

# A woman you should meet

*Wendy Hagar's ministry provides gift bags, 80,000 and counting, to over 70 countries.*

*Handmade and packed with donations, the bags find their way from Burlington, Ont. to the poorest of the poor. All this by a woman who hates to sew.*

## WHY SHOULD YOU MEET WENDY?

Wendy is one of those women who said "yes!" to God one Sunday at church. And things haven't been the same since. She's never been on a missions trip, but her gift bags, prepared by her ministry Sew on Fire, have accompanied at least 150 Canadian mission teams overseas, where they find their way — filled with soap, socks, school supplies and a whole bunch of other stuff — to those who need them the most.

**Wendy's fork in the road:** "One Sunday in church, God told me that He was requiring more of me in missions. I thought He was going to send me to Ethiopia. I was afraid. But by the end of the day I decided to make up these bags and clothe 100 babies. Because that's what a mother does."

**On what happens when you say yes to God:** "Our house changed. Within two weeks, seven rooms were overtaken and our double garage was full. We didn't eat at our kitchen or dining room tables for three years. Our family room had hockey bags filled and ready for a team to take them."

**Why smocking matters:** "I have little smocked dresses made by 90-year old women. We know that

God knows who is going to get those. And lives will be changed. People have told me that they had been praying for a place where they could use their gifts — from the youngest girl making bracelets to a very senior woman who says 'I still want to be working.' She makes blankets. I've had hundreds of women ask to join the ministry. We want their help."

**Why used teabags are never a good idea:** "We have so much. We need to share. There are 2300 verses in the Bible about the poor, about money and sharing. It's not a subtle message. We need to open our hands wide. A missionary who had been on the field for 30 years told me they'd never heard of anything like this. I talked to a woman who lived up north with First Nations people, and they were sent used teabags. We don't want to send junk. We want to send over awesome gifts that people will love."

**Her message to Canadian Christian Women:** "Say yes, and see what He'll do. If you're willing, you just don't know what God is going to do with that little 'yes.' God planted Noah in the desert and told him to build an ark. Noah wasn't a carpenter. God gave him every single thing he needed. Tell God you're available. And then see what He can do." ■