



July 21, 2009

It's Time Now

By Teresa Hampton and Amanda Genter

One of our graduating student wives, Amanda Genter, recently shared some thoughts at a devotional. Her words struck me as insightful and beautiful. Among other things, she said,

I would like to share a passage with you. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says:

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven...

A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh...

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing...

A time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate;

It is almost time for we second year students to graduate. It won't be much longer for you first year students either – the time flies even faster in the second year here at ETSPM. It will now be our time to begin in earnest:

to plant the seed of the word wherever we go,

to help broken hearts find healing,

to build up our brothers and sisters in Christ,

to laugh or weep with them as the situation calls for it,

to embrace wholeheartedly the work to which we are going,

to keep the friends we have gained here for mutual support,

to tear ourselves away from what we have here and sew or weave ourselves into the fabric of the congregations we go to join,

to show others what it means to love the sinner and hate the sin.

Amanda's words encapsulate the very heart of what ministers and minister's wives seek to accomplish, not to their own glory but the glory of God. She points to the urgency of the Lord's work, as well as the passion and compassion we have for others within and without the church. We have been entrusted with the greatest mission on earth. It's time now for all of us, whether minister or member, to see the urgency and, if necessary, reignite the passion!

Today's Verse: *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."* (John 4:35)

Today's Action: Pray for opportunities to sow the seed of the kingdom and serve the family of God.

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