

reference is "There is one, Jesus Christ, who can speak to my condition" by George Fox. I totally agree with Fox! Quakerism has a rich heritage in Christianity, with an emphasis on personal experience.

RI: What was the most important event that led you to call yourself a Christian?

LW: My acceptance of Christ was a personal experience. It was actually at a Young Adult Friends Gathering in Burlington, New Jersey in 2007! After a long, yet gathered Meeting for Worship, I felt God had put something on my heart. I sought out a Friend and she shared her testimony with me. Christ's love compelled me deeply and I accepted Christ into my heart. I am a very visual person, and when this moment happened I had an image of Jesus and my heart merging!

RI: What does evangelicalism mean to you personally? How does your idea of evangelical work fit into your Quaker faith?

LW: To me, evangelical work means to share the love, the hope, the grace and the good news of Christ. I'm sitting here trying to think what else to write. Perhaps I have just written my missionary mission statement! :) Evangelicalism is sharing my story, and sharing how Christ has worked in my life; how I was lost and empty before Him, and now my joy overflows. I became a Christian because of the Holy Spirit moving in me, and also because of a Friend's powerful personal testimony, and so this is my vision of Evangelical work. In a Quaker context, it is helping people see there is One, Jesus Christ who can speak to their condition (George Fox). The gospel is the message of ultimate love and sacrifice. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.

RI: What does missionary work, or being a missionary, or working in a mission mean to you? How does missionary work tie into your Quaker faith and values?

LW: I am specifically going to Rwanda to teach missionaries' children. I envision this as not only providing educational support, but also emotional and spiritual nurturing. By teaching these children, their parents are released to do what God has called them to do. It's almost a

(good) pyramid scheme! To tie it in to Quakerism I would focus on the Quaker testimony of community. I will be working within a Quaker and a Christian community that is working to spread the good news of Christ.

RI: How does being a part of the Society of Friends impact your daily life?

LW: Silence is what I turn to when I need to consider a situation, am frustrated, or I just need a "mental time out". Silence is centering and allows me to be quiet, and allows God to speak! I also strive to seek that of God in every person while I am in my daily interactions. Community is also vital to me. I cannot survive without my spiritual friendships (face to face, over the internet, or phone).

RI: What are your thoughts on the diversity of Friends?

LW: Diversity rocks, but I pray that we would be more open in our communication with other branches. In order for Quakerism to survive, we need vitality. Conflict does not bring vitality. We need to acknowledge our differences with love, tenderness, and grace. We are "the great people to be gathered" that George Fox envisioned many years ago. How can we get back to this? We need to educate ourselves about the different branches. Assumptions don't do anyone any good. Inform yourself and then formulate your questions and concerns. Make it a point to have friends from other branches. I have friends from every branch and thank God for allowing our paths to cross. I learn so much from all my Quaker Friends!

RI: How can we best support Young Adult Friends in following their callings?

LW: Prayer, prayer, prayer and encouragement!! It can be a daunting task to follow a calling, but when a Friend has a calling and obeys, good support cannot be under-estimated. Phone calls, text messages, e-mails, notes in the mail- just to let them know you are praying for them is highly encouraging.

RI: Is there a website where we can continue to learn more about your work?

LW: Yes, I have a blog at <http://lizinthemist.blogspot.com>. I also have a Facebook group entitled "Liz is going to Rwanda". (... p.27)