***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

Mission Central is a miracle place, and one great event each year is the Ascension service in the barn. It’s great when mission-minded people get together, the painting of the Lord Jesus before us and artifacts of His world-wide mission all around us. This year’s Ascension service is over, done, history, check it off. Life moves on. Pentecost, Memorial Day and the beginning of summer, Trinity Sunday… But wait a minute! Is Ascension really over?

Ascension is never over. Even though the church service has passed, Jesus is reigning right now in His glory as God, something we believe by faith and on the Last Day will see with our eyes. Jesus temporarily set aside His glory as God so that He might reconcile you and me to the Father and to one another. In biblical talk, He is today, right now, “sitting at the right hand of God.” That means He’s exercising all the power of His divine being, and He’s doing so in love for the people He has redeemed. Our omniscient Lord has a keen interest in you and all who believe in Him. He hears your prayers, He feels your sighs, He knows your heart, and to help you on your heavenward way, He’s giving you the Holy Spirit. And what does the Spirit of the ascended Lord do? He gives you oomph.

You know “oomph”? “Oomph is a good thing. Many times, you and I need oomph in our individual lives. If Jesus had not ascended, we wouldn’t have the Holy Spirit to help us in our life struggles. The church needs oomph too. Why is the influence of the church declining in America today? Why does zeal for evangelism and mission receive only lip service from some people and churches? Simple. We think we’re in charge of the church. Ascension reminds us that Lord Jesus is over the church and wants us to work for His mission to all people. That’s why He gives us His Spirit through His Word, so that our lives and work together have divine oomph.

Ascension over? Wait a minute; wait a Mission Minute! Every day we need the oomph our ascended Lord gives us in His Word. He is faithful and he will do it! (1 Thessalonians 5:24). “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly tan all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21).