



Spring  
2009

Building Relationships Locally  
*A Circle of Friends*  
Making an Impact Globally

A newsletter of the  
Women's  
Missionary  
Fellowship  
Evangelical  
Friends  
Church -  
Eastern Region

## Spring 2009

On April 7, my daffodils were peeking out at me through five inches of snow. The next week it was warm enough to get a sunburn doing yard work and a few days later they projected snow again. Ah! Spring in Northeast Ohio. I'm sure the weather is changing where you are, too. Whether it takes a few months or a few weeks, spring always breaks through winter. Maybe you are coming through a "winter" in your own life. Remember that God is faithful and you will see spring again. We hope to see YOU again soon at the Yearly Meeting WMF luncheon and the WMF Fall retreat. Plans are in the work for both of these events and if you are able to attend, please say hello to your WMF officers. Now if you are like me and you look at the list of workshops for the retreat, you will already be dreading making a choice among so many good choices. Speaking of good choices, begin to pray how your WMF can participate more fully in this year's Love Challenge. We'll be adding a new item this year – the Mission House.

Irene Jones  
Editor, A Circle of Friends

## Home Sweet Home

"There's no place like home," says Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz.

She's right, of course, but for our missionaries we have a "home away from home" for their use, the Mission House in Alliance, Ohio.



Did you know that the EFC-ER Mission Board rents the house in order to provide the mission families with a consistent home as they are visiting the U.S?

We, as part of the WMF, have the opportunity to share in meeting our missionaries needs through this house.

Our 2009 Love Challenge projects include financial support for this special home that provides all the amenities a family might need.

We will have more information on this at Yearly Meeting and Fall Retreat.

Be in prayer about how your church can help and be in prayer that the missionaries and their families who stay there will be blessed during their stay.

## What time is it?

A message from Doris Ferguson.

What time is it? Probably one of the most repeated statements throughout the day! Why is being on time so challenging for some of us? Even when we start early, something inevitably gets in our way to make us late. I have to remember to clock into my job, and if I forget, I have to fill out an embarrassing "missed punch" card!

I was blessed by a reminder today that God is always on time. "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth his Son." Galatians 4:4 (The Living Bible says "When the right time came.")

I love to look back on my life and remember the times that God showed up in one way or another, 'just in time'. I challenge you to do the same, and write some of those special moments, or events down, and share them with your children or grandchildren.

We are again at the time of year when people are getting involved in missions on a short term basis.. maybe a week or so, or a couple of months. We have received letters from people going to China, Indian Missions in the U.S., Bolivia & Africa.

We even prepared a "relatively" authentic African meal to serve in our church to raise money for people going to Burundi. That was a lot of fun!

- Pray for these people as they travel, and during their stay in a new environment.
- Pray that they will be able to minister as they are being ministered to.

One person asked me to pray for "curiosity". She is going to a place where she cannot openly witness, unless someone asks her a question. So she is praying that God will put curiosity in people's hearts, giving her the opportunity to share.

- Pray for all the logistical decisions that have to be made, but pray most of all that this will be done with God's power, fitting into God's timing and schedule.

Ask God to remind you to support these people with your finances and prayers and be ready to hear all the reports of how God had been "right on time" for them when they return.

Amahoro,  
Willard and Doris Ferguson

# Announcing 2009 WMF Fall Retreat Workshops

**Wow! Do we have an exciting lineup of retreat workshops for you this year at the 2009 WMF Retreat in Seven Springs this September!**

## **God Our Father: What It Means To Be His Child** (Regina Nutter)

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13

## **I Have a Story to Tell**

(Carol Kent, our speaker)

This workshop will give you the 'how-tos' of putting your personal testimony together in a way that will equip you to share it with a group of people, or one-on-one with a friend. All of us have a story to tell and we need to be able to speak of the hope that is within us. Come and learn how you can communicate your faith with confidence and clarity.

## **Keys to Walking in Freedom from Rejection**

(Cindy Aufrance & Jacelyn Jones)

This workshop takes a look at rejection, its characteristics, root causes, responses, and a practical approach to dealing with it in ourselves and others.

## **Christmas in September**

(Rebecca Glenn)

Girlfriends, do we have a workshop for you! Come decorate a 9" pizza box with a Christmas theme. Use it for that special gift. No crafting skills needed. All materials ready for use will be supplied. Cost is \$3.00

## **Jesus radically invading my life**

(Chris Woolf)

Has life been drained out of you? Has life become a struggle? You've heard it all before. You know what to do... or maybe you don't have a clue what to do. Come hear what the Father wants to whisper in your ear. Let His word heal you everywhere you hurt.



**Did somebody say, CHOCOLATE?**

Calling all chocolate lovers! Here is another reason to attend retreat. The same weekend that we will be there for our Fall Retreat, Seven Springs will host

### **A Chocolate Affaire.**

Vendors ("Chocolatiers") will have all sorts of chocolate treats for sale along with other chocolate activities.

So if you love chocolate (don't we all?) you have one more reason to come out to Seven Springs with your girlfriends!

## **R-U-Prepared?** (Joyce Sams)

Health authorities agree that there will be a flu pandemic in the future and due to ease of international transportation it will be a global event. Scripture tells us not to live in fear but it also encourages us to be like the Wise Virgins and be prepared. This workshop will give you practical information and ways you can help prepare your family and your church family.

## **Prayer Journaling** (Irene Jones)

Don't stare at that empty page. Come and get ideas for your prayer journal.

## **I Can Do That!!** (Darlene Fisher)

Make creative classy gift bags and cards from things you already have at home. There will be time for you to share your ideas too. Please bring scissors. Limited to 20 ladies Cost: \$5.00

## **The Great Escape** (Karen Nelson)

Prepare for life's challenges. Learn how to organize important documents so that they can be accessed at a moment's notice. Free handouts.

## **Fashion with a Twist** (Melissa Duriga)

What do a garden, a man's mind, the autonomic nervous system, and today's fashions have in common? As women seeking to please God and desiring to raise godly daughters and sons, we will look at how what we (and our daughters) wear affects men. Devotional book on modesty available for \$2.00.

## **Water Aerobics** (Karen Glendenning)

## **Decorated Jar for Christmas** (Cheryl Coe & Diane Roudabush)

Make a beautiful jar. Since jars have lids, it can be used for anything from a bank to a candy jar. A wonderful gift idea or keep it yourself. Limited to 25. Cost is \$6.00. Reduced rates for more than 1 jar.

# Love Challenge in for 2008-2009!

We need \$28,000 to reach our goals for this year's Love Challenge. We did it last year, and despite the turbulent economic times, we can do it this year.

This year we want to provide \$5,000 for each of these needs:

- Arun and Shobha Massey in India as they work with the children of temple prostitutes.
- Voicu and Ana Marian in Romania for their woodworking projects with their students.
- Dave and Cindy Aufrance in Hong Kong, to help with their housing costs.
- The Haiti Nutrition Center, where mothers and children are provided food, vitamins and clean drinking water.
- Jacelyn Jones for her work with the Filipino church in Hong Kong.

**Need ideas?** Here's what the East Richmond Women's Ministry did to raise their Love Challenge funds. They had a used book sale during their winter retreat! Pam Rice wrote, "We asked anyone in the church to bring in any good used Christian books or CDs that they would like to donate. We received many books and CDs. Women were welcome to give any donation for the books/CDs that they 'purchased' ... most of the books and CDs were 'recycled' for fresh owners to enjoy." They raised over \$700. Thanks, Ladies!

## **DUES! DUES! DUES!**

**Don't forget to send in your 2009 WMF dues.**

Annual dues are \$10 per person of which \$3 goes to EFC-NA Women's Missionary Fellowship projects.

**Send your dues to:**  
WMF Dues

C/O World Outreach Center  
5350 Broadmoor Circle, NW  
Canton, Ohio 44709

## **SEND IN YOUR CHURCH'S READING LIST REPORTS**

Don't forget to keep track and send the reading list report to Fran French. See the WMF Information Guide for details.

### **A Quick Review of the 2008-2009 Reading List:**

- **Point Me to the Skies**  
By Robert Clements
- **Into the Deep**  
By Robert Rogers with Stan Finger
- **I Saw Him in Your Eyes**  
By Ace Collins
- **Fighting for David**  
By Leone Nunley and David Merrill
- **Singing through the Night**  
By Anneke Companion
- **Heaven Is Real**  
By Don Piper
- **Completely His**  
By Shannon Ethridge
- **Walking His Trail**  
By Steve and Ginny Saint
- **Small Acts of Grace**  
By Alice Gray
- **Mistaken Identity**  
By Don & Susie Van Ryn and Newell, Colleen & Whitney Cerak