

October 2004

To: Extraordinary friends

From: Esther Meek

Re: *Longing to Know*

Here in Western PA I think I am living in a dreamland where everything that is supposed to be green is gold and red, neon everywhere like somebody plugged it in to an outlet. Beautiful! And the clouds—not so much now that it is cooler—I have become intimate with the tops of clouds—clouds that the valleys cradle, that hide the Ohio River as I cross it, and that catch the sun and blaze as I ascend again to higher elevations—all on my 20-minute drive to work. I am halfway through my first semester of teaching at Geneva College.

Philosophy and *LTK* at Geneva

I grow in the sense that I am called here to a sobering and privileged task: along with my philosophy colleague Bob Frazier, to strengthen the philosophy portion of our students' preparedness for world service, and of Geneva's contribution to the academic community—something which we both see as a critical part of a larger calling, that we will do best as we continue authentically to live out that calling

My freshmen students in Philosophy Intro are journaling their way through *Longing to Know*. Upperclassmen in my Reformed Epistemology class will read it toward the end of the semester, locating it with respect to that larger and valuable epistemological approach. In the spring, Bob has invited me to take the department course, Christian Understanding of Life, and use it to develop my proposals for another book, which I would like to call *Covenant Epistemology*. The Chaplain's Office at Geneva has invited me to speak at a convocation during Spring semester.

Recent Reviews of *LTK*

Right now I am considering my response to two papers on *LTK* that will be presented to the Polanyi Society meetings in November. (on line at the Polanyi Society website). The critique by Dale Cannon demonstrates his sympathy for the message and approach of *LTK* while at the same time raising questions about this author's commitment to the trustworthiness of Scripture as an authoritative guide, as well as the implications of *LTK*'s proposals for religious pluralism. The other paper, by Jere Moorman, will draw out applications of these proposals to business.

Recently I have also seen a favorable book review by Charles Dunahoo in the Presbyterian Church in America's *Equip for Ministry*, and a critical philosophical review by ----in *Philosophia Christi*. While it is sobering to encounter criticism, it is what we do in philosophy, and it offer the kind of challenge that leads to growth in quality and insight. (I also remember noted author David Wells' counsel: if you want a book to do well, write something that is controversial!) I welcome your input into the discussion.

Creative Professional Applications of *LTK*

Recently I have received two exciting personal responses to *LTK*. David Fimmamore, a recording engineer in Nashville, writes that as a result of *LTK* he does his job, mixing tracks, better: "I do it better, I do it faster, and I have more fun."--! Check out his review on Amazon and, get this--his blogspot on *LTK*: ltkmore.blogspot.com. ltkmore offers his own wonderful examples of subsidiary/focal knowing, from fishing to understanding his spouse.

Dr William Roth, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Loma Linda University, wrote to thank me for *LTK*.: “As a psychologist, I found your elucidation of an epistemic act to be the most insightful articulation of what the psychotherapeutic process is all about that I have read in over 35 years of reading psychological literature.” He also told me that his longstanding friend and weekly accountability partner of 15 years, J.P. Moreland (professor of philosophy at Biola University) plans to cite *LTK* in his upcoming plenary lecture at the Evangelical Theological Society in San Antonio.

***LTK* once mo' in MO**

Last weekend I returned to Missouri at the invitation of Rev. Travis Tamerius of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Columbia. I spoke in Sunday School, and to a lunch meeting of campus ministers, students, church members, and once as part of a lecture series sponsored by the Office of Faith and Service at William Woods University. Seventy-five students attended that lecture.

New contacts in Western PA

Here in Western PA I look forward to speaking at a women's retreat, possibly two, in the coming months. Rev. Anthony Selvaggio, pastor of College Hill Reformed Presbyterian Church, has invited me to present *LTK* this year, and I have enjoyed connecting with Rebecca Wimer, Assistant Director of Development for Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, whom I met by internet when she wrote a response letter to Denis Haack's review of *LTK* in *Critique*. She is looking for ways to welcome me into her circles.

I have a great opportunity this week simply by being here at Geneva: Christian aesthetician and author Calvin Seerveld joins us for a week through our Thinking Faith program. I discovered Seerveld's work when I was writing my senior thesis in college. At that time I had not yet discovered Polanyi. I have often wanted to revisit Seerveld's thought to compare it with my own developments; this may be the chance to open a fruitful conversation.

Esther