

Sewing Ministry Inspires Giving



Wendy Hagar's selfless giving has become contagious. The Burlington, Ont. woman is "sew" busy! Since she began Sew on Fire Ministries in February 2000, she and her teams of volunteers have sewn more than 15,500 gift items, including bags, for needy people overseas. Short-term mission groups deliver them.

"We send the love of God through these free, homemade cloth bags to orphans, widows living in the streets, young single moms, children living in garbage dumps, refugees and the poor" in 29 countries, she says.

Early in her ministry she prayed, asking God to use her to make a difference in the world. Then the ministry grew,

using volunteers to sew quilts and blankets, T-shirts, baby overalls, mittens, baby layettes, and bags to hold them. The sewn items began to take over her house, room by room. A youth group took the job of assembling the bags. Then David Mainse and Crossroads Christian Communications donated warehouse space.

Now the ministry needs even more space. As word of her work continues to spread, donations both large and small pour in from Christian and secular sources: schools, Sunday school classes, women's groups, individuals and corporations.

Recent donations include 18,000 packages of Sour Patch candies; 10,000 pieces of last year's samples of Kobe fabric; four tons of new and used boots; as

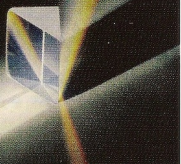
well as individual grocery bags filled with hotel soaps and shampoos that have collected dust in closets. Anyone inspired to help may contact Wendy at hagar@iprimus.ca, or at (905) 333-5722.

"We receive every dime and every item as a gift from God, and we use it to make a difference," she says.

—DAINA DOUCET

"You are here to be light bringing out the God-colours in the world."

—Matthew 5:14 (The Message)



Ministry Distributes "LifeLight"

Wherever people are, LifeLight wants to put God's Word in their hands. Canadian LifeLight Ministries, Steinbach, Man., has been distributing easy-to-read Scriptures for six years. It distributes both to individuals and to organizations such as Youth For Christ, crisis pregnancy centres and the Christian Motorcycle Association.

LifeLight's Scriptures come mainly from the International Bible Society.

"We have Bibles and New Testaments geared for many different groups," says Martha Kroeker, executive coordinator. "There is a Bible for truckers which includes testimonies of Christian truckers, one for bikers, cowboys, sportspeople, young people, inner city youth, people in prison." She also encourages travellers to take along Scriptures in the language of their destination country.

LifeLight offers its materials on a suggested donation basis or, in some cases, for free (www.thelifelight.com).

Raymond Dueck is a Manitoba businessman who founded LifeLight and currently serves as its president. He reports that in the past year financial support enabled the ministry to purchase 22,000 copies of the *LifeLight New Testament* (the New International Reader's Version, NIRV, with a special cover) and 20,000 copies of *How To Find God*.

The organization is also interested in placing Scripture in some schools, he says—although it does not want to be seen as competing with the Gideons.

Paul Mercer is the executive director of The Gideons International in Canada, one of the country's oldest Bible distributors. He welcomes LifeLight's work: "I'm excited whenever anyone wants to reach children for Christ."

And so LifeLight has begun by making the *Bright Beginnings New Testament*, a simplified edition of the NIRV, available to Grade 4 students in Manitoba's Evergreen School Division. Plans are also underway to take the same Scriptures to native schools in northern Manitoba. **ff**

—DARLENE POLACHIC

self-worth, the value and the gifting they have."

Yamamoto has had about 50 clients in the last few years. Some of them have left the street life and gone on to work at regular jobs. For others, life remains a constant struggle. One young woman who visited her regularly had the reputation of being tough and hard-edged. But Yamamoto treated her the same as everyone else, gently caring for her, and she softened. Then she disappeared. In February 2002, when Port Coquitlam pig farmer Willie Pickton was charged with the first two of 11 murders, hers was one of them. **ff**

—DEBRA FIEGUTH