***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

I was thrilled to see Concordia Seminary students visit Mission Central. Before I retired, I often traveled with students to visit Mission Central, and every year when we left, each group of students was energized to tell people about Jesus.

Imagine sitting with me in the van as we make the 7-hour drive from the Seminary to Mission Central. The students are chatty, filled with enthusiasm for the ministries ahead of them, and I add, some filled with a bit too much confidence, but time will soften that. We pass by Kansas City, Omaha, through sparsely populated areas and finally come to Mapleton. I always think, wow, it has a stop-and-go light, something the little town of 125 where I started my ministry didn’t have. Students wonder, is Mission Central here? No, we drive east out of town. I know they’re looking for some fancy, bureaucratic office building, but we pull into a farmyard with an old farmhouse. Huh? And then out comes ol’ missionary Gary in bib overalls. You know how the rest of the story goes. The seminarians are evangelized. Don’t get distracted by other stuff; it’s all about Jesus.

I graduated from the Seminary 50 years ago. I grieve over the ongoing loss of members in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I grieve when some pastors and lay people are pessimistic about the future and show no zeal to reach the lost today. Have we lost our first love? (See Revelation 2:4). So it is that earthly-wise I put great hope in our future pastors and deaconesses. I pray God will use them to get our churches growing again. I hasten to add, God only knows what is to come. We plant the word, others water, it’s God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). Still, that’s no excuse for complacency in a church. We are co-workers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9). Jesus teaches us to work while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work (John 9:4). These students will make mistakes, as you and I have, but we pray God to work a miracle through them to save souls for Christ, just as God works miracles through our partnership with Mission Central.

“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4). You’ll be able to see the Seminary’s most recent visit on Mission Central’s website or Concordia Seminary’s Facebook page.