

Summer
2010



Building Relationships Locally
A Circle of Friends
Making an Impact Globally

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

Summer 2010

"Daring to Change, Embracing the Unchanging" - Yearly Meeting 2010 has come to a close. We have the news for all of you who missed the WMF Business Meeting and Luncheon. We have new executive board members, new nominating procedures, and a new change to the reading program. Ladies, we fit right in with the "Daring to Change" theme.

I've included some words from the luncheon that the missionary ladies shared regarding women who influenced their lives. These ladies, our modern day heroines of the faith, had other women invest in their lives. Let's have open hearts to hear whom the Lord is looking for us to invest in.

I had a heroine invest in me twenty years ago. A newbie Christian, I mentioned to a retired missionary at our church that I was having trouble sleeping. The next week she had a scripture for me, Psalm 4:8. I remember it to this day. When I embarked with my husband on a job-hunting trip to Alaska and was "frozen" with fear, this dear lady who had few personal belongings gave me a bookmark which read, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you." God's will did not lead us to Alaska, but it did lead me to mission trips to Hong Kong. On my first trip I gave the bookmark to one of the ladies whom I was able to encourage and who has since become a leader in that church. At Yearly Meeting, that precious retired missionary sought me out to encourage me once again. Thank you, Ella Ruth Hutson (retired missionary to Taiwan), for your prayers and encouragement.

Carol Williams shared our Love Challenge giving to date. A challenge it is, but Carol was encouraged and reminded us that over the past 10 years we have given over a quarter of a million dollars towards missions. That is what our Lord can do with the many offerings and fund raisers that you send through WMF. Thank you.

We don't collect or give money to keep programs going, ladies. We do it to come alongside our EFC-ER missionaries and invest in their lives so they can invest in the lives of others who so desperately need Jesus. That need will continue on and we will continue "Embracing the Unchanging" - the unchanging need for people to find a personal relationship with Jesus. Have a great summer and I will see you at the WMF Retreat!

Irene Jones, Editor
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Eternal Investment Opportunities Available!

At the WMF luncheon, Martha Edwards, our WMF secretary lead a time of sharing with missionaries Shobha Massey, Diane Bible, and Ana Marian. She asked each of the name one woman who really touched their lives.

Shobha named her mother, Sona (which means "gold"). Her mother lived a life of prayer and sacrificial giving. Though quiet, she was a very powerful woman and her prayers sustained Shobha as a girl when she had a poor self image.

Diane told us that her grandmother, Gertrude Shreve, really touched her life. She remembered sharing a hymnal in church with her grandmother who told Diane, "I am so proud you are here with me." Diane hopes to be an encourager to her grandchildren.

Ana mentioned someone who will be very familiar to many of our long-term WMF members, Iris Murphy. Ana came to know the Lord in a Bible study at the age of 25 in a group of retired ladies. Though "retired" when Ana met her, Iris has continued to be a great influence, speaking truth into Ana's life in bold and sometimes blunt ways.

Who can you invest in? As per these ladies, we can invest in our children, our grandchildren and the ladies in our church. The women who touched the lives of these ladies continue to touch the world in India, Russia and Romania. Who knew?



Above (left to right) Martha Edwards interviews visiting missionaries, Ana Marian, Shobha Massey, and Diane Bible.

See you at the WMF Retreat September 17-19 at Seven Springs Resort, PA

Our retreat chairwomen Kathy Johnson and Sue Reese have an exciting time planned for us. Don't forget to bring gift baskets and handmade items for the silent auction. *Please don't bring any garage sale-type items for the auction. This is a time for bringing our best to raise money for kingdom work, not a time to clear the clutter out of our cupboards*



We had a video sneak peek of Sandra Aldrich at the WMF luncheon and she promises to be an engaging and personal speaker whom

many women will relate to.

When you come to retreat, please greet your WMF officers (especially Eileen and Heather, who are new this year).

Also, keep a keen eye out for our missionary ladies and greet them, love on them, and freely express your admiration for their willingness to be used by God in some challenging circumstances. See you there!

WMF Program Guides

The 2010-2011 WMF Program Guide from EFM North America, **The God of All Comfort**, has been distributed. If someone from your church did not pick up your church copy at Yearly Meeting, it was sent to your church.

Writers you may be familiar with include Vicki Hinshaw, Candi Foster, and Wayne Evans. There is also the moving story of Penny Flitcraft who attends Alliance Friends Church.

Even if you don't use the program guide for your WMF meetings, don't let it sit around unused. Pass it along to the women of your church, especially those who need an extra touch of God's comfort in their current life circumstances.

Gracias! Merci! Danke!

There are many ways to say thanks and our missionaries would like to thank YOU – the women of WMF. I'm not sure how they would thank you in their 'heart language,' but here is what they have sent to share their hearts with you in English.

From Priscilla Retnaraj, via email: My husband and I would like to thank the Women's Missionary Fellowship- EFC-ER for their prayers and encouragement. We are also thankful for the financial support for the ministry here. Please convey are greetings and gratitude to the women involved directly or indirectly to serve the Lord. Our blog site is www.friendscheneepal.com.

From Ana Marian, via a handwritten thank-you note: My precious sisters in WMF, I treasure you for your example of faithfulness and love for Jesus and His work. I thank you for your untiring labor to encourage all the women in our churches and to support the missionaries in faraway lands. May God bless you and encourage you just as you have blessed and encouraged me and my family.

Welcome New WMF Officers!

At the WMF Business Meeting and Luncheon, two new faces (beautiful, warm, smiling faces, I might add) were added as WMF Officers. Heather Graham will serve as our First Vice President and Eileen Lucier will serve as our Second Vice President. Joyce Sams was re-elected as WMF President.

The WMF Constitution was changed to eliminate the Nominating Committee and move those duties to the First Vice President.

We would like to thank Joni Pierce who served faithfully as First Vice President and Sheila Steer, who served as Second Vice President and obtained outstanding speakers for our retreats. Thank you to both of these ladies for "spoiling us rotten" with many years of serving the women of WMF.

How about you? Would you like to get involved? We are looking for a member at large to serve and it would be so nice to welcome Heather into her new task with a list of ladies who would love to serve rather than drafting someone who is too kind to turn us down.

Significant Travel

Join Doris Ferguson, President of WMF-EFM-NA as she travels "Halfway Around the World in 40 Days" and sends us greetings and a challenge.

"Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:6
 "The Lord directs our steps so why try to understand everything along the way?" Prov. 20:24 NLT

As I write this Willard and I are enjoying a new experience—travel by train. We boarded the Amtrak at 4:00 am August 9th to travel to a family reunion north of Seattle, and then on to visit our children in Fresno, CA; Brooklyn, NY; Lakeland, FL; and Corpus Christi, TX. Then back to Kansas on August 20th at 4:00 am, all by USA Rail Pass. I write this from Fresno, just two weeks into our adventure still a "happy camper".

This week's devotion in Fruit of the Vine talks about "Significant Travel". That is what we prayed for each step of this trip to be. God has already given us opportunities to witness to, encourage and pray with and for fellow travelers and friends along the way. Yesterday a friend who has lost the use of her arm needed a shampoo. I was so blessed to be here to do that one little thing for her.

All of us as Friends Women are on a journey reaching around the world. What significant little thing can you do today that will change someone's life? A letter, a smile, an encouraging email, a shampoo? Ask God to direct your steps today. Bon Voyage!

Amahoro,
 Willard and Doris Ferguson

WMF Reading List Winner Announced

The winning church of the 2009-2010 Missionary Reading List competition is – drum roll please – Willoughby Hills Friends Church. They read the most books and the most books per WMF member. Congratulations!

We want to encourage you to read books from the list even if your church does not have an active WMF group. Fran French, who faithfully puts the reading list together and administers the program, will be announcing a new program to encourage healthy competition among individual readers, so keep your ear to the ground and your eyes in the books.

We also have plans to do a book discussion of one of the books during retreat next year. Interested? We thought so. You can order books through the Lion and Lamb bookstore. If you purchase all the books on the list, you can get them all for \$104. Check it out.

Lion and Lamb Christian Resources
 • 145 S Broadway Ave • Salem, OH 44460
 330-332-8501



Above (left to right) The 2011 WMF Leaders: Joyce Sams, Martha Edwards, Eileen Lucier, Carol Williams, Irene Jones, Fran French, Heather Graham

2010-2011 Reading List



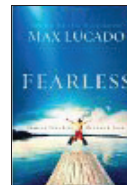
Kaleidoscope; Seeing God's Wit and Wisdom In a Whole New Light
 by Patsy Clairmont

Surprise Package; When God Turns Your Life Upside Down
 by Steve & Liz Crowter



The Magnificent Obsession; Embracing the God-Filled Life
 by Anne Graham Lotz

Fearless; Imagine Your Life Without Fear
 by Max Lucado



Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape From Revolution to Redemption
 by David Nassar

Love Has a Face: Mascara, a Machete and One Woman's Miraculous Journey With Jesus in Sudan
 by Michele Perry



Chinese Whispers: The Gladys Aylward Story
 by Carol Purves

The Unexpected Adventure: Taking Everyday Risks to Talk With People About Jesus

by Lee Strobel & Mark Mittenberg



Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage
 by Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett

Welcome Home: Our Family's Journey To Extreme Joy
 by Kimberly Woodhouse



These books are available at Lion and Lamb Bookstore. If the entire list is purchased, the discount price is \$104.00 WOW! This is more than a 35% discount.