

# Merry Christmas from Ruth Friesen

December 2009

From Eve's daughters onward, especially among Jewish young girls and women, there must have been some in each generation who waited for that coming Saviour to be born of a woman, and who hoped it might be **she** that would give Him birth. Young Mary of Nazareth was chosen, and said a believing "Yes" to God.

Now we are awaiting Christ's coming again, but before He comes to reign over the whole earth in Peace and Prosperity Jesus is going to come in the air, just to call His Bride away to the wedding feast in His Father's home. Anyone who plans to go along has to be watching and waiting with their lamps all trimmed and bright like those in Matthew 25.

We can celebrate and remember by faith Jesus' first coming, but we can do better and make sure we are truly ready for that sudden shout of the Bridegroom! This comes to mind often, and I believe I am ready, but - I feel like I ought to be a sheep dog (or older sister) sent to round up my family and friends and make sure none of them will miss out on Jesus' Rapture Coming.

As part of the Bride (blood-washed saints) we will come with King Jesus when He comes to reign on earth, so we really don't have to waiting for that return. Though - the ones left behind will sure long for it with all their might!

Where am I going with this Christmas letter? Well, often we don't take time to share where we are at spiritually. This is where I'm at. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of these truths, like that sheep dog or older sister, trying to get everyone lined up in the right place, and in good time. If you know you are not ready - let's talk and deal with it!

## Reviewing 2009 in my Life

I see it as a year of more busyness than I've had in decades, but I'm enjoying it, and my daily devotional time is full of gratitude to the Lord, for His many provisions and blessings. I'm glad to be me, doing what I'm doing! All my past experiences have been preparation for this part of my life.

I had double the garden space in my backyard this year, and watering it every evening gave me exercise in the summer time. Once the harvest was in, I set to turning it all over by spade and that gave me more exercise. It was a joy to be able to share from my bounty at the WTM office.

Unless I have to drive somewhere after 5, I walk to and from my office at WTM and get more exercise that way. Naturally, now as winter creeps up on us, I'm dressing in warmer layers all the time.

I work at my web businesses in the mornings, and in the afternoons give some time to WTM tracts, writing and updating them, and sometimes other projects as they come up. There's the *Reflections* to layout and edit four times a year, and this year we began another arm of our ministry in creating **Scripture Signs**. It is working with scenic photos and putting Bible verses on them, so they are ready to print - and if desired framed. By promoting these Signs, we are able to get God's Word into homes and offices and wherever people will display them.

Anna Kroeker, a volunteer and I have been updating the website this year, and though not finished we have covered a lot of ground. Did you know that <http://WesternTractMission.org> has over 843 pages?

In the last few weeks a young man, Jondalar, who knows MORE about computers than I do, has volunteered to help us out, and so my office is quite busy on Wednesdays as we solve what seemed to be hopeless computer issues, and get them networked, and all kinds of neat stuff. He almost seems too good to be true - sent of the Lord to fill in the gaps of my self-taught skills. (He is benefiting the other missionaries and the other office at the front of our building too).



I rejoice that my missionary support has stabilized, tho' not 100%, and when special needs arise, so do extra gifts. God is so good to me! I hope You see His favours in Your life too.

Some friends marvel at how come I keep talking about being so-o busy. Well, I hesitate to talk about it in detail lest it be seen as bragging, but the simple answer is that I'm keeping up past commitments to do websites for some missions/ministries, and I've added being a WTM missionary, plus taking on some paying clients to the mix. And of course my run-away imagination keeps coming up with more projects that I think would be good to do. Perhaps it wouldn't hurt to list the websites I work on so you see the big picture. Besides, they would be happy to have you visit there!

WesternTractMission.org/ - covered by missionary support

MannaPublications.org & Manna-Publications.org.uk - pays something every few months

EYMI.net - pays too when they can ...

PMC-ministries.com - for Pastor Gervase Masanja in Tanzania and his 13 churches

Revival-Time-Ministry.info - for Pastor Isaac Oyako - and his ministry in Uganda.

Mountain-Man-Log-Creations.com - for Rick Harbidge, one of our WTM missionaries.

Generosity-Alive.org - at suggestion of an OM rep, to raise support for small missions/ventures.

Paying Clients:

MHSS.sk.ca - Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Barbara-Good-Books.com - a Christian writer of children's books in Australia (maintenance mode)

ErindaleAlliance.ca - for my new church here in Saskatoon.

Plus I host and advise six others, and then have seven sites of my own! (Some on hold). :)

If Christmas goes much last the last couple of years, it will find me cooking a turkey and taking it to share with Tom. I don't bother much with decorations because there is no time or room to do that, but I have been pushing in full gear since the last week or so of November to get some batches of gifts and these letters and story cards made. I received a colour laser printer when the mission got an industrial strength laser printer, and if you know how much I enjoy making booklets, you know that I'm inspired for a number of projects that only my imagination could start me on. Just how many I'll complete ... well, time will tell shortly. :) - Anyway, Christmas is often full of surprises!

As for my little house? Well, the RRAP program projects were all done in January and then I began to tackle my own home-made style of renovations with stuff as I had at hand or could get second-hand. Mostly I've worked in the basement to mouse-proof it and insulate it against the cold, and lay the ceramic tiles I got from Dad, and arrange my shelf-units around the perimeter of the room so I can get at my archives and remnants, and so forth with ease. Replacing that old octopus of a furnace with the new one gave me more room, but I've had to do the hard labour, and fix up one corner or patch after another and slowly work around the whole basement. Only on Saturdays of course.

I put them on the back burner when I saw that I needed time to get my outdoor projects finished before end of summer, and of course, now the gift-making keeps me busy, but right after Christmas I want to get back at it and finish tiling under the stairs, around the drain in the floor, and at the foot of the stairs. I'll pull down the plaster in the stairwell and when I can get some help, put up some white paneling that was given to me. I'll paint the stairs last, and then tackle my main floor rooms.

The bathroom needs a good paint job and some decorating trim. A lot of the clutter in the living/office area can go down to the basement then. I have some ideas for the bedroom and - lastly, when I can afford it, I want a new kitchen! Maybe even a decent, heated sunroom at the back instead of the little drafty porch. Maybe it sounds odd, but I miss my aloe vera jungle.

Oh, but before I do that, I think I'll need a garage for the car. My car doors keep freezing up in the winter and I have to kick and kick until I can get in. Or - perhaps I should really first have new windows and vinyl siding around the little cottage?

Oh well, when the Bridegroom comes none of it will matter. I'll gladly leave it all behind!

So! What's happening in your home and life?