

# Pastor's Corner

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July 2010

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ,

I wish that I could take every one of you with me to Bolivia once. I have traveled to Bolivia several times since 2003, though I have not returned every year. This time was very different from the other trips. This time we had a goal of building a home and presenting it to a family. In the past our projects have been projects that would be ongoing. We have worked at the Methodist school to help build offices and day care facilities. We have worked on a clinic that would eventually become a place for women and children to receive healthcare. While all these projects were vital and important, this year we actually left an impact on the lives of the people.

This project could not have been accomplished without the help of many. I want to thank those who gave through their financial gifts. Together we raised \$3,500.00--\$3,000 to complete the home and another \$500.00 to build another foundation. In addition to this, we contributed \$250.00 to purchase Bibles that were given to those who came into the clinic for health care. We also contributed money to a local church, so that they could purchase the remainder of the tiles needed for their newly constructed sanctuary. The blessing is that this church is in a tough neighborhood, an area where the presence of God is needed. We also contributed funds to the local orphanage where my little girl (Zulma) and her sisters live.

This was accomplished with very little sacrifice on our part. God truly blesses the giver.

In addition to a building team, a medical team of nurses and doctors traveled with us. While we were laying bricks and block, they were checking eyes, fitting people with glasses and performing surgeries, which gave sight back to many who otherwise would have remained blind.

Some have asked why go to Bolivia when there is much to be done right here in our country and even in our own community. My first response is yes, there is much to do here and many that need help. Then my next response is what are YOU willing to do about it? Set a goal, define a project—to build a home, remodel an existing home, or perhaps paint a house, build a ramp, or adopt a family—then go out and bring that goal to completion.

Some time back a goal was set to feed families who may be struggling, who may be recovering from some type of situation in their lives, or just “because,” and it was called the “Lord’s Supper.” From that goal, a group within our church has met to prepare meals and distribute them to families every month.

There are many other ways that we can work together to accomplish the ministry of God around us. It is the goal of the United Methodist churches in Caldwell County to build a *Habitat for Humanity* home next year. It will be built in the Hudson area. To reach this goal, we as a group of churches, will need to raise \$20,000.00. We can do it. Who is willing to take up the cross and follow me?

The difference between here and Bolivia is that here, if we sacrifice a little, we can accomplish a great deal to change lives around us. In Bolivia, they are fighting to survive daily, in dire need of food, clothing and shelter. If we do not share our bountiful gifts to reach out and help them, many will suffer and die.

Jesus said, “I was naked and you did not give me anything to wear.” “I was hungry and you did not feed me.” And they said “Lord, when did we see you, naked and hungry?” Well I have seen the naked and the hungry, the sick and the dying, so I cannot look the other way either here or there.

When I first came to Ebenezer, I made a statement that we may not be a church of 300 but we can be a church that is willing to follow the will of God. Today I ask God for forgiveness for underestimating the

power of God. We are a church of more than 300. We are God's church, a church that crosses denominations, congregations, counties, states, and countries. There are many lives to be reached, and together we can bring the kingdom of God to fulfillment. If we remain focused on the will of God, all things are possible.

Thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to serve, and may God bless you.

*Rev. Eric Lane*

