

### ***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

Another turn of the calendar, from July to August. How many turns of the calendar have you lived through? We experience life in cycles. Night and day, week after week, month after month, year after year. The seasons of nature are cyclical. "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). Other cycles too. Going to work, taking rest. School in session, school out for the summer. Monthly bills get paid but come due again. What goes around, comes around.

Ancient religions were cyclical too. The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans believed in gods and goddesses who went to the underworld in fall and winter but came back to life in spring. That's normal, but you are not normal. While our Creator gave us days and months and seasons that repeat, Christian faith is linear, not cyclical. It's like a farmer putting in the first furrow. You pick out a goal on the other side of the field, keep your eyes on the goal, and steer toward it. Christianity believes that all history is moving toward a goal, for us everlasting life with our God and Savior in heaven. You "by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice...with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome (the Greek word is "telos," which means goal) of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:5,6, 9). Linear.

Maybe some Christians aren't zealous for church or mission because they think the cycles will never stop. Some months ago, I happened upon a church member who refused to come to church. He thought it was filled with hypocrites, and no doubt there are some. I said quite emphatically that he should come to church. I don't know what he thought about that, but a few weeks later he died suddenly. Sooner or later the cycles of your life and mine stop. Now is our time of grace as God moves history toward the end of time. The work of Mission Central, the mailings, the reports, the gatherings, our donations, not only bring Jesus to people who don't know Him. The work of Mission Central also blesses us because it reminds us to keep our eyes on the eternal goal, our home in heaven.