

Summer's end, 2004

To: Extraordinary friends

From: Esther Meek

Re: *Longing to Know*

Having left the Shire of St. Louis, the Meeks have been settling into the Rivendell of Western PA. I have a tiny office in my department in Old Main at Geneva College, filled with freshly hung and painted custom book cases and cabinets. On the first day I went in to begin unpacking boxes of books, a rhetoric professor stopped in and said, Are you Esther Meek? You will be happy to know that there are no copperheads in Western Pennsylvania!—thus signaling his familiarity with LTK.

Nor is my old Taurus in Western PA. One more time we trusted Jeff Dare, who didn't think it should ever make such a trip again. So we signed it over to our daughter Starr, for getting around and to her sister Stacey, both at college in Missouri. I now drive an old Honda Jeff sold us, up and down the amazing hills, under and sometimes through the glorious clouds, around Pittsburgh and Beaver County. Perhaps the Honda will be the car of illustration for the sequel to LTK.

The once distant indeterminate future manifestations that drew me to Geneva begin to unfold. I have had opening conversations with wonderful people who I am awed to count as colleagues and, I trust, lifelong friends. I am especially grateful to have in Dr. Robert Frazier a philosophy colleague whose scholarship, quiet kindness and delight was until now completely hidden from me.

And at the faculty retreat this week, I had the opportunity briefly to describe to the entire group the from-to dynamic of human knowing, this time as offering the potential to reunite an academia often divided between the “disembodied” liberal arts and the “mindless” professional departments, thus, I hope, inviting my colleagues into the LTK conversation. The opportunity came as I served on a panel to respond to Dr Nicholas Wolterstorff, renowned philosopher, who was addressing the faculty concerning Christian college education. It was an honor to give him a copy of LTK, and to tell him a little of my story as Bob and I drove him to the airport. This college of faculty seems a God-given community in which the message of LTK may be explored and developed.

In other LTK news: I learned that “LTK and Stories,” the article I wrote for *Critique*, will be used in the training of student residence hall staff. One faculty from Engineering and another from Student Ministry initiated requests to discuss implications of LTK for their disciplines. And the head of the Business Department has invited me to develop and teach next summer a course in Epistemology and Business! And the Geneva philosophy department inaugurates in September its annual Byron Bitar Memorial Lecture with Christian philosophy Stephen Evans speaking.

I continue to look forward to San Antonio in November for the Polanyi Society, and another venue orchestrated by former student, church planting pastor Tom Gibbs. I have been invited to do a talk at William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri, possibly in

October. My college classmate Mark Seeley, who serves Reformed Seminary in Charlotte, is exploring an event in his area for sometime in the spring. If any of these might interest you or people you know, I can put you in touch with my contacts in these areas. And I am making connections in this area that hold prospect for fruitful collaboration.

Monday begins my acquaintance with Geneva students...

With every day of this challenging transition I have looked forward to writing to you, knowing that it would signal having arrived on the other side of it, but especially because your interest and support have and continues to encourage me on the journey of Longing to Know. Thank you.

I'd love to hear from you. If you can reply, will you please help me by checking that the reply address is correct? emeek@longingtoknow.com

Together in the journey,

Esther