

Pastor's Corner

March 2016 – Rev. Eric Lane

I had the pleasure to assist with communion on Sunday, February 14, in Corozal Methodist Church. Together with Rev. Duncan (who was filling in for Jamie Williams, who is appointed to the church and serves with his wife Lisa, who is the missionary) and Rev. Doug Pryor, we shared the liturgy for the service.

As I looked out over the congregation I felt that, while we come from different countries and our lives are very different, we are yet very much alike. That likeness is shared because of our belief in God. We were created in the image of God, and we gather to worship and praise God for the grace that he gave to us through His Son, Jesus.

On Tuesday, I was asked to share a story during the school assembly, then again on Wednesday at a different school. On Wednesday evening, I was privileged to bring the message at the church in Corozal. For the children's story I used the familiar passage from John 3:16-17:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

I told the story of a man and his garden: It seemed that there was a long dry spell and the crops were beginning to wither and die. However, the man continued to water the plants. One day his wife asked him: "What are you doing watering withered crops that are almost certainly dying?" Without thinking the man replied, "I want to give every seedling and plant a chance to live. Even if they dry up, I will know that I have tried my best to ensure that they lived."

You may recognize this story; it is taken from the Upper Room devotion. As we reflect on this story and on the scripture, it helps us to realize just how much God truly loves us. In spite of our ways, God showed His love for us by sending Jesus Christ into the world, and allowing him to die for us on the cross—so that all of us could have a chance for eternal life in heaven.

Although plants and vegetable gardens have no choice of whether to live or die, we have the ability to choose everlasting life by believing in Jesus Christ. Praise God that we all have the chance to believe and to receive salvation!

As I shared this story at the schools, and reflected on the worship services on Sunday and Wednesday, I had to pause and give thanks to God for life. I also give thanks to God for allowing the church and me to be used as conduits of the gospel message. Though each of us must choose for himself to believe in Jesus or not, God has called us to do all that we can to ensure that others have the opportunity to choose everlasting life—whether they reside next door, down the street, or in countries far away.