

It's Harvest Time –

Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest! (John 4:35)

Stop laughing at the "city boy," Brian Laub. I mean it. It's harvest time! The fields are ripe for drawing together life and talents in abundance. That's what these words are about that Jesus spoke to his disciples. This all takes place shortly after Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. After receiving the good news, she goes and tells her friends. And they, in turn, go after some of the good, good news for themselves. As Jesus spoke these words, he likely gestures to nearby fields that are still very, very young in their development. Imagine it as soybeans that are still just barely creeping out of the ground, or corn that is maybe waist high or less, but nowhere near ready to be reaped. But Jesus is gesturing beyond the green fields around them to the throng of people who are making their way from the nearby town of Sychar towards this strange, intriguing teacher at their well. He implores his students to draw together these good folk in whom the hope and truth of Christ was planted by the woman, and are ready to be brought together for mission and service.

People, do we sense the harvest in our midst? With Easter behind us, it is tempting to treat the season approaching as a time of hibernation instead of harvest. But the world around us hungers and thirsts more than ever to be heard and understood, to be welcomed, to be made a part of something larger than themselves, to know that there is a God that is generous and just beyond all human measure. They have caught glimpses and hits of this God and this Love and this mission and this type of blessed community in the past, more than likely not from us but from others. Seeds have likely been planted in those around us for quite a while, often remaining dormant. But in that seed is life and light to be invited forward. And not only for others, but also for ourselves. It is time to shine forth with the fruits of the Spirit !!!

As we move through Easter towards the season of Pentecost, let's examine ourselves and the lives of others around us to know and see that there is abundant harvest of the Lord's labor made manifest around us. Can you see it? Can you feel and smell and hear it in the air? It is known in opportunity to serve and support – Compassion International, the upcoming mission trip to Mexico, the wilderness trip to Minnesota, Sunday School, Wednesday worship, Habitat for Humanity. All these are now or will soon be lifted up. It's harvest time. Time to draw together the blessed life springing forth in us for the glory of God.

I share with you today an oldie, but a goodie. It's a song that declares that all around us are the those waiting for the Lord to draw them in.

*Kumbayah, my lord. Kumbayah.
Kumbayah, my lord. Kumbayah.
Kumbayah, my lord. Kumbayah.
Oh Lord, Kumbayah*

Someone's crying, Lord. Kumbayah
Someone's crying, Lord. Kumbayah
Someone's crying, Lord. Kumbayah
Oh Lord, Kumbayah

Someone's singing, Lord.....

Someone's praying, Lord.....

Someone's serving, Lord.....

Someone's dancing, Lord.....

It's harvest time. God loves you and so do I.

Peace,

P.B.