

**January 2005**

**To: Extraordinary friends**

**From: Esther Meek**

**Re: *Longing to Know***

Greetings to you, after a lengthy period of silence! I composed an October letter and never sent it, because I encountered email complications and did not have the time resources to unravel them. My new job at Geneva College has been all-consuming as I adjust to its challenges. I feel it a great accomplishment to have completed my first semester! By semester's end, I had developed a sense that in my situation here I have "an academic home"-something new to me, prompting a sobering sense of joy and purpose.

### **LTK and People to Know**

This fall's most significant development is the growing list of professionals with whom I have begun promising collaborative relationships. I feel sure that this phenomenon stems from the link between LTK and Geneva College.

*Nicholas Wolterstorff* (philosopher and cofounder of Reformed epistemology), *Stephen Evans* (Christian philosopher at Baylor University) and *Calvin Seerveld* (Christian aesthetician) I met when they spoke at the college. Each is well-known for a lifetime of creative philosophical contribution. I had the chance to talk with them about the LTK project. All express interest in LTK, and offer professional resource.

*David Naugle*, philosophy department head at Dallas Baptist University, is the author of *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. I met David last spring when I gave a paper on his work. He has incorporated my response into his own thought. At the November meetings in San Antonio, as the Polanyi Society considered papers on LTK and I responded to them (a 3-hour marathon!), David stayed alongside. I appreciate his collegiality and friendship.

*J.P. Moreland*, of Biola University, is a noted author and apologist. At the Evangelical Theological Society meeting in San Antonio, J.P. delivered a plenary address concerning truth to six or so hundred in attendance. At the pinnacle of his plea that we see the rejection of objective truth as irresponsible, he quoted extensively from LTK. When I met him after the talk, he thanked me heartily for my courageous stand in LTK.

The San Antonio meetings led to other contacts. Another plenary speaker, *Kevin van Hooser*, noted author of *Is There a Meaning in the Text?* thanked me for my helpful book on knowing. He is using it in an introductory course at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. I also met *Michael Horton*, theologian and author, who told me of his respect for LTK and that he is using it in a course at Westminster West Seminary.

*Scott Oliphunt*, theology professor at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, has asked me to read his new manuscript and offer comments. While this is typical in Academia, it is new to me. I believe it indicates the impact of LTK.

Another person has requested that I endorse his book! *Joe Boot* is the Canada Director of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. I am thrilled to have the contact and look forward to future collaboration with this organization.

Dr. *Mark Talbot*, philosophy professor at Wheaton College, has written a review essay on LTK for an upcoming issue of *Christian Scholars Review*. Mark is developing a

course called The Act of Knowing, which will feature LTK. He hopes to have me out to speak at Wheaton. He is excited about the prospects of thinking together, as am I.

### **LTK in San Antonio**

I mentioned that the Polanyi Society discussed three papers on LTK, from Dale Cannon, David Routledge and Jere Moorman, as well as my reply to them. My Society colleagues express great appreciation for my grasp and expression of the thought of Michael Polanyi; their primary criticisms concern my explicit commitment to the authority of Scripture, and my religious exclusivism. You can read these papers on the Society website, and the plan is to publish them in *Tradition and Discovery* this spring.

While in San Antonio I did a LTK talk for the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, pastured by my former student, Tom Gibbs.

### **Here at Geneva**

I used LTK in two classes this fall, and so have been able to consider its value for the classroom. This semester in one course I plan to lead students through LTK as the focus of the course, and through other works that I believe bear strategically on my work. I am hoping that this exercise will issue in another book. I am especially grateful for the support and collaborative insight of my colleague, Dr. Robert Frazier,

I anticipate a LTK talk in Pittsburgh January 21. I am hoping that my contacts here will continue to expand through the well-established lines of ministry, such as Coalition for Christian Outreach, here in Western PA. If you want further information about this event, let me know.