

# December 2010 *A Circle of Friends*

Building Relationships Locally  
Making an Impact Globally

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

**Ladies - plan to attend WMF Retreat  
Sept. 16-18, 2011**



**Guest Speaker:**  
**Dr. RoseAnne Coleman**  
Check out her website:  
[www.roseannecoleman.com](http://www.roseannecoleman.com)

**While you begin to save for your own retreat expenses, begin to think about ways your WMF can assist the women in your church financially to attend this year.**

## December 2010

Are you a reader? Have you ever read a book and then went to the movie based on that book and been disappointed? Last Christmas I had just the opposite experience. I read Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, and I was amazed at how different the atmosphere of the book is from the atmosphere of the many film and theater versions I have seen. The story was one of several Dickens Christmas stories compiled in a book, many of them with a similar theme, so even though I knew the story, it was a new experience to actually read the author's words and understand the story as he intended it to be told.

Our family Christmas tradition is to decorate the tree the day after Thanksgiving and then read the Christmas story from Luke and Matthew, Chapter Two. I read the story and friends, family - whoever is there that day (we are foster parents so the participants differ each year) place the nativity figures in the crèche.

Perhaps you, or those you know, have never read the Christmas Story. The never-ending Christmas television specials won't give us that same experience. I would encourage you to read the actual story from scripture this year and take some time to ponder it. Act it out with a nativity set. Read it in a different version. Try to understand what it is that we are celebrating. Then celebrate the birth of Jesus and all that Immanuel means.

If you are a reader, take a look, another look at the book list and add one of those to your Christmas list, or take it with you after Christmas when you go to spend that gift card. The long cold winter ahead is a great time to read. Read one of the books from the current WMF reading list and then let me know what you think about it in 100-200 words. The first person to write a personal review of one of the books and email it to me will receive a small cash gift (\$10) for their efforts.

Thank you, ladies of WMF, for who you are and for your support of EFC-ER missionaries and their ministries.  
Irene Jones, Editor  
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## Why Retreat?

Well, if you've been to the EFC-ER WMF retreat in Seven Springs, you know why. It is fun, we are inspired to grow in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is fun, we get to stay up late and chat with our girlfriends and sisters in Christ, it is fun, there are no dishes to wash or beds to make, and - oh yeah! - did I mention that it is fun? If you have never been to our retreat, you may wonder what you are missing by staying home.

### Retreat 2010

Sandra Aldrich shared from her many experiences touching some of the triggers in our Millennium Women's lives such as stress, grief and forgiveness.

At the retreat, our new second vice president, Eileen Lucier, asked the missionaries who were there what they missed most about the mission field. Ana Marian said that she missed the gypsy orphan girls that she works with in Romania when she is here in the states - but she misses the WMF Retreat when she is home in Romania!

### Retreat 2011

Now that you are in a retreat state of mind, you will want to save the date (and some of that cash you get for Christmas) for the 2011 WMF Retreat. Next year's retreat is will be September 16-18, 2011 at Seven Springs Resort, PA. Our speaker will be Dr. RoseAnne Coleman ([www.roseannecoleman.com](http://www.roseannecoleman.com)).

### Retreat 2010 - Dharwad, India

Do you ever wonder what other women's retreats are like? Well, I received an email from Shobha Massey with a description of their recent women's retreat in India.

Here is an excerpt from her report:

*Nearly 40 ladies and some of our staff arrived from all our ministry areas - housewives, widows, single mothers, prostitutes and HIV+ among them. The first session was "You are Special," designed to help them to accept themselves as God's wonderful creations. One woman testified that she had never accepted herself and suffered from very low self esteem. God spoke to her heart to love the way He had made her.*

*This session was followed by beauty care. Most of them had never been to a Beauty Parlor. There was so much giggling and some were very shy but all the delegates got a facial done. Each one was presented a towel for their personal use. At the evening session I spoke on "You are More Valuable than Pearl." Each woman received a necklace and a pair of bangles made of pearls. The fact that God cares about them so much that Jesus gave His very blood as a ransom to redeem them was not known to most of the women. There was an intense stirring in many hearts. Several made a commitment.*



2010 Women's Retreat in India included meals, worship, teaching and even facials and a fashion show!



## A few faces from the 2010 WMF Women's Retreat:

### Christmas Insights from Doris

*(Doris Ferguson serves as president of all the Yearly Meeting WMF groups of EFM North America. You'll remember her from our WMF retreat if you were there.)*

Nearly 40 years ago we sent a Christmas card with a picture of our two blond headed youngsters and two little African children kneeling at a table with the nativity scene. Printed below the picture was this Christmas song which is still one of my favorites.

"Some children see him lily white,  
the baby Jesus born that night.  
Some children see Him lily white,  
with tresses soft and fair.  
Some children see him bronzed and brown,  
the Lord of heaven to earth come down;  
Some children see him bronzed and brown,  
with dark and heavy hair.  
The children in each different place  
will see the baby Jesus' face like theirs,  
but bright with heavenly grace  
and filled with holy light.  
O lay side each earthly thing,  
and with thy heart as offering,  
Come worship now the infant King,  
'Tis love that's born tonight"

Pray for several of us who will represent the EFC-NA Friends Women organization at SUMMIT-2010.

Mark it down: Dec 28-Jan 1. Thank you.  
Amahoro, Doris Ferguson



### Love Challenge Offerings

Please send your Love Challenge offering to the Yearly Meeting Office. Our goal for this year will be to raise \$4,000 which will go to the following missions ministries:

#### 2011 Love Challenge Offerings Recipients:

- Haiti Nutrition Center •
- EFC-ER Mission House •
- Arun & Shoba Massey, India •
- Voicu & Ana Marian, Romania •
- Dr. Samson & Priscilla Retnaraj, Nepal •

In addition, we will send money raised at retreat to the Zinn's in China, and to Ana Marian towards buying the things a woman needs for their new home in Romania.  
**Thank you yet again for your generous hearts.**

## EFC-ER WMF ~ MISSIONARY READING LIST ~ 2010-2011



#### 1. Kaleidoscope: Seeing God's Wit and Wisdom in a Whole New Light

by Patsy Clairmont

Thomas Nelson, 2009 Cost: 16.99  
Patsy speaks to women in all walks of life as she studies Proverbs. She says, "Take a deep breath and pop a dark chocolate bonbon; we girls are in this together." Read what practical wisdom is offered right where we live.



#### 2. Surprise Package: When God Turns Your Life Upside Down

by Steve & Liz Crowter

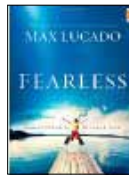
Day One Publications, 2008 Cost: 11.99  
Surprise Package is the story of how a Christian couple dealt with the initial heartache and disappointment of having a child with Down's Syndrome. It deals with their struggle to accept this gift from God, and chronicles the highs and lows of coping with a special needs child.



#### 3. The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life

by Anne Graham Lotz

Zondervan, 2009 Cost: 19.99  
Challenged by Abraham's example, Anne began a lifetime pursuit of knowing God. Through personal anecdotes, unforgettable stories, and inspiring insights, she shares answers as she has embraced the God-filled life.



#### 4. Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear

by Max Lucado

Thomas Nelson, 2009 Cost: 24.99  
According to Jesus, this is possible. The one statement he made more than any other was this: "Don't be afraid." In this book Max Lucado invites you to consider Jesus' invitation to courage.



#### 5. Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape From Revolution to Redemption

by David Nassar

Baker Books, 2009 Cost: 17.99  
David Nassar, an Iranian exile and former Muslim will take you on a riveting journey from religion and fear to the life changing discovery of God's grace.



#### 6. Love Has a Face: Mascara and Machete and One Woman's Miraculous Journey With Jesus in Sudan

by Michele Perry

Chosen, 2009 Cost: 13.99  
Born without her left hip and leg, Michele Perry is no stranger to seeming impossibilities. Captivatingly honest, Michele takes you to war torn Sudan as she opens a home for orphaned children in guerilla warfare territory.



#### 7. Chinese Whispers: The Gladys Aylward Story

by Carol Purves

Done One Publications, 2004 Cost: 10.00  
Let's make sure that a new generation will hear the astounding story of one of the missionary pioneers of the twentieth century. Wounded by a Japanese bullet, Gladys leads nearly one hundred refugee children to safety over the mountains of China.



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

by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg

Zondervan, 2008 Cost: 14.99  
Here's a guide to everyday steps you can take to influence others for Christ. Whether you are a new believer or seasoned Christian, you'll find new vision and sage advice for living a high-impact Christian life.



#### 9. Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage

by Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett

IVP Books, 2009 Cost: 16.00  
All over the world, women and girls face starvation, displacement, illiteracy, sexually exploitation and abuse. Moved by their plight, the authors take a trip across continents to partner with ministries working to help females and to interview girls in some of the most difficult places in the world.



#### 10. Welcome Home: Our Family's Journey To Extreme Joy

by Kimberly Woodhouse

Tyndale House, 2009 Cost: 13.99  
Kayla Woodhouse is not your typical 12-year old. Due to a rare medical disorder, she feels no pain, doesn't sweat, and needs protective cooling gear just to go outside. Read about her restrictive lifestyle; countless operations, hospital bills, and how even during tough circumstances you can shift your life from heartbreak to extreme joy.

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 40% discount\* If the books are purchased individually, there is a 20% discount off the retail price, for the church library.