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A photograph of two young boys of African descent standing outdoors. The boy on the left is wearing a blue shirt and holding a doll with a light-colored face and a white dress with red polka dots. The boy on the right is wearing an orange t-shirt with 'SEATED PAWS' printed on it and holding a doll with a dark face and a white dress. Both dolls have braided hair. The background shows a grassy field and a cloudy sky.

SEWING SEEDS OF KINDNESS

The Power of a Witnessing Doll

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The Power of a Witnessing Doll

BY SHIRLEY COX

WHEN MISSION SERVICE CORPS (MSC) missionary Robin Reeves opened two boxes of Dolls on Mission witnessing dolls from the North American Mission Board, she had no idea God was launching her into a new ministry. Looking at the colorful dolls, she remembered several boxes of fabric, yarn, and sewing supplies she had received from Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Georgia.

A professional seamstress since the 1980s, Reeves enlisted the help of approximately 30 women at Frankfort Baptist, Corbin, Kentucky. Together, she and the women created 470 of the dolls and 55 baby blankets to send with Melany Hanrahan on a missions trip to

Nicaragua in April 2009. Today, 25 women in Nicaragua are reproducing the witnessing dolls from the same pattern.

Since the Sewing Seeds of Kindness ministry began, Reeves and the women have sent over 1,000 witnessing dolls to 15 states and 5 countries. After the dolls are adorned with colorful fabrics and yarn, their faces are hand painted. On one side, their eyes are closed, representing a lost person's spiritual condition. On the other side, the eyes are open. A beaded necklace and a witnessing card with Scripture explain the plan of salvation. A red heart with a black cross painted on the breast of each doll shows that once we receive Christ, He is always there. As the women sew, they pray for God to use the dolls to reveal Himself.

When Reeves described the ministry to her mother, Bobbie Wright, she remembered learning about Dolls on Mission from *Missions Mosaic* magazine. Finding the November 2007 issue of the magazine, Reeves was able to read the full story of the origin of the witnessing dolls!



DEDICATION CEREMONY: Dolls are dedicated to God's service while recipients are prayed for.

Kindness



Happy Guatemalan girls hug their new witnessing dolls.

Reeves has been amazed by the ways God has used the witnessing dolls. After she shared them at a Backyard Bible Club (BYBC), Alaza, a young girl, took her doll to Sunday School to share with her class. "The next week, her grandmother (the teacher) asked me for dolls for the rest of the class," Reeves said. "A few weeks later, I learned that Alaza had asked Jesus to come into her heart and save her."

Jacob Couch, 11, attended a BYBC Reeves taught. The next week Jacob and his Dad walked into a barbershop. The men inside had seen him with one of the dolls. "When they began to tease him, his Dad said he raised his head, squared his shoulders, and went to the truck and got the doll. When he returned," Reeves continued, "he explained this was no ordinary doll but

Want to make the witnessing dolls too? Go to womenonmission.com and click on {projects}. Start sewing and sowing today!



Robin Reeves cradles dolls ready for witnessing.



a witnessing doll to tell people about Jesus, and he proceeded to share the meaning. Two preachers in the barbershop apologized to him and said the boldness of this young man and his testimony had really put them in their place.

"My friends Kim Fox and Kris Craig shared 23 of the dolls with children in Alaska, and four raised their hands to pray for salvation," Reeves reported eagerly. "We sent 63 of the dolls with Amy Walker to an orphanage in Guatemala. In the past two months, I have given away approximately 125 dolls through BYBC and personal encounters. Recently, I used the dolls to witness to three waitresses of Spanish descent at Dino's restaurant."

Reeves has many requests for the pattern for the witnessing dolls when she speaks in churches. "In March 2009, I shared the dolls and their meaning at a Baptist Women's Day at Wolfe Creek Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Kentucky. I shared how God created us all differently, but with one thing in common—a heart and soul and an emptiness that only He can fill, yet we try to fill it with many things. The pastor said he felt the message had been preached by a simple strand of beads around a doll's neck, and he gave the invitation. That night I got a call from the pastor's wife that eight professions of faith had been made in their evening service. Several stated that what I shared about the dolls and their meaning had stuck in their minds, and they knew God was speaking."



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Even before God guided Reeves to the witnessing dolls, she was serving in creative ways through clowning and puppets. In December 2005, Reeves packed her “Ringo the Clown” outfit and headed to South Africa. In the community of Colenso, she taught children in an orphanage about Jesus and witnessed by creating balloon animals at an open-air flea market on New Year’s Eve.

Reeves also serves through a variety of ministries, including Vacation Bible School, block parties, home repair, food and clothing, nursing home, and outreach events. She works closely with local schools in her area through several community agencies and Family Resource Centers. She also works with the Emergency Christian Ministries (homeless) and AA Women’s Services (pregnancy).

Yet, sharing the love of Christ through the witnessing dolls has become the primary focus of her min-



From Nicaragua to Tanzania and all around the United States, children have learned about the saving power of Jesus Christ through witnessing dolls.



istry. “I never dreamed God would use something as simple as fabric, yarn, and sewing supplies to multiply His kingdom and bless others the way He has,” she admitted. “Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, ‘Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.’ We are not only sewing with our hands, but also sowing seeds for Christ. What an awesome God we serve!”

Pray for God to use the witnessing dolls to reveal His plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, to people throughout the world. □

MSC missionary **SHIRLEY COX** writes from her home in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky.



DOLLS ON MISSION: *An intergenerational missions project.*