**Mission Central Meyer Minute**

I hope you had a blessed celebration of history, that God sent His Son to us, and because of Jesus we now have a future in heaven with Him and all the saints. Next to celebrating our faith, my holiday highlight was getting my milk truck back. From dairy farms to home-to-home delivery, milk used to be the main occupation for the extended Meyer family. I spent eight summers delivering to homes, restaurants, and factories. That’s how I paid my way through college and Seminary. It was a wonderful experience and I often fantasized about having a milk truck of my own. Some years ago, I got one, a 1972 Divco, short for the Detroit Industrial Vehicle Company. With its six-cylinder Ford engine under a rounded hood, it was the workhorse of milk delivery. It took years, but now it’s restored, and this kid has a new adult toy.

One of the best-known Bible passages about milk is 1 Peter 2:2-3. “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” You and I have richly experienced the goodness of the Lord, and all His grace and mercies have been delivered to us through the Word of God. When we were doomed by our sin to temporal and eternal death (see Ephesians 2:1), the Word delivered the forgiveness of Christ’s death, undoing our destiny of death and giving us a second birth, our new birth to eternal life. “You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God… This word is the good news that was preached to you” (1 Peter 1:23, 25). The Bible compares the Gospel of new life and nurture to milk. “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.” I’m not one for New Year’s resolutions, but a resolution you and I should make every day is to drink deeply from the pure Word that grows us strong in faith.

Over my years on milk routes, many customers welcomed my coming. Missions is like that. Through our witness to Jesus in our own church and community (yes, our fellow church members need our witness to Jesus) and through our support for Mission Central, there are countless people, countless to us but known to God, welcoming every day the missionaries who deliver the “milk” of the Word. “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7).

During supper one of my milkman years, I bragged that I had signed up a new customer. My father looked at me and quipped, “What did the lady do, fall down in front of the truck?” His meaning was clear: Don’t be lackadaisical. Be committed to your work and work, work hard. That’s mission too. Some people will be led to join the church, but how many more will come to know Jesus when we work hard every day to deliver the pure milk of the Word? “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” (Isaiah 55:1). Our second resolution: To work hard and pray faithfully every day for the mission of our Lord Jesus. Happy New Year!