

**FROM YOUR MISSIONARY IN ROSEBUD,  
PARMELEE PROGRESS / HOPE INDUSTRIES / SEWING FACTORY UPDATE**

Our Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took a towel, wrapped it around his waist, and began to wash the disciples' feet. We know the story, but the part we don't know is, "who made the towel?" Someone had to make it. If it were 2014, it might have been the people in Parmelee, SD!

Praise the Lord for his answer to prayer! As most of you know we have been working on a project in Parmelee, SD on the Rosebud Reservation to help people first of all spiritually through our church, but then also physically by bringing some jobs to a community that has very few jobs. The project God sent our way was a sewing factory to make micro-fiber towels. We have been working on this project for about a year and a half. And this past week we began sewing some towels for our training week. We won't start sewing every day until a couple months down the road, as we have some contracts to line up, but we have made some towels.



**FIRST TOWEL AT HOPE INDUSTRIES!**  
With Joe Kary, Jon Merchant, Darlyle Whipple, Pastor Utecht



**TRAINING ON THE SEWING MACHINES**

The week before the factory called HOPE INDUSTRIES opened, we did interviews. We interviewed about 20 people. I want you to know that of those 20 people there were only about 2 that could not be hired for almost any job. The quality of the people that wanted to work was very impressive. Behind the name of 4 of them we wrote the word "manager". They had good qualities, good experience, and many of them said the words, "we want to work". Of those 20 we hired 10. The man in the picture above even had previous experience in working with machines like this. God has truly blessed us with the right people at the right time. I can't say enough about the GOOD PEOPLE that came from the community of Parmelee.

We also had the blessing of Darlene and Ron Horst from our Lutheran Church in Gregory coming to help. Ron had worked in this industry for 30 years. So God provided some expertise to help us. We still don't know enough to know what Ron can teach us, but he tried. Again a blessing from God to move this forward. Ron together with Darlyle having experience really helped it get started well! A big thank you to them for the help!

When work started it was exciting, and fun at first, but then became challenging as threads broke, and the machines had to be rethreaded time and time again. The machines are "serger" machines, which put an edge around the material. We use 3 threads, and each thread runs through 10+ holes on the way to the



### **CUTTING TOWELS**

machines, and package the towels. It was fun working together with some good people. The fun part was seeing their smiles, their sense of pride in their workmanship, and then to see others from the community come and see what was happening, and letting the workers tell them all about it.

The real fun part came when we got to pay everyone! Originally we thought we would work 3 days, so we agreed to pay on Thursday after work. We then figured we needed to work on Friday, but pay day was Thursday. We gathered everyone together and paid them one at a time, and celebrated the first money earned at this factory.

needle. It can be frustrating. But the group stuck with it, and by the end of the first day the attitude was “we can do this”!

Comments were made after the first day, about how great it was to be able to work together with others from the community, and the fun of being able to do so. Some talked about the feeling of safety, which I interpreted as being able to work at a place where they didn’t get in trouble for breaking a thread, or something not working right. Instead they were given the responsibility to figure it out, and the time to do so. Others were so proud to be able to have a job right in their community.

As the week went along, we figured out how to cut towels, and how to sew them, how to adjust the



### **SEWING TOWELS**

It was fun to see the smiles as they realized what they had earned for their 3 days of work.

The next day those who had not made previous plans came right back to work, excited to do so, and to spend another day working together, making towels, and earning something so they could provide for their families! What fun! What a blessing from God!

We are still looking to buy some more machines, and working to get the finances in order to start every day work.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!  
KEEP PRAYING, AND SERVING OUR LORD JESUS!**



### **FRONT OF FACTORY**

Pastor Andrew Utecht