

# *A Tribute to Wilma Saunders*

## *Doll Maker and Her Labour of Love for the World's Children*

by **JAMES S. EAGLES**

FORT ERIE, Ont. (INS)—Mrs. Wilma Saunders, a long time supporter and volunteer to Intercede International, passed on to glory March 8 at 89 years of age. Even though in her eighties, Wilma wanted to use her talents to make a difference in the world. In 2003 Wilma attempted to contact Oprah Winfrey to send her dolls to her children's charity in South Africa. But try as she did, she was unable to connect with her. Yet she was not one to give up easily. Determined, she arranged for an interview with the local *Fort Erie Times* newspaper and they printed her story. We at Intercede heard about it and the rest, as they say, is history. And what a history it was!

Since 2004, Mrs. Saunders has created and donated more than 4,500 handcrafted dolls to Intercede. On average, Wilma made about 70 dolls per month for those five-and-a-half years. These dolls went to the children of 15 indigenous ministries in the Ukraine, Philippines, Sudan, Liberia, Kenya, India, Central America and Haiti.

I personally saw the joy-filled faces of the children in Sudan and India who received these dolls. It was the first time in many cases that they had anything that was their own and they were thrilled to know that someone so personally cared for them.

Last November we had our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Mrs. Saunders received the President's Volunteer of the Year Award that night. Mrs. Saunders is survived by her two daughters, Lynda Valvo and Billie Bennett, who are determined to carry on their mother's legacy.

This April, containers for the Philippines and Haiti will be on their way bearing the precious cargo of Mrs. Saunders' handiwork. She always told me that seeing the pictures of the children's beaming faces was reward enough for her. Hers truly was a labour of love for God's children. She will be greatly missed by all.



ABOVE:  
Mrs. Wilma Saunders with some of her many doll creations. Picture provided courtesy of Mat Day, of the *Fort Erie Times*

## “FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH...” JOB 19:25

Knowing the certainty of eternal life in Christ, many missions-minded friends and family members of departed loved ones honour their lives with gifts to Intercede in their memory. Such gifts help indigenous missionaries proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus

Christ among all nations. The names of the memorialized ones and the givers are recorded in our Book of Remembrance. An appropriate card is sent to the bereaved, and to the donors, with a receipt. When sending memorial gifts, please include the name and address of the deceased's family, as well as your own. The following were honoured “In Memoriam” during 2009 and early 2010.

### IN MEMORY OF

**Jeannine Grieve:**

**Mabel Forrest:**

**Mr. Roy Gilbert White:**

**Mr. Harry Knight:**

**Mr. Bill Shumate:**

**Mrs. Lorraine Solomon:**

**Mr. Murray Gilbert:**

**Dorothy Edmunds:**

**Wilma Saunders:**

**Marita Johnson:**

**Rev. Hubert Phillip Ireland:**

**Dr. Egon Maertins:**

### REMEMBERED BY

Robert Grieve

Arthur and Elizabeth Oulton

Mr. Bruce White

Mrs. Doris Knight

Henry & Nancy Gingras

Bob & Carolyn Kosowan

Ms. Susan Gilbert

Bob & Carolyn Kosowan

Mrs. Lynda Valvo, Mrs. Wilma Bennet, Kathleen Elliott, David W. Smith, Allan Petley, Carol McColl, Staff and Board of Intercede International

James & Sharon Eagles, Judith Cvitkovic

James & Sharon Eagles, Debbie & Norman Cudmore, Peggy Cudmore, Bret Cudmore, Tashina Cudmore, Phillip Cudmore, Judith Cvitkovic

Mrs. Anges Maertins