

Media Kit - Author Bio

Ruth Marlene Friesen, a Canadian writer, returned in 1983 to Hague, a prairie town in Saskatchewan, to be a full-time caregiver to her aged parents.

Her mother's frail health made Friesen more or less house-bound until her mother's death in November 1997, but this gave her time to write. Her creative imagination and broad interests leads me to try many things, including crafts, making gift books by hand, family history books, tile-laying... you name it, she was not afraid of work. (Sometimes Friesen compares herself to the Rebecca in the Bible, who not only gave a cup of water when asked, but watered all the camels too!)

Friesen loves to read and write most of all, and finds working on the internet and by email custom-made for her. It's a place where she can finally be prolific and share out of her very brim-full heart and lively and informed mind. She first had the idea for her novel when she was 12, but decided to grow up first so she would do a good job on it.

When she got a job after high school as a telephone operator at Sasktel, the shift work allowed her to hide the fact that she was secretly writing the first six drafts of the big tome.

It took four days to drive to London, Ontario, all by herself in 1971 in pursuit of her publishing dream. There she got busy in church and children's ministries. Besides being the part-time church secretary, Friesen worked as a receptionist at Philips Electronics. She was the first woman on her church's Executive Board at West London Alliance. All the while writing, and re-writing her novel secretly, improving as she found helpful books on writing in the public library.

Friesen has taught Sunday School since she was 17. She has been the Secretary and a key organizer in various Sunday Schools over the years, and for four years in the 1990s was the Superintendent of Sunday School at Neuanlage Grace Mennonite in Saskatchewan, (near Hague), where she continued to live with her after her mother died in 1997, and until her father died in February 2007 at 91 + 4 days.

While she lived in London, Friesen was Coordinator and Chief Guide of Pioneer Girls Clubs, and wrote and directed an original summer program for church kids.

After her return to Hague, she was AWANA Clubs Director and Secretary at the Neuanlage church for eight years, and for four summers, both directed the Vacation Bible School, and designed and prepared all the crafts. Much of that time she was also working at family histories and genealogy books.

In 2007, after she had sold her parents' house and cleaned up the estate, she moved to a tiny house in Saskatoon, and began to work more or less full-time at Western Tract Mission. She had already been building a website for them from Hague, but now found herself as editor of the bi-monthly newsletter, *Reflections*, and then designing and doing layout work for the tracts the mission published, and also Secretary on the WTM Board.

Friesen tried to keep up with her many internet ventures, but often had to put them on the back burner, including some half-dozen websites she had started for missions and ministries in other countries. She managed to keep up the weekly publishing of her *RoseBouquet* (for and about her friends).

In 2015 she took on one final big project, to write a history of *Western Tract Mission Inc.* (which was in a state of change with new leaders and a name change for the mission). She moved to her house with

this big project and focused on it full-time for two years, completing it for the 76th Anniversary Celebration in 2017. After that she took time to organize all the old photos into a set of white Jumbo albums.

During that time she was listening to webinars online about marketing methods, and getting a better sense of how to run her own online business ventures in a more profitable, and effective way. For a while she tried out this and that, but finally realized that her stable of websites (some built for friends and then returned to her), had great potential. But Google wanted them all to be in the new Responsive format so they would adapt for various electronic devices, starting with a cell phone. Friesen began to rebuild her websites, and cleansed them of miscellaneous affiliate ads, and monetized with just a few products that she really believed in. Then, her plan is to write a bunch of e-books and sell them as her main related products for each site.

Friesen has come a long way from her first idea for her novel when she was 12, but these are becoming her most profitable years. All her past experiences have matured and deepened her inner resources.

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