



# SEEDS

November 2006

GOOD NEWS *Associates*

13730 15th Ave NE , A302, Seattle, WA 98125

[www.goodnewsassoc.org](http://www.goodnewsassoc.org)

## In honor of Fred

by M. Susanne Kromberg

There is a check in the mail, on its way to me. This is not a tall tale, but a tale of a small act that made a difference.

Fred from Pennsylvania died on November 5 last year. Shortly thereafter I received a letter from the executor of his estate, informing me that Northern Light Ministries was to receive a small percentage. At first it seemed hard to believe, since I had never had any contact with Fred before his

death. I wondered if my Northern Lights Ministries really could be the intended recipient. What little I knew indicated that he was about as different from me as anyone could be.

Fred lived his life in a small town in rural Pennsylvania, and I think he may have been a coal miner. Fred was married, but had no living children. He left a small house, an 18-year-old Chevy truck, a 9-year-old Chevy sedan, some hunting guns and a revolver. As for me, I have lived each third of my life on three different continents. Now I live in the big city in happy young family chaos. We make do with just one car, a tiny new Japanese family van. I am not comfortable with firearms; the very sight of a gun on a police officer's belt is enough to make me feel a little queasy.

Another difference was apparent: most of the other recipients of Fred's estate – and there were many whom he blessed – were organizations that evangelize around the world. My ministry is based on being present to people in times of need, trusting that Christ has come to “teach His people Himself,” hopefully becoming more visible through my desire to be a loving presence and represent The Loving Presence.



Photo by Ian Britton. (c) [www.FreeFoto.com](http://www.FreeFoto.com)

Why would someone so different from myself choose to support the work I do? How did Fred even hear about my ministry? Did he see my web-site? Meet someone who knows of my ministry or pick up one of my brochures? Or did the Spirit whisper in Fred's ear that Northern Lights Ministries could really use the money? It is a mystery to me.

When the executor of Fred's estate confirmed that Northern Lights Ministries was indeed the intended recipient, I was struck dumb. Even now, I struggle to find the words to convey what Fred's gift means.

In a practical way, Fred's gift to Northern Lights Ministries allows me to set aside one day each week from now until Christmas for my ministry to persons with mental illness or persons who are homeless or perhaps even some who are homeless **and** mentally ill.

Perhaps Fred's gift will bless him. His gift could have gone to a larger evangelizing organization that more routinely gets checks in the mail. Yet at Northern Lights Ministries there is now an individual — me — praying for him and committed to honoring his memory and his love of Christ, transformed in my understanding of how strongly the Spirit can be at work in the writing of a check.

As for me, I feel more strongly than before the call to faithfulness and the desire to see people touched and healed in the Light of Christ. Fred has been an inspiration to me in my own prayer time and I often talk about Fred as an example of faithfulness and the mysterious ways of the Spirit.

Thank you, Fred. You may not have children of your own to keep your memory alive, but you will always have a place in my heart.

Rest in peace, Fred, faithful servant of God.



M. Susanne Kromberg, a Norwegian Quaker, is active in spiritual nurture in both the USA and Scandinavia. She works with individuals and groups in exploring the ways that our spiritual experiences and the Bible can help us to make decisions, to lead us to know we are loved by God, and to be set us free to live spiritually grounded lives, create community and live with hope. She can be reached at:

[skromberg@goodnewsassoc.org](mailto:skromberg@goodnewsassoc.org)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *SEEDS*, click here:

[www.goodnewsassoc.org/seeds.html](http://www.goodnewsassoc.org/seeds.html)