

This Is Our Time To Grow

Solomon knew the importance of timing. He said, *There is a time for every purpose under heaven,... a time to plant,... a time to build, and ... a time to harvest* (Eccl. 3). This principle is something we also understand from life's experiences.

The question we, the Karns congregation, ask ourselves should be "Is this our time to grow and make a significant impact on our community?" Last year, 32 were baptized, 39 were restored or requested prayers, and 42 placed membership. We see positive signs that the time is now. Many of Karns' members are involved in the work of the congregation. There is a genuinely warm and loving spirit within the body. We have an unusually large number of visitors. Is this the time when the Karns congregation experiences significant growth?

The optimum time is often limited to a few hours, days, or weeks depending on the purpose. Usually doors of opportunity open only one time and the same opportunity is seldom seen again. The difficult part is to know the exact moment when the time is right.

Acknowledging that timing is important, should we procrastinate while looking for a magical moment to do the Lord's work? No! We should work on the premise that the opportunities presently before us will not last. Jesus clearly states we should *work while it is day for the night is coming when no man can work* (Jn. 9:4). Paul told the Corinthian brethren, *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation* (2 Cor. 6:2). This has always been the mindset the Lord expects of His people.

When we do the Lord's work, He will bless our efforts if we trust in Him regardless of whether the timing is "right" from our perspective. The Lord is not bound by seasons and circumstances as men are in their pursuits, therefore, we simply need to go about serving, sharing and saving and His will in our community will be accomplished. It's true, timing is important and our time to grow is NOW.

For the elders,
Don Denton