

May, 2004

To: Extraordinary friends

From: Esther Meek

Re: Longing to Know

The Meek household has begun countdown sequence to our move to Western Pennsylvania. For all the upheaval, I feel as if the area of greatest change is not outward but inward, as I “invite the real” and find myself transformed through its surprising unfolding. Painful; but I dare not close my heart to the Joy that seeks me. But I am growing more amazed and excited at the privilege of teaching at Geneva College!

Longing to Know...and Movies and Denis Haack

In a recent issue of *Critique*, Ransom Fellowship’s movie analyst Denis Haack published a gracious review of LTK, as well as an article by me connecting LTK with movies. Denis also sent me his personal reflection on my move to Geneva:

When I read your emails and see how your teaching, lecturing around *Longing to Know* has exploded, and how God has provided a full-time teaching position where your outside links can still continue, I see [it as] such a deep, rich, grace that could only be from God’s good hand. Such grace may be a severe mercy to walk through, of course, and I don’t want to minimize that for a moment, but its results are so beyond what could be manufactured by you that it takes the breath away.

The adventure continues. You are leaving the Shire. You never intended to, but there it is, and it is good. The road isn’t completely clear, but from where I sit, at least, the open road is the place you need to be instead of in the comfort of the Shire. ...

Denis’s words have interpreted my own experience better than I have been able to. Talk about submitting to authoritative guides in pursuit of reality! In moving to Geneva, I feel as if I am moving to a strategic base camp with respect to yet unidentified mountains of possibilities.

St. Louis finales

Recently I have spoken in area churches:

- The college group from Washington Park Fellowship and Old Orchard Presbyterian.
- An elegant and innovative outreach coffee at Memorial Presbyterian.
- Emmanuel nights at Emmanuel Presbyterian, as often as I can join my friends there.
- We plan a 2-evening seminar at Grace and Peace Presbyterian June 12 and 13. Assistant pastor Michael Gordon, of LTK’s Chapters 2 and 24, will also be telling his story. If you can join us, please call Grace and Peace for details.

I am glad for each opportunity to make new friends, to communicate the message of LTK, and to expand my understanding. I knew, when I wrote a book on knowing, that other people would help me know what I knew—got that? It is thrilling to welcome people into an ongoing, fruitful conversation. I also now have the added pleasure of inviting people to Geneva College!

MO travels

- Lincoln, IL: I presented “Longing to Know and Worldviews,” in response to David Naugle’s work, at the Midwest Regional Evangelical Theological Society, opening a conversation with David and with others participating. David was reading LTK in the airport on his way home.
- Truman State University, Kirksville: Speaking in a class there offered an occasion to think further about what I am calling “Learning to Be: The Role of the Human Body in Knowing.” Starr instigated impromptu gatherings of friends to talk over breakfast, lunch and coffee.
- University of Missouri, Columbia: Dr. David Clark, surgery professor and an artist, learned of LTK through Mars Hill Audio. He invited me into his home last Thursday to present LTK to his friends. Friday I addressed the Mizzou Christian Faculty Association.

- Kansas City, KS: I spoke for a retreat and in Sunday School with Oak Hills Presbyterian.
- I have radio interviews with local stations KJSL and KSIV coming soon.

It is delightful to grow friends and partnerships in these places.

If you attended one of these gatherings, will you please forward this letter to others who also attended and ask them to email me if I may add their addresses to my list for updates? Thanks.

Esther meets Ravi Zacharias June 19

My opportunity to present my work to the staff of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries is scheduled for June 19 in Atlanta.

Moving to Geneva

We expect that we will move to western PA midsummer. Before the fall we must sell one house, find and buy another, celebrate Stacey's high school graduation, work through the logistics of leaving college-bound children in St. Louis, say our goodbyes, move, say many hellos, and prepare fall courses. I am teaching Intro to philosophy, Kant, Reformed Epistemology, and for the first time my dream course, a team-taught humanities course.

On the horizon

I plan to be in San Antonio in November for the professional meetings, including the Polanyi Society which has solicited papers *on* LTK! Area church plant pastor and former student Tom Gibbs, and Austin church plant pastor Bill Boyd, are talking about additional Texas events.

I gather your names into my email list much as a 5-year-old would count and hoard pennies. Being connected with you in this conversation and mission means so much to me. Please know that I have added a "region" column to my spreadsheet, so that I may connect you with each other, and let you all know if I am coming your way. If you don't think I know in which region you live, will you help me fill it in?

May the message of *Longing to Know* continue to bear fruit in your thought and life.

Convivially,
Esther