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Where in the world?

by M. Susanne Kromberg

My ministry has gone global. This last year, I began blogging and through the medium of the internet I am now serving people around the world. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, a blog is a “web-log,” an internet site used to post essays, journal entries or even devotionals for others to read. Most blogs allow the readers to leave comments, either for the original author or in conversation with one another.



One of the first things I now do when I start my workday at the computer is to check where the people live who have been reading either of my two blogs. I love it when I see that someone in Burma has read my blog, or when I receive a comment from someone in South Africa. To me, the little red and green dots, both in the USA and across the rest of the world map, illustrate what blogging is all about.

From my office in Seattle, I can reach people practically everywhere in the world with the Good News that God loves each and every one of us. I can speak of Christ, who speaks to our condition, wherever we may be. I hope that my words can gather people who might otherwise never have encountered each other and serve to bind us together in a community of sorts. And with my blog and the internet, I can draw out voices and stories of marginalized people. I do so in hope that many more can be taught – as I have been – by some of those who rely most heavily on God, those who live on the margins, the mentally ill and the homeless whom I am privileged to serve. Every one of my blog entries concludes with a query to encourage my reader to go into prayerful consideration of the topic I develop.

My main blog, [Susanne Kromberg's Musings on Faith](#), is intended to be devotional, dedicated to exploring what it means to be a Christian and live as a Christian. Much of what I know about faith has been taught by the homeless men and women, or put to the test by those who are in a life crisis at the hospital where I serve as chaplain.

With these marginalized people, I often see a spiritual depth and perspective on God and Godly living that seems lacking among those who live in greater material comfort. The greatest gift I have received in my ministry is the understanding that if people who sleep under bridges can be grateful for God's abundant care, there is no reason why I can't! I have learned that gratitude is an attitude we can choose – and it is not related to the balance in our checking or savings accounts. So I write about

abundance and gratitude. I also talk about the joy we may know in being generous and caring for “the least” among us – that that is the source of true joy and gladness.

It is important to me that whatever I say about God and Christian living is something that would not sound “cheap” to someone in the depth of crisis, someone for whom the future they imagined is gone, someone who is in need of finding the meaning of life, or in need of finding shelter, safety, and their next meal.

In this blog, I get to explore how God wants us to live, how to overcome human-made divisions and separations. I learn how we can bring into completion God’s promise that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ, “neither height nor depths, neither powers nor principalities,” nor suffering nor selfish ambition, ill health nor death of a loved one.

My second blog is [Susanne’s Quaker Musings](#). I started writing it more recently as I discovered that I had a specific message for my own family of faith, Quakerism, especially liberal Quakerism. This arose out of my understanding that it is only we ourselves who can separate us from the love of God. Because the Quaker groups I speak to are more persuaded by experience of God than by ideas about God or Christian theories, this blog is more personal. I write about my life experiences and how they illuminate or are informed by the core of Quaker faith and our Meetings’ practices. For example, on this site I have written about my grandfather’s death and how it taught me what forgiveness and the resurrection mean. I write about the things that are unique to Quakerism – the gifts it offers and the places where it (and we) fall short. This blog is more practical and pastoral – oriented to what I think Quakerism needs in order to be healthy spiritual community where we can support and hold one another accountable in growing closer to God.

I can’t write about the joys of blogging without mentioning [Quaker-Quaker](#), a guide to Quaker blogs and social media, which is almost as exciting a forum as my seminary experience was. I gain access to new insights, receive new Biblical understanding and am challenged to explain or rethink what I think I know about God. This is especially true when one of my blog posts is featured on QuakerQuaker, resulting in more readers and more comments. As I’m sure we have all experienced, being kept on our toes is not always a comfortable process, but then God’s purpose for me is not that I be comfortable. QuakerQuaker is a community of faith in the best sense of the word, which keeps me from becoming complacent in my relationship with God. It helps me grow in faithfulness to God, and that is truly all I could ever ask for.



I also can’t write about the joys of blogging without expressing my gratitude for Good News Associates, the faith community that encourages me to follow God’s leading, even though I – like most other internet content providers – have yet to find a way to translate our leadings into a way to pay the bills.

Blogging for me is all about joining a community of believers to further God’s purposes on earth. Please join us at [Musings on Faith](#) or [Susanne’s Quaker Musings](#).



M. Susanne Kromberg, a Quaker, is active in spiritual direction and pastoral care in Seattle. She works with individuals and groups in exploring the ways that our spiritual experience and the Bible can help us to make decisions, to lead us to know that we are loved by God, and to set us free to live spiritually grounded lives, create community and live with hope. She can be reached at: skromberg@goodnewsassoc.org

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