***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

Missions is like wearing bifocals. Decades ago, I was at a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game. I had just gotten my first pair of bifocals. I wanted to go out and get something to eat, but almost fell down the steps. Depth perception. When your personal faith has depth perception, mission becomes more urgent.

Think about Advent. You and I live in a surround sound, media swamped, buy this, buy that, idolatrous commercial culture. As a result, the true meaning of Advent gets overwhelmed. Ask someone what Advent is about, and you’ll likely get this answer, “Getting ready for Christmas.” And then what? December 26, move on from Christmas. Jesus’ birthday part is over. That’s near sighted. John the Baptist says, “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight” (Luke 3:4). A common way to hear John’s words goes something like this: The way for us to get ready for Christmas is to repent. Yes, I’ve sinned and need the Savior to be born. OK, true enough, but near sighted. Faith can stumble.

Depth perception strengthens faith. “Prepare the way of the Lord” is not only preparing for Jesus’ birthday. Even more, it’s far sighted. “Prepare the way of the Lord” especially means get yourself ready to see Jesus when He appears in glory, His Second Advent. In that final, decisive Advent all things will become good, and just, and right. What we know now by faith will be known in sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). For me personally, near sight **and far sight** energizes me way more than only the coming birthday celebration. Perspective!

Depth perception is vital for mission zeal. The missionaries you and I support through Mission Central aren’t just telling people about Jesus’ birth. Yes indeed, God sent His Son into our world to save us from sin, death, and Satan. That’s the history we treasure, His story is our only salvation. His story is also the longer look. “Prepare the way of the Lord” also means our missionaries tell how Jesus is going to come again in glory, take us to be with Him forever in heaven, and we far-sighted people yearn for that future. Out of that yearning comes urgency for mission. People who persist in rejecting His life will be confirmed in death. God doesn’t want that (1 Timothy 2:4). We don’t either. We pray God’s Holy Spirit to inspire in us and our fellow believers an ever-greater urgency about mission. The great Advent is still to come!

Advent is best kept with spiritual depth perception. “‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).