***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

“Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest” (John 4:35). Here in southern Illinois the early corn is brown, a few fields harvested but not many. Late corn is still half green. Soybean fields are turning from green to yellow, a few completely brown. Not quite time for every combine to be in the field. God is again keeping one of His many promises. “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

Welcome, Pastor Steve and Sue Schulz! Your coming to Mission Central is God fulfilling another promise. “Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38). We know you are “not normal”! You care for us who know Jesus, and you’ll “work while it is day” (John 9:4) that those who don’t know Jesus will learn His precious Good News. May you wake every day and rest every night seeing the farm fields around Mission Central in the same way Jesus sees them.

I’ve always wondered why Jesus said that the fields are “white” unto harvest. The Greek word for “white” can mean many shades of white, but it certainly doesn’t mean “brown.” What’s more, when Jesus talked about “white for harvest,” there were still four months until harvest. The crops were still green. Didn’t Jesus know farming?

Jesus said, “white for harvest” after he spoke with a Samaritan woman. She went into town “and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?’ They went out of the town and were coming to him.” An old Lutheran theologian, R.C.H. Lenski (1864-1936) wrote: “‘Lift up your eyes and view the fields.’ There on the path through the young grain the Samaritans were coming, impelled by the report from the woman… They were the grain Jesus saw, white for harvest, ready to be gathered into the granary of the kingdom.” (334).

The Greek word translated “white” can mean “bright, shining, gleaming.” So, picture the farm fields around Mission Central. Imagine people coming through the fields to learn about Jesus. Picture the world: People coming to our missionaries to learn about Jesus. What a bright, shining, gleaming harvest! It may not be time yet to get the combines out, but Jesus wants us to always see the bright, shining, gleaming harvest of souls for heaven. Welcome to the fields, Pastor and Mrs. Schulz!