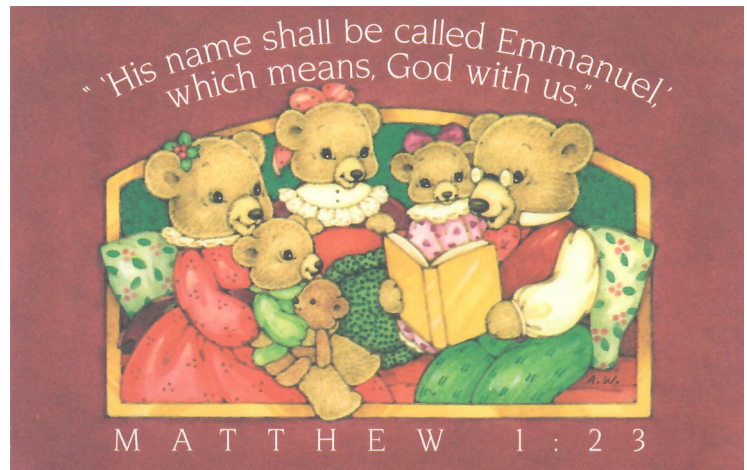


December 2021

Dear RoseBouquet Friend!

Christmas Greetings in the Name of the One called Emmanuel; the One born on that First Christmas Night/Day so that He could take all our sins and sorrows away and give us Forgiveness, Cleansing, Peace, Joy, Love, and a Full Adoption into God's **GREAT WONDERFUL ETERNAL FAMILY!** Truly, this is the **BEST NEWS EVER!**



If you have experienced a rough year, with troubles to trip you up, or sorrows and losses dumped on you like a garbage truck unloading on you, my heart goes out to you in sympathetic pain. But I've become more convinced than ever that God loves us and the more we grasp that, and love Him back, the more we we begin to fill up and enjoy His many evidences of His love for us.

My prayer life has been very precious to me this year, as I've prayed back God's Precious Promises to Him, and surrendered myself fully to His will each morning. I'm tucking some of those promises into this letter to share with YOU! My faith has grown too, as I've prayed for my Missionary Contacts, Family, Relatives, and Friends. I've boldly claimed these Promises for you as well!

Yes, COVID-19 has put a damper on our lives, but I'm grateful to have survived without it, and being more at home than elsewhere, I've seen some inner . . .and Outer Adventures! More in a minute or so.

Oh July 11th, our Saskatchewan government loosened some of those COVID restrictions, so I made a day-trip to Moose Jaw to visit a friend in a care-home and bless her with a birthday picnic in a park. We also did a bit of shopping at Walmart.

At the end of July I ended up with a birthday party for myself on short notice. I got a special surprise in that I got a path on the west side of my house laid with good grey asphalt shingles! Looks great, and it will keep the weeds from coming up there for a number of years, as the first such effort did.

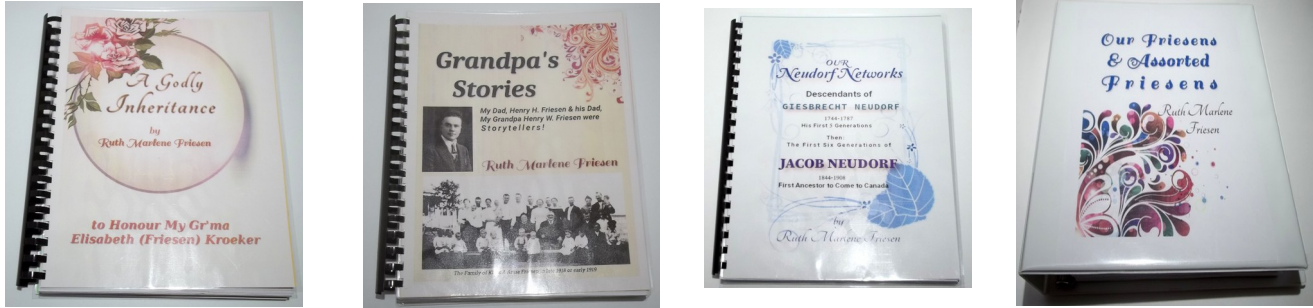
My End of Summer letter in August/September had photos of this, and the best pictures of my garden flowers and some vegetables. If you didn't get that and would like to see it, let me know. I can still . . . Or, wait; here's the link: [https://ruthes-secretroses.com/rb/letters/End-of-Summer-Letter\(2021\).pdf](https://ruthes-secretroses.com/rb/letters/End-of-Summer-Letter(2021).pdf)

You may recall that at the beginning of last year (2020) I felt that the Lord was leading me to learn Responsive Design, so that I could rebuild my websites according to Google's instance that they must first look good on a cell phone, but then adapt to whatever electronic device is used to visit the sites.

It took me the first nine months of the year to learn that. Then in September I started rebuilding my sites to be Responsive. I got one done in September, another one in October, and a third one in November. I felt like I was finally on a good roll. :)

I took a break in December for my Christmas letters, and since we were not allowed to meet with more than our own personal family for Christmas, I cooked my turkey, and prepared Christmas meals in special containers, which I then delivered to six or seven singles who had no family to go home to.

In January I rebuilt another website; in February I got to my genealogy website, godlyinheritance.com. It only took me two weeks to rebuild the pages, but then I looked at the eBooks I had for sale there (but no sales), and realize that they were very much out-of-date! I had prepared them back in 2005 and 2006, before I left Hague and moved to Saskatoon. That was 15-16 years ago! The kids of that time had grown up, married and had kids of their own! So I decided to update those books. Well... that took me FIVE MONTHS! But they are much better now, and have new modern cover designs, and I've also included a lot of colour photos.



My book to honour Gr'ma Elisabeth (Friesen) Kroeker back in the 1980s (before I had a computer) was done on my old Underwood typewriter and cranked off on Gestetners that had been given to me. Therefore, that book, "A Godly Inheritance" was not on my computer. So I spent the Sunday evenings of this last winter typing it up, updating and improving it and adding many more photos. So now I have four of those eBooks for sale on my site! With Stripe links instead of the PayPal buttons which had gone obsolete. This was perhaps my biggest accomplishment this year!

But wait, it wasn't the only one! Now in November I have been rebuilding my sixth website. I was planning to add some links to all these rebuilt sites in December, so that some money can start to trickle in until I get to the next stage of my overall business plan, but now it looks like I need to put that on hold until I get my Christmas mail out. I have three more sites to rebuild next year, and then I have a list of eBooks that I want to write and set up to sell from these sites. I know that 2022 will not be long enough to write them all. That's okay. I enjoy writing, so I can keep it up for several years yet!

The tricky part I'm learning right now is how to set up shopping carts and payment methods on the sites. I struggled and finally got it set up on the genealogy site, <https://agodlyinheritance.com> over September/October.

Another website I'm working on just one night a week is the <https://diecastmodels-inheritance.com> where I've been setting up over 200 of Tom's models. I've paused for a while now so I can research and install a shopping cart so that people can in fact buy them. But I expect that some buyers will want to buy more than one item at a time, so a shopping cart is certainly in order. I've been researching for the best system to use, and had hoped to get this set up by the end of December. Then I can go back to adding more models. Now, it will be January before that's all functional. Of course, I take time to take 3-6 photos of each model, and then research them online so that I can describe them and give interesting facts, etc., and also find out what others are charging for them, if they sell them too. This is time-consuming work, but I knew that and told Tom that this project would take a number of years. (He had asked me to sell them so that his daughters could get an inheritance from the profits).

Our Pastor, Jorin Green, has recently preached on Spiritual Gifts, and how we should be using them to serve the Lord. I got to thinking over the different eras of my life, and how God has given me gifts for the time and place I was in.

Like I was still in high school in the late 1960s when I began to teach in Sunday School in Hague. When I moved to London, Ontario, I was imagining I would get to do some slumming, that is reaching out to poor down and outers on the streets. That didn't happen, but I became very involved in the Church ministries, Sunday School, Pioneer Girls Chief Guide, Church Secretary, Head of Junior Church, Secretary of the Board (for which the church had to change the bylaws to allow a woman on the Board), and I also rented a nice house on the Thames River where I rented out rooms to Christian College/University girls – so I became sort of a Den Mother the last 3 years there.

I used to joke that I was like a cat with nine lives – living them all at once!

But then Mom started to call, saying she needed a maid. Her doctor didn't want her to do house-work any more. I prayed about it for two years, as I knew that my parents would not be able to pay me a salary. This would be like going out as a faith missionary. My memories of growing up in Hague were – “dullsville!” I thought I would shrivel up with nothing to do! But the Lord promised me JOY – so I decided to do it for His sake.

Well, I made the BIG MOVE on Labour Day weekend in 1983, and there was definitely an adjustment period, where I had to learn humility all over again, because cooking, housework and gardening seemed very tame compared to what I had been doing. That's all fodder for another book! But I soon found myself teaching Sunday School again, and my new church, Neuanlage Grace Mennonite, decided to start AWANA clubs when they found out that I had experience with clubs. I made the adjustment from Pioneer Girls to AWANA and worked in that for nine years.

I also found myself designing crafts, and running VBS each summer there, for 3-4 years.

Then in 1985 Gr'ma became sick and dementia crept in, so we brought her home from the hospital to stay with us. Mom was losing weight fast that summer, so she could not help much at all. It fell to me to become Gr'ma's round the clock attendant, and still make meals, do dishes, housecleaning and taking my three patients to their doctor appointments. I was now in the thick of a new era in my life – but now as a caregiver and manager of my parents' home. (You need to read *A Godly Inheritance* if you want the details).

Yes, I had time to write, print and bind that history book, after Gr'ma got into the Rosthern Nursing Home after nine months with us.

But you know what? During all those caregiver years from 1983-to-2007, with no regular income, living by faith, my head was full of ideas for book to write and how once those were published I would be blessed with a steady stream of good incomes, and I could give to missions left and right!

Obviously, that did not happen, but I lived in a busy world as a writer and generous Giver in my head.

When Dad died in Feb/2007, I spent some months cleaning up that house, having an auction sale, and cleaning up this little house in Saskatoon, (known to the neighbours as the “druggie house”) But as Gr'ma used to say, “You should not look a gift-horse in the mouth.” And God had provided!

He also provided for my part-time volunteer work as the web-designer for Western Tract Mission to be morphed into a full-time missionary role there. I learned many things about editing, layout for printing and publishing, and how a non-profit mission is run. I never fully understood how God was using all the experiences I'd had throughout the various eras of my life of ministries to prepare me for the future that I so often asked Him for. That missionary era started to wind down in 2015 when I was asked to write a history of the mission – which I could do from home – but that took another two years! Plus yet another year to sort and put all the photos I had rounded up into a set of large white albums, for the mission's archives.

In 2018 I thought that I was finally free to start my dream life as an online entrepreneur – but then Tom got sick, and died, and I was cleaning up his apartment and packing up all those 2000 (or so) diecast models for that commitment to sell them for his daughters. I had another back fracture... which meant 8 weeks of recovery before I could move forward again.

I began to research and learn a lot about online opportunities and many marketing techniques and my head was spinning at all there was to learn. I was reaching a place of overwhelm until I began to hear that you need to focus on the main thing. Don't try to multi-task so much. That's when I realized that I already had 10 websites; if I rebuilt them and monetized them more wisely, and... I'd discovered that ebooks are in fact, the best product to be selling for steady flows of income.

Ah-ha! I sat down at my year-end evaluation last year and made a list of all the ideas I have for ebooks. I came up with 50 ideas! That should keep me busy for the rest of my life!

So this year I've discovered some verses in the Psalms that talk about a **Spacious Time & Place**. I realize that God has brought me to that place in my life right now. It is HERE! All those delays were His means of teaching me skills and knowledge that I would need now in this new ministry stage or era! I thank the LORD every day now for bringing me to this **Spacious Time & Place** in my life, where I can serve Him and hopefully soon see Him bring to pass my new role as a Generous Giver such as He is! Especially to missions and ministries and people in real need!

Now, I need to introduce another topic that will show why it is not really possible for me to go back to those previous eras of ministry in Children's ministries, or caregiving for the sick and confused, or a tract publishing ministry ... (well, perhaps; I haven't thought that part through yet). But I can sit here quietly by myself, rebuilding websites, writing ebooks and setting them up for sale on the sites.

The giving part should be fairly similar right here from my desk, except that I think I'd like to visit some mission fields – if my health will hold out.

How My Bones Surprised Me!

At my first appointment with my new chiropractor this November, she sent me for a complete set of x-rays of my spine - the full length of it. I went to a lab and had those done the very next Monday. On Thursday afternoon, at my next appointment, the chiropractor showed me those x-rays on her computer monitor. I was astonished!

(She said she was afraid I would be upset). No, I felt God had done some miracles. My spine bends inward about at my waist, but also bends way to the left there. Up between my shoulder blades it walls outward, forming a pronounced hump. As she pointed out, it is hard now, so it cannot be straightened out again.

On top of that the cushioning between my vertebra is 90% gone! No wonder when I'm on my feet for more than an hour or so, my lower back begins to whine, "Go sit down. GO SIT!"

I learned early on from my Mom that when there is work to be done, one presses on until it is done, even if in pain. I have learned in the last few years, that when my back complains like that I stop and go inside (assuming I'm in the garden) and sit down in my recliner, put my feet up and usually have a nap. 30 minutes to an hour later I can get up and get back to work, so I've found it best to yield to my body when it whines for a break.

Oh, and the spine continues up through the neck and to the base of the skull. Guess what. Besides curving inward so deeply it looks like a horseshoe on it's side, and my bones are so porous throughout, but especially there in the neck that they hardly show up on the x-rays!

(Um, I think that means if I get a fracture there, it could be fatal.) 😊

Well, my first conclusion was - Gasp! with my bones being in such poor condition, it is a miracle that I'm not a puddle of tears and pain on the floor! In fact, I don't have much pain in my bones at all - except for this neck knot. I now feel that God allowed me to have that so that all this information would come to light. A testimony to His goodness!

Dr. Kayla said that she thinks my positive attitude and that I'm already taking all the right supplements is probably the reason I'm not in constant agony. I figure my loving LORD GOD should get most of the credit! In fact, I've been riding on a high since that Thursday afternoon, as I feel convinced that God has been very good to me.

Now she did say that she cannot replace or rebuild my bones, but she will try to solve that neck pain problem over six more adjustment appointments in the next three weeks. I have appointments on Tues. and Thurs. afternoons, until the 16th After the 6th one she will evaluate whether this has helped me at all. She explained that she does not feel right taking my money if the adjustments do not help me. I appreciate that! So I've agreed to these six treatments, and then we'll see.

She did a few minutes of work on that painful neck spot last Thursday and as I was driving away I realized that the pain was no longer like a sharp knife point there, but - it was as if the pain had got rounded edges at the corners. Now that did not last. By Friday night and Saturday when I was doing some deep cleaning in the pantry, I could feel the old sharp pain back again. But I realize that this may take most or all six treatments to clear up. Who knows – maybe the next time we're connecting I can report a neck miracle!

If you would like to see my adventures described on a weekly basis, rather than once a year, I suggest you subscribe to my RoseBouquet which I write every Tuesday morning. It describes what's going on at **My Place, What's New**, and a **Tip or Solution** to some problem, (sometimes practical, for garden or kitchen, and sometimes about coping online). Go here to subscribe for free: [https://ruthes-](https://ruthes-secretroses.com/rb/Subscribe-to-Ezine-Edition-of-RoseBouquet.shtml)



[secretroses.com/rb/Subscribe-to-Ezine-Edition-of-RoseBouquet.shtml](https://ruthes-secretroses.com/rb/Subscribe-to-Ezine-Edition-of-RoseBouquet.shtml) Or, simply bookmark the page where the same issue appears online at <https://ruthes-secretroses.com/rb/index.shtml> (Then you have to remember to check it each week of course). For instance, last week my car door was frozen, so I could not go to church, but on Tuesday I figured out how to solve that problem!

I've been meaning to get a new more current photo to put up on my websites; I don't have one yet, but I could show you a couple for fun.

You may recall that I've been saying I have lost 7 inches in height since I finished high school. It is now more like 8 inches. My brother Ernie and Dori came back from attending his son Trevor's funeral (Trevor was killed in a freak motorcycle accident). They were kind enough to stop to see me at noon and I had a crockpot of soup ready for the meal.

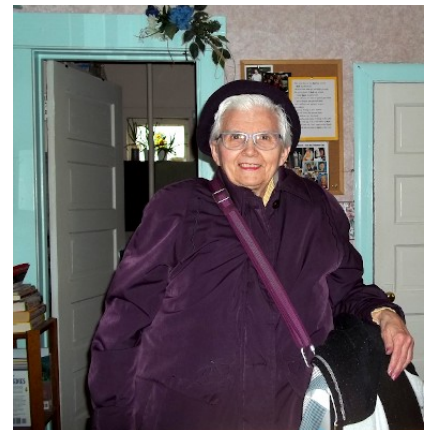
But they wanted to kidnap me for 24 hours and take me along to their motel for the night and enjoy the hot tub there. (What?! I haven't had a swimsuit on since before I left London in 1983!) However, they wanted me to throw together a few overnight things, and off we went. First to visit Hague as Dori wanted to see where Ernie grew up. That ol' hometown did not resemble what we grew up in during the 1950-60s! After that we went to check the Chortitz Cemetery...



(I had not seen the grave marker that I'd ordered for Tom's grave, so we had an excuse.) But all the old landmarks for that village are gone; we had trouble finding the cemetery! Eventually we got to it. Ernie and I told Dori stories of the family members and ancestors buried there.

Back in Saskatoon we checked into the hotel/motel and then went to look for a nice place to dine out. We ended up at Grainfields, and there Dori asked the waitress to take a photo of us on her camera. She sent it to me by email, and I was stunned; I have shrunk into a small dumpling of an old lady!

A friend was telling me on the phone about how her favourite colour is purple. Well, I like lots of colours, but am probably most partial to a rosy-raspberry pink. However, I told her that when I go out anywhere in the winter, I look like I'm very gungho for purple. See?



Wishing You a Blessed & Wonderful Christmas!

Ruth Friesen

P.S. Thank you for being a faithful subscriber and hanging out with me on a weekly basis – for the most part. You are part of my inner-circle of Friends! Thus, you are a rose in my Bouquet of Friends.

I trust you and your family will have a Blessed Christmas and time to refresh yourselves too!

