

Rockie's story

I grew up making craft projects of all sorts. I just took it for granted that it was an OK form of fun for a young girl, teen, young mother, etc. I never thought of it as a specific talent.

A snowy January morning in 1985 changed my perspective. I had just dropped my toddler daughter off at her sitter's home and was driving to work when things changed. I met a car with one headlight...literally met the car head on.

I was brought to the closest hospital and was in a coma for about a week. I woke up from the coma blind and paralyzed. I spent 3 months in physical, occupational, speech, and cognitive therapies at the rehab hospital. My memories during the first weeks of treatments and therapies are sketchy or non-existent. But, I remember being kept busy with all the therapy and counseling sessions, my history of crafting was totally forgotten.

After discharge, I kept busy reading a lot. The only craft I resumed was my sewing. I loved to make dresses for my little girl. After awhile, the finished projects began to look pretty good! My vision had improved during the first year, so I could see what I was actually doing.

About two years passed. I had access to the investigation photographs and summaries of my accident. The pictures of my little car were shocking. My injuries were admittedly very serious, but after looking at the pictures I was struck by the thought that it was a miracle I was even alive, let alone functioning relatively independently. My thoughts were, "Why me, God? Why did you make me better?" I didn't really expect God to "talk" to me about His reasons.

One Sunday morning as I was sitting in church, I was admiring the banners displayed on the walls. One in particular caught my eye. It had a gold cross with a Chi Rho on it. Below the cross, "Because Christ Cares" was written. (The name of the church was Christ Lutheran). The crafting bug hit me. I thought this would make a wonderful bookmark. I could make every baptized child of God at this church a bookmark! After being forced to retire from a career in nursing, I had a vocation! God was calling me in answer to my questions!

I brought this ministry with me to Lord of Life when I moved from Minnesota. The number of baptisms is fewer than I was used to doing. I pursued some of my old crafting talents and discovered some new areas that interested me.

I decided to add the ministry of fellowship in teaching some of these crafts to members of Lord of Life and other friends. Keep watch for the Lord of Life Ladies Make-It-&-Take-It nights. Lately, we've been stamping cards and having a ball doing it!

The Lord of Life Christmas Bazaar gives me another outlet to share my gifts from God. I thank God for each and every item I am able to create. Each item I create and sell at the bazaar is my way of giving back what He has first given me.

:) Rockie