

Pastor's Corner

April 2009

As many of you have heard, I plan to go back to Bolivia this year. I wish that I could take each of you with me to see just how God is working in the world. The medical team will be busy with surgeries and the building team will be working on the hospital; or there is talk that we may go into the Indian village to build a home. I hope that we can take Bibles to the people again, and I thank those who have given to help purchase these Bibles. If you would like to contribute to help with the mission trip, you may do so by sending your contribution to Ebenezer UMC and mark on it "Bolivia Mission Trip." The team also needs your prayers, so everyone can participate in making the trip successful.

I read a devotion the other day from the Scripture passage Daniel 1:1-20. The passage spoke of Daniel and of how he refused to defile his body and eat the foods of the king. Instead, he stood fast with God and what he felt was right in the sight of God. God blessed Daniel and he grew strong. The message was entitled "Pollution." As I pondered the message, I thought of how often we pollute our minds and bodies by the things we eat, the things we see, and the things we do that are not in keeping with God's will. Sin is pollution that affects our spiritual growth.

It is easy to see the big things that pollute our lives, or as we put it the big sins; but there are those little things that we tend to overlook until the damage is already done.

"For Daniel, defilement or pollution was eating the king's meat or drinking the king's wine; so he 'purposed in his heart' not to touch them. For Christians, defilement means getting involved in actions that God has forbidden. Like Daniel, we can purpose in our hearts to live in ways that honor God and give God a holy temple."

Lake Erie was one of the most polluted rivers in America. Today it is clean and life has returned. God can clean up your mess if you will let him.

God bless and keep you,

Rev. Eric Lane