



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 2011

Whew! We love winter at our house, but this was one long cold winter. Where I live we had snow cover for almost four months. Spring is coming. I like to joke that it gets here in Chardon, Ohio by June 1 every year. Where you live spring is probably already in full bloom and I hope you are enjoying it.

Spring is all about new things. This newsletter has some new things, too, so the timing is perfect. We have a new WMF chapter, some new ways of doing missions groups in our churches, a new reading program, and – well – news!

Our God is a God of new things. Pray that the hard work that our missionaries do to disciple people into a relationship with Jesus will bear fruit.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?"

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

Thank you, ladies, for all you do to promote missions in your church.
 Irene Jones, Editor

Retreat 2011 -

Who will you invite?

This year's retreat will be
September 16-18, 2011
 at Seven Springs Resort, PA.

Our speaker will be
 Dr. RoseAnne Coleman
 (www.roseannecoleman.com).

If you have internet access, spend some time out at her website to get a feel for her speaking style. There are YouTube videos, blogs and background information on the site. Then think about the women that you think will be impacted by her message and start inviting these ladies now

Welcome to a new WMF chapter at Winona Friends Church

Our WMF President, Joyce Sams, met with a group of women of all ages at Winona Friends church in March. They plan to begin a new chapter of WMF at their church. So, welcome to the WMF women of Winona Friends!

Thinking of starting a WMF chapter at your church?

Contact the Yearly Meeting office if you would like an officer from the regional WMF to come and meet with you. We can help you whether you are starting, re-starting or re-energizing a WMF chapter in your church. Or maybe you would just like to have one of us in regional leadership come and speak to your group sometime to let you know what's new and what's up in the WMF of the Eastern Region.

Another look at Missions in your church

What if the missions group at our church looks different than the traditional WMF chapter? Teresa Deal, current WMF president of First Friends Church in Hampton, VA contacted Joyce Sams regarding adding men and teens (yikes!) to their missions group. I have permission from both Teresa and Joyce to share from their discussion.

Teresa: *We are considering opening up membership to men and teens (female and male) to increase membership and continue helping our missionaries all over the world. If we do open up membership to men and teens, how would that affect our standing with the WMF of EFC-ER? Has this been done before? Would we be the first? Do you have any other suggestions? My thinking is that a 'heart for missions' is a 'heart for missions' whether it resides in the body of a man or a woman.*

Joyce: *In facing some of the same challenges you describe, Teresa, I came to the same conclusion... "A heart for missions is a heart for missions." Missions is not a gender specific or age specific interest. So at Alliance Friends we changed our name from WMF to Alliance Missions Fellowship and invited the men to be full-fledged members not just guests once in a while. In fact, a man serves as our treasurer and men have won our "Best of Friends" cook-off to raise money for missions both years that we've done it!*

The goal as I see it is: to keep Friends Missions before the eyes and in the hearts of the Friends people. So, with that in mind I go "outside the box" pretty regularly if it will accomplish this goal. One of those ways has been to open up the membership. Your relationship with the regional WMF doesn't have to change one iota....ours hasn't. In fact, we hope it DOESN'T change your connection with us! You also don't necessarily need to change the name of your group. I just did so to make the men not feel like "add-ons to a women's group."

One cautionary note:

If there is a functioning Men in Missions group in your church you should probably have a heart-to-heart talk on if and how the two groups could join forces from time to time without losing the unique distinctives that each gender might be enjoying in their individual groups.

Our goal is NOT to ambush any Men in Missions groups but rather to extend an invitation to join in if there is an absence of such a group in your church....as there was in ours.

News from Kathi Perry: New Address

Kathi Perry, missionary to Ireland has a new address. Please make a note of it.:

**17 Charlesland Park
Greystones, County Wicklow
Ireland**

The email address she prefers: kathiperry@mac.com

Note that this address is very similar to the last address so please look carefully and make sure they have the right one. Kathi writes that some people "are still using the address in Dublin -where I haven't lived for 4 years - and Ireland's new policy is that mail will not be forwarded for free."

Love Challenge Offerings

I need to apologize for a misunderstanding from the last newsletter. I wrote that, "Our goal for this year will be to raise \$4,000 which will go to the following missions ministries:"

It should have read:

"Our goal for this year will be to raise \$4,000 for each of the following missions ministries:"

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

I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding. Please send your Love Challenge offering to the Yearly Meeting Office. Thank you for all of the work you do to promote missions in your church and for every penny you raise to help support our missionaries.

Something new in the Reading Program:

Overwhelmed by the list of 10 books on the WMF reading list? This coming year we will be trying to encourage everyone to read at least one book from the WMF reading list. When the new list comes out in July at Yearly Meeting, we will be focusing on one book and encouraging you to read and discuss it in your local WMF chapter as well as at retreat. This is a new thing and new things sometimes need a few kinks worked through, so be patient with us.

There is no plan to do away with our current reading plan, so you ladies who read all 10 books, please continue to do so. We are hoping that by focusing on just one book in the list we can encourage discussion and understanding of world missions and the global perspective of our Lord and Savior.

Thanks to Fran French who has championed the reading program for many years and continues to generate a well thought-out list of books for us. Hurry and finish this year's list so you are ready for Fran's new list this summer.



Thoughts from Doris

(Doris Ferguson serves as president of all the Yearly Meeting WMF groups of EFC North America.)

Spring greetings to you all!

It is amazing sometimes how plans change. On Sunday the 23rd of January, Willard and I were making plans to visit our children in New York and Florida.

Then Monday morning we received an unexpected email. The container of hospital supplies collected and packed by the "Friends of Kibimba Hospital" for the Kibimba Hospital in Burundi was going to arrive much sooner than we had thought. I was quickly on the phone to Debbie Brown (daughter of missionaries David and Mae Kellum, who were already in Burundi), to ask if she was interested in going, and maybe we could go together. We felt that there needed to be some medical people available when the container was unpacked, to answer questions about the use of some of the supplies. So, amazingly, we were on the plane on Saturday the 29th, for two weeks of hard work, fun, blessings and watching God work!

Debbie and I made a good team, because she is a surgical nurse and understood much of the equipment. I could then explain it in Kirundi or French. David K. was there to re-assemble things that had been taken apart for the trip. There were at least 1200 baby layettes in the container and we got to see newborn triplets wearing the little hats lovingly knitted by Friends Women. There was great excitement over the portable x-ray! Imagine a hospital without x-ray possibilities!

All this to remind you that God's ways are not always our ways, but He does have a plan. We just have to be ready to change our plans, praise the Lord, and enjoy the trip!

This song by Sara Groves expresses it well:

***In the morning when I rise
Help me to prioritize
All the thoughts that fill my day
Before my schedule
Tells me that my day is full
Before I'm off and on my way
I want to praise you
I need to praise you
Let the first song that I sing
Be praises to my God and King***

If we enter our day this way we'll be ready for whatever God has for us.

Amahoro, Doris Ferguson

DID YOU KNOW?

Friends Missions has some wonderful Mission Awareness materials available for free through Barclay Press? (www.barclaypress.com)

1 - EFM's 2011 **"Easter Offering featuring Bangladesh"** Materials have been mailed to every church.

2 - EFC-NA Christian Ed Commission has developed a special packet of information featuring Friends missions in Africa. (www.barclaypress.com/infodesk.php/christian-education-resources)