

Friday, March 5

Day 3

Cuba Mission 2010

It seems that we have all settled into the routine of life here in Cuba. Daily life goes on around us and we are becoming part of it. It is good, when you are on mission, to allow yourself to go beyond where you came from and what life was to immerse yourself in where you are and what life is. There is wholeness in such living; there is life!

I didn't sleep well last night for some reason. I was tired, no exhausted by the day, but I still could not sleep. However, a very satisfying breakfast has refreshed me and I am ready for what lies ahead. Today, we are meeting with the older adults of the church to get to know each other better, to strengthen relationships. That is, after all, the great goal (in my mind) of this mission journey – to strengthen the bonds between us. What we are building is friendships.

I am sitting outside in front of the church right now. It has been chilly, but now the sun has come out and I am warming up finally. It takes a while to warm up when you are on mission. That is, it takes a while for you to get into not only the routine but also the spirit of mission. I think that today is going to be such a day for the group.

We met with the older adults in the sanctuary of the church. They had a doctor and some nurses come and talk about breast cancer. Then, those gathered sang songs and listened to several people from the church, including a little boy, sing their favorite songs, as well. It was great!

We sat down to lunch with the older adults today. Conversation is difficult because of the language barrier but you do your best to find ways to converse. After lunch we had a bit of time to just sit and relax. It was refreshing to sit on the front portico of the church and watch Guines go by. Most everyone who passes on the street either waves or says good morning. The people are very friendly here and outgoing.

Three of us traveled about 7 miles to St. Nicholas, a nearby village where we visited the Presbyterian church. Their pastor is a young man (he has been there for about one year) who is filled with energy and ideas. The church has many programs for the people of the community because the government doesn't provide any at all. They are doing good work and are feeling encouraged by the response to their outreach into the community.

Late this afternoon we went over to Ismael and Isabelle Madruga's home, which is just a block down from the church. We had a wonderful time talking with them and playing with their two cats Amigo and Yellow.

We walked to a local restaurant tonight. Well, it's not really a restaurant as you and I would think of one. It is someone's home, which they have turned into a restaurant. It is still their home but they serve food to others, as well.

Well, it's about 9pm and it's been a tiring day. We have been constantly on the go since 7am.

Peace be with you!

Pastor Tom