

The Mission Central Meyer Minute

I'm overdue to write a new Mission Minute! I often heard, "Pastor, now that I'm retired, I don't know when I had time to go to work." Now I get it. I've been teaching two classes at the Seminary, plus other writing projects, and time got away from me. It's about time.

Driving my milk truck through rural areas, I see some farm fields have been worked, others will soon be. Years ago, I was walking in a field with one of my parishioners. He stooped over and picked up a clod of dirt, turned it in his hand, and then tossed it aside and said, "Not yet." "What do you mean?" I asked. "Pastor, when the clod of dirt crumbles in my hand, it's time to get into the field." A sense of timing!

Read the Gospels and you see that Jesus has a perfect sense of God's timing to save souls. Jesus began His ministry announcing, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). When people pushed their agendas and their timetables on Him, Jesus said, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4; 7:6; cf. also 7:30). But Jesus knew precisely when His hour had come; He willingly went to the cross. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour'" (John 12:27). True to His promise, He arose and ascended, and now tells us it is always time for mission. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

When my friend picked up the clod of dirt, I know that he could look forward and imagine that field filled with corn or beans ready to harvest. That's the way our Lord Jesus sees the mission field, it's always full, always harvest time. "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest... I sent you to reap" (John 4:35-36). That's us, Mission Central!