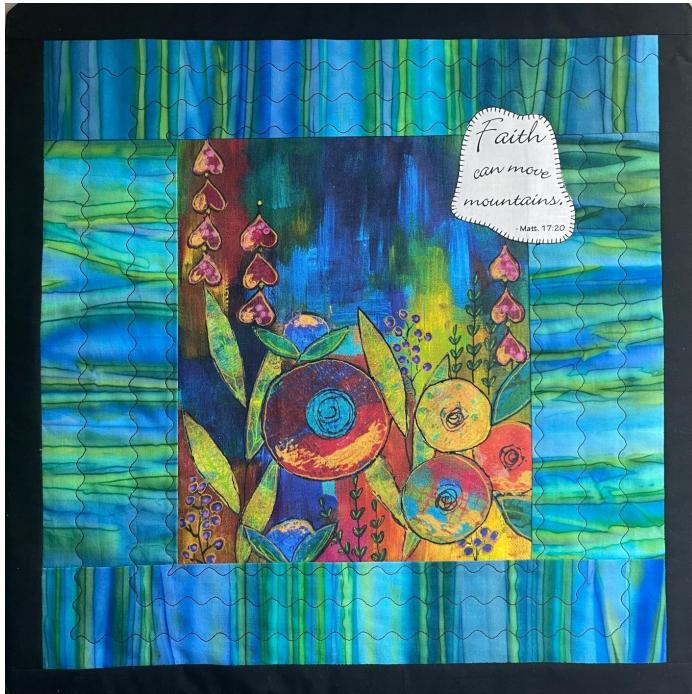
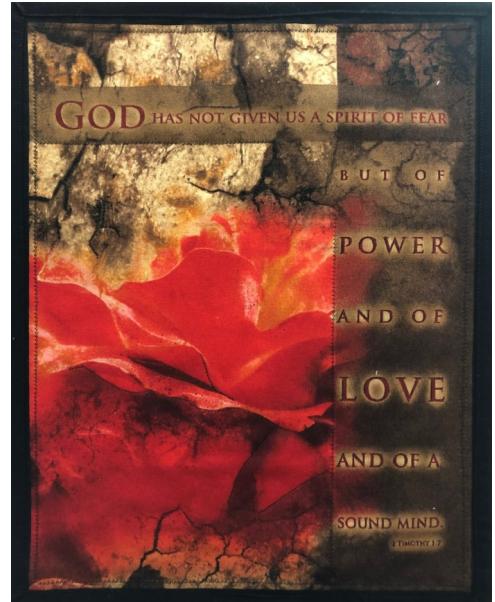
Attending a Rally for RVers', we caravanned to the parking area. After parking and getting set up, gatherings ensued for food and fellowship.



We spent several months on two occasions at the Sacramento NM Methodist Assembly Camp up in the mountains working as volunteers. The hummingbirds loved this area and we enjoyed them.

Prayer Cloths are visual reminders of the prayers others are saying for you. I learned about these from a church in Denton TX in 2000. I began making them for people we worked with at NOMADS projects, at RV events, or with friends and family as needed. I encourage other people who like to sew to make them and give them away as well. The only rules are keep them small (about 14" to 20" square or rectangular). Size varies within those ranges. Add a scripture or text that is appropriate. Pray over it once it is finished and give to the person in need. I've given them to total strangers! If God nudges me, I give one and allow Him to do what needs to be done. I've also made special ones for anniversaries, weddings, and other occasions.

Here are some samples

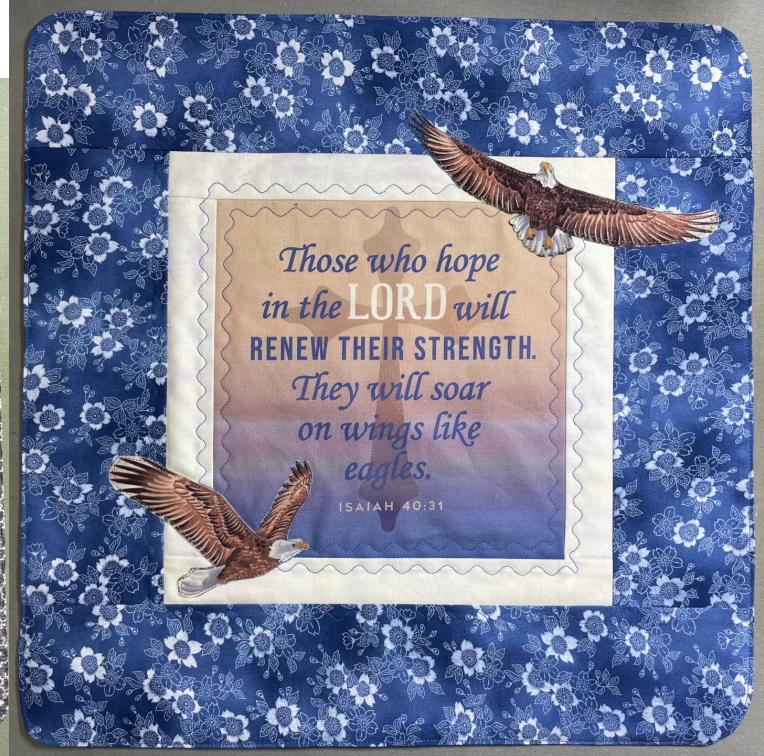
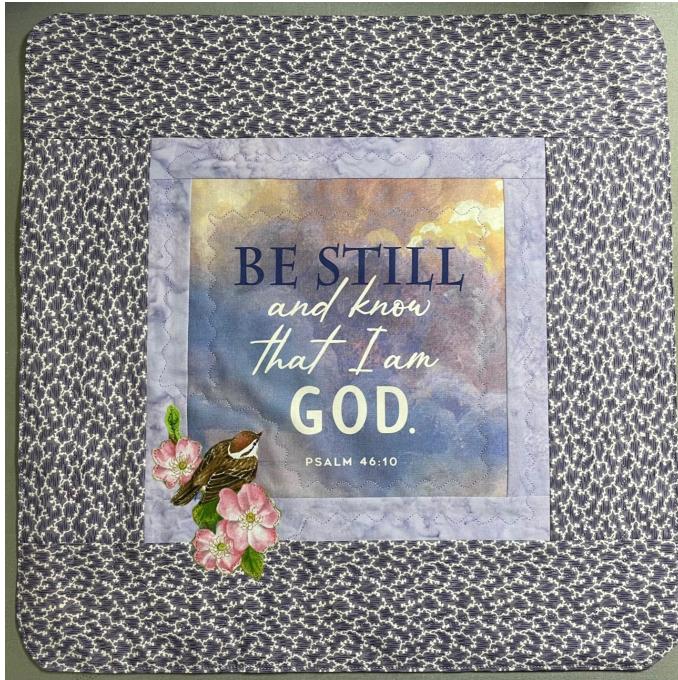




The scriptures are found at Block Party Studios website already printed on fabric. Sometimes I find fabric with scripture messages already printed. Embroidery machines can also be used to apply the scriptures. I use left over blocks for other quilts as centers for these cloths.



I do not use batting as I want them to be folded to carry to treatment centers, to hospitals, or other places. I do use two layers of muslin for the backs. Sometimes I bind them but usually I sew right sides together and turn, then stitch down the edges.





This was a special order for a new lawyer in Miami near the water. She chose the scripture she wanted hanging in her office. The circles represent the cases and the amount of information she has to start a case and how it grows as she delves into the case. Her heart is at the center of it all as she walks with God.



Memory Quilts are a favorite of mine to make. Using clothing from a loved one to help keep memories alive. The baby cloths honor a daughter who lived only a few weeks.

The tree leaves show a daughter the love of her mother as she remembers all the shirts she wore while alive.

The ties were collected and worn by a grandfather who loved his granddaughter. They went into a quilt for her for her college graduation.

The Cancer Cannot Do quilt was for a young girl fighting cancer for the second time (once at age 4 and then again at age 13) and it was signed by the Denver Broncos and given to her. She survives today!



These **Memory Prayer Cloths** were made for a family who lost a sister, aunt, and friend after years of health issues. Using her solid colored tee shirts for the front pieces and other shirt parts for the symbols on the front each family and friend took one home as a reminder of her life.



NOMADS: Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service – NOMADS provide volunteer labor for historically Methodist organizations. NOMADS demonstrate God's love through our work and by listening to the people with whom we work. We do new construction, remodeling, and repairs for churches, children's homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and disaster rebuilding. Team members do maintenance, cleaning, painting, electrical, drywall, sewing, flooring. With God's help, NOMADS pretty much do it all. (*taken from their website*) Link is:

<https://www.methodistnomads.org/>

We worked with this group during our RV life and still believe in the value of their work. Photos are from our time with them.



Rays of Hope Quilt came as an answer to my prayers for a special quilt to put into the NOMADS live auction in September 2011. On Easter Sunday 2011 at 4:30 am I awoke with this design! I laid in bed for the next two hours constructing it in my head. Little did I know about the journey that design would have for me! After I got the first one made, a couple of friends asked me to make them one before the auction. At the auction it did amazingly well! The full story is in my book and on a YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXCAIqT_fFs

As I made another one along side my other quilting friends, they asked for a pattern. That led to a pattern, an Etsy shop Rays of Hope Quilts,

www.etsy.com/shop/raysofhopequilts/

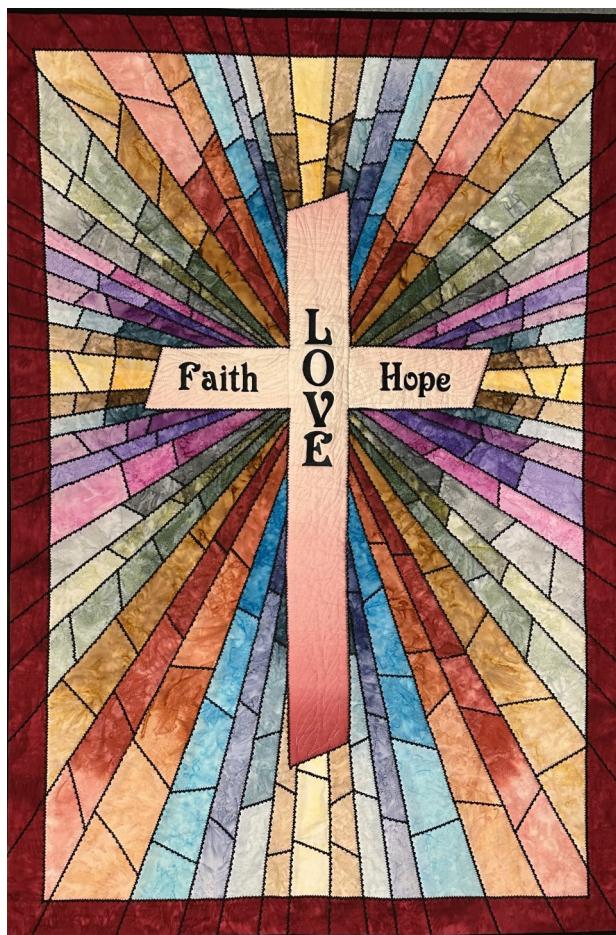
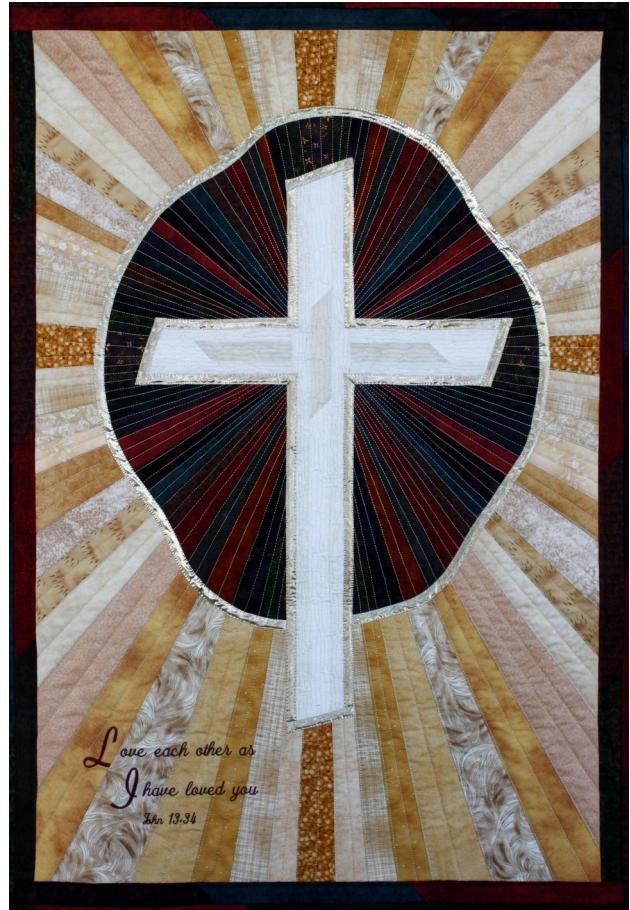
and orders from many places since 2012. The

Stained

glass version came about six months after the original version was published. Fabric kits are available from the Sew Batik website <https://sewbatik.com/collections/nuance-projects/products/rays-of-hope-wall-hanging-nuance-pack>

The pictures show the first pattern and then the final Stained Glass version.

The dark area behind the cross, to me, represents the sin in our lives that Jesus died on the cross to cover. The lighter areas represent the lives lived in the kingdom of Christ now living in the light of Jesus. In the stained glass version the dark areas are also colorful as some of the sin in our life is colorful! While life in the kingdom is also colorful and alive!



My book, **Rays of Hope Devotions**, came about during our travels in the years 2000-2011. I wrote a weekly Thought for the Week to email to friends as my way of keeping me connected to my faith. I had worked as a volunteer and an employee in churches for many years serving in many capacities. Then on the road I had to find a way to stay connected. Over the years, others would ask if I was going to put them in a book. Finally in 2023, I put all other activities aside and began editing and processing all the details to achieve the final product. God provided the people necessary to assist me in getting this done as it was such a new undertaking for me. The book is now available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other bookstores in both printed and ebook versions. It is also in my Etsy Shop as a signed copy. Of course, I have copies that I can send out or deliver to those nearby. Here are some examples of what you can find in the book through the Table of Contents as well as a list of the alphabetical listing of all the 367 devotions with page numbers. You can find three different devotions as samples to read here for the style of my writing.

Love is Difficult, page 18

Rooted in Jesus, page 64

Come as You Are, page 219

