

MM Summer E-mail Blue Sheet — July 12, 2011

Moment Ministries Puget Sound Summer Headquarters — a-morgan@peak.org

A BLOG

I have been urged to create a blog page. In fact I have a blog address that shall remain undisclosed. There's nothing on it. My blogging thoughts bogged down when instructions came to establish a theme. Maybe someone can help me with that, but I can't detect any consistent theme in my writings. For too many years my strategy has been to write a Friday page about whatever I happened to be thinking about at the time. That's it.

I've been a bit frustrated in recent months since switching from printed to internet distribution. My sense is that there is a difference between receiving a printed page and a screen page. Most are not printing out pages and passing them around as much as before. More than I know seem to be reading the whole thing on their smart phone or whatever, which is quite a task. Not that I don't appreciate the fact that people bother at all.

Before "blogging" was ever a word I was doing it. In fact, the older we get the wordier we seem to become. That translates as blogging.

What is happening is that the trend is toward twittering. Most preachers don't twitter. We don't do well on twenty five words or less. But watch people during your conversations. Eyes begin to glaze over if you speak more than a sentence or two. We are used to Facebook where there is room for a brief idea, then immediately some space for you to like or not like, or to comment. It's lively with rarely a glazed eye.

Of course there is the unlikely possibility that I might write about something of compelling interest. That's a hard task to accomplish more than once in a long while. For instance, my report of a lost sailboat seemed to evoke more responses than anything I've done for several months. I get good responses from travel reports. Not many seem to be riveted to the page when I wonder with Stephen Hawking about "The Grand Design." If I could twitter, maybe more would maintain interest. But I don't twitter well. I plod and blog.

The good news about electronic communication — I think it is good news — is that more people are talking with each other. I get way more responses from the internet mailings than from postal mailings. Maybe it's the price of stamps. Or, I think, it may be that it's the ease of clicking of the "reply" key.

I'm going to try to write shorter sentences, shorter paragraphs. You probably haven't noticed, but lately I've increased the space between lines that shortens the page a bit. That was suggested by one of my longest time readers, Ken Salter, who is no longer on my list, but whose wisdom outlives him.

I'm not going to take the time I think it takes to do a formal blog page. But I'm open to the possibility. I want to feel able to have a thought and let it wander down the page until the bottom line calls me to a halt. I want to stir up ideas in readers that might extend beyond my page.

Meanwhile, June comes to an end. You have no idea how many pages were started on subjects on my mind. Life got in the way of writing. As we speak the budget crisis and partisanship of elected people who seem mostly interested in getting re-elected seems to be deadlocked. I have an unfinished thought about how congress is actually raising taxes whenever it takes away from the most fragile in our society in the name of lowering taxes of those who are least fragile. And what it is in human beings that expect a workable society without paying. Every time I want to raise a twitter it turns into a blog.

I have had tears and joys this month but find solace in the fact that my sailboat is at peace on its mooring. May all who are lost get found, may all who need peace find it, and may all rest secure on some strong mooring.

Art Morgan, June 30, 2011