

Personal Reflection – September 9, 2024

Quantum Connection

I remember the distress of some dialogue educators when the Second Edition of *Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach* was published by Jossey Bass. I struggled with the quantum concepts, even as I recognized that what we were doing was similar.

Here's a story: My friend of many years, Sister Janet Srebalus, is still travelling around Tanzania as a Maryknoll Sister, (at 83!) offering Dialogue Education seminars to Tanzanian Sisters. We often speak on Facetime.

Thursday, she told me she was struggling to complete a new design. Time was short. The content was lengthy and complex.

Friday morning, I awoke with some foreboding: no one was scheduled to come to my home that day. I was eating a grumpy breakfast when the phone rang: My friend and long-time student, Betsy Barton! "Have you time for lunch today?" "Oh my, YES!"

Betsy has suffered a year-long bout of *long covid!* *How kind that she made a trip to my home on her first week of health!* Betsy knows me well and must have heard my grumpy wake-up!

Saturday, Janet called me with exciting news: She gets the books I order on my Kindle. I have long been sharing my excitement about Walter Brueggemann's 1999 book *The Covenanted Self*. Months ago, Janet got word from Kindle that this particular book could not be sent to Tanzania. We were both disappointed.

That Saturday morning, Janet decided to try one more time to see if the book were on her computer. There it was. Joy!

As she read the early pages, she discovered they offered exactly what she needed for the difficult seminar. Exactly!

I was delighted to hear this and reflected on a new phrase: *Quantum Connection*. I see that Betsy's kind attention to her old teacher affected Janet's discovery of the missing Kindle book, and her subsequent use of Walter's cogent wisdom.

KINDNESS FLOWS LIKE A STRONG STREAM.

Watch for it: **quantum connection!** Wow!

--Jane Vella