***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

Isn’t that museum in the barn nice? All the displays of mission around the world, really nice.

OK, now read this from Martin Benhöfer, editor of the *Missionsblatt,* a magazine published by the Bleckmar Mission in Germany. “For Christians, mission is not something that is ‘nice to have,’ if you happen to have it, but really something a person can do without. No, mission is the anchor of salvation that God has cast into the world. Both for God’s sake and for its own sake, the world cannot do without this anchor. The world is not to be healed but to be saved.”

Sometimes people pitch missions and evangelism against pure doctrine. I think that’s bogus. Decades ago, I was speaking to a convention of the Lutheran Laymen’s League, people with a huge heart for mission and evangelism. Wow, did their eyebrows go up when I said that mission and evangelism is not the heart of our faith. If they had had tomatoes… But when I said, “Jesus is the heart of our faith,” they got it. When Jesus is the heart of our faith, telling others about Him is what we will do with great zeal. Pure doctrine is about the Gospel, and the Gospel is about Jesus, sent to save us and whose Spirit works through us to tell others.

Which brings me to a most helpful book, “The Great Sending,” published by Tenth Power. Let the truth be told! “The disciples in the first century AD excelled in the multiplication and growth of the Word, as recorded in the Book of Acts. By contrast, the church in the twenty-first century appears to be evading Christ’s sending, experiencing decline rather than growth. Today’s church is short of breath, too weak to move out of its comfort zone of preoccupation with itself, and too complacent to venture into evangelical territory while continuing to strive for its purity of doctrine. Programs don’t work. Old mindsets and habits prevail. The church as we know it today is dying missionally, drowning in indolence and apathy. It is therefore in urgent need of an intense and invasive treatment: a deep dive into God’s Word” (page 31).

May we never say, “Missions is nice.” If it weren’t for the Spirit of missions, you and I wouldn’t know Jesus!