

## *From the personal desk of ... Ruth Marlene Friesen*

Presently at Box 208, Hague, SK. S0K 1X0

By faith, trusting soon to be at;

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May 9, 2007

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

When I was a child, soaking up everything I heard in church, I learned about "faith missionaries" and much as I wanted to be a missionary even then, I was afraid of that deputation phase they had to go through first, where they were to raise their prayer base and financial support.

Someone has said that God doesn't give us the grace to go through a certain trial (she was referring to martyrdom at the time), until we reach it. God doesn't waste His grace, He grants it when and as much as we need right now, but always unreservedly.

So I became a busy volunteer. First as a Sunday School teacher in Hague in my teens, then in London, Ontario, I took on a lot of titles; Sunday School teacher, and secretary, Pioneer Girls Guide and Chief Guide, Children's Church coordinator, VBS curriculum writer and Director, and church secretary too.

Twelve years later I came back to Hague, and soon plunged into teaching Sunday School, then directing VBS several summers in the 80s, and also the AWANA Secretary and Girls' Director. Caring for Mom meant I had to pull back totally for a while, but once she was safely in Heaven, I became a teacher and even Sunday School Superintendent for four years. All this time I was thinking of myself as a missionary without having to do deputation work. :)

When I started my online business here from Dad's living room, in 1999, while keeping him company, I also was invited to help Western Tract Mission start a web site. As has been my tendency, the more I learned about the mission, the more involved I got. The blessed part was that I could do most of this work right from home, and I still didn't need to do any raising of support!

But now Dad, my support base is gone, and lo, the Lord is giving me the grace to become an official missionary with Western Tract Mission, Inc., including the deputation part. How patiently the Lord prepares us, eh?

The arrangement I have with the Director, Arnold Stobbe, and my good friends at W.T.M. is that I may continue my business efforts (now I'm looking for clients that will pay for my self-taught services), and I will contract to continue to give my Monday evenings to the mission's web-presence, and to the desktop editing of *Reflections* (quarterly) and the *Praise & Prayer Report* (monthly), and I will take on some public relations work on behalf of the mission on weekends - when I can get speaking engagements in various churches and Bible schools. Once I'm moved into the city, (where the Lord is holding a wee little mint green house for me, praise His name!) I will also try to be in the W.T.M. office a little more often to help out the staff with computer related matters.

I have been a Board member, and a secretary on the Board for a number of years, and now I will not be allowed to vote on motions due to the financial benefits I will get, but I am to continue to take the Minutes and help get the behind the scenes work done that always arises from Board meetings.

One project I know is coming, is to update the Policy Handbook, another is to work with the new Blitz planned for this fall to see that every home, (88,000) in Saskatoon receives a 16-page booklet with the gospel presented in various ways for all ages - there is bound to be more and more work!

You know that the willing ox always gets the larger load, right? :)

My greatest issue will be in disciplining myself to get as much work done as possible while still trying to earn a living with my business ventures. The pressure is now on to fully support myself, and my heart is in mission work before it is in "just a job." That is why I have accepted the invitation from Western Tract Mission's Director, to become a missionary with a support base to take care of my practical needs.

I'm hoping that eventually my contract work as a web designer, etc., will pay enough so that I can bow away from the title 'missionary' and just continue as a volunteer with the mission, doing what needs to be done. This certainly seems like an answer to prayer for my transition period!

So here I am, assuming that YOU care about getting the gospel out to people locally and as far and wide as our web site ([westerntractmission.org](http://westerntractmission.org)) will go - which is all over the world. If that is important to you, then you may consider becoming one of my regular supporters. Either by praying faithfully for me, or by sending any amount on a regular - or irregular - basis. Or best of all, doing both!

(If this turns you off, by all means, tear up this letter and throw it away. God didn't want Gideon to have unwilling soldiers on his A-team; nor do I).

I'm now writing only to those who love the Lord, and love to promote and assist His work, and His workers. Please do not feel pressured! Pray about this matter, and when the Lord gives you ideas of what you could cheerfully, gladly pledge to do to be on my A-team, then please write me and let me know. If you don't feel you can do this, I will continue to love you as a friend or relative! Do not fear.

I'm expecting to spend all my inheritance on that little green house, and then will need to continue to make payments, so your financial support may be my very bread and butter (or fruit and veggies) to keep me alive. :) Considering the hours I expect to put into the mission, we have agreed that my support level should reach \$1000/month from all my supporters combined. W.T.M. will issue receipts for income tax purposes, for any gifts marked for me that come into the office. You can send cheques or monies to:  
Western Tract Mission, Inc.  
401 33<sup>rd</sup> Street West  
Saskatoon, SK. S7L 0V5 Canada

On the other hand, I will pledge to do my best to keep you informed as to what is happening, and how God is working in and through me, and through the mission.

Western Tract Mission just celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the early years it was said that it was the best investment in souls saved, for \$5.00 would buy 1000 tracts, and on average, one person was saved for every 1000 tracts distributed! The price of tracts has gone up a bit, but our Saskatoon Blitz is going to cost us .22-.30/home, (depending on the printer), and they say an average of 3 people live in a home or apartment. If we saturate this campaign with prayer a mighty harvest can be taken for Christ! **Amen!**  
**"Let's do this!"**

Many Blessings & Thanks,

Ruth Marlene Friesen - see [WesternTractMission.org](http://WesternTractMission.org) for more about our mission.