

# Minnie Hawkins - a beautiful lady

**GORMLEY** — The late Minnie Hawkins was a beautiful lady — cheerful, enthusiastic, friendly, helpful and loving. She was very much involved with her two sons, Ray and John, their families and other family relations. She had eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren who enjoyed being played with, smiled at and gathered around the organ for joyful songs. Born in 1898 on a farm south of Markham, the former Minnie Raymer was the daughter of 'Singer' Daniel Raymer and Alice (Bowman). Along with sisters Nettie and Edith and brothers Joe and Allan, she attended public school on 14th Avenue, Markham and later Markham High School. She was employed on the staff of the Bell Telephone Company in Markham until her marriage to Albert Hawkins. They farmed on the 8th Concession, north of Markham. Their small daughter, Alice, died of diabetes at the age of only

eight, prior to the discovery of insulin. In 1949, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins moved with their two sons to a farm on Leslie Street, north of Gormley. All members of their family knew what it was to put in a hard day's work. Their door was always open to children and grandchildren who lived with them at various times. Mrs. Hawkins' two sisters also lived with them a number of years. Mr. Hawkins died in 1974. A practical nurse, Minnie cared for many people during their last illnesses. She also assisted in the births of many babies at the Markham Nursing Home operated by her sister, Mrs. Koch. She later helped out at the Gormley Nursing Home; often on night duty. Mrs. Hawkins enjoyed attending church; singing in the choir and with quartettes; playing the organ; working in the Sewing Circle and taking part in missionary prayer meetings, especially while son Ray and wife Marie were in Nigeria where three of their

four daughters were born. In May of last year, Mrs. Hawkins celebrated her 90th birthday. Many friends were present for the occasion. A week prior to Christmas, she suffered a stroke and heart attack. She was a patient in York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill. Final words she kept repeating were: "Believe and receive; trust in God; we must pray for the missionaries." At the funeral service, Dec. 24 in the Gormley Missionary Church, Rev. Peter Gibbins spoke in glowing terms of Mrs. Hawkins' life. Pall-bearers were — grandsons Richard and Nelson Hawkins; grandsons-in-law Dan Bookalam and Ron Guidolin and nephews Dan Koch and Ron Raymer. Spring interment will take place at Dickson's Hill Cemetery.

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