

# **Sunday, March 7**

## **Day 5**

### **Cuba Mission 2010**

Sleeping was difficult last night. There was the loud snoring coming from everyone in the room, but there was also the excitement of the day ahead. It is Sunday! This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Worship started this morning with the children's program at 9:30am. The church was filled with children of all ages (probably 50 children were there.) They sang songs as a man played the guitar and the smiles on their faces told the story of how much this time meant to them. There was so much excitement in the air this morning. You could sense the joy of the children as they sang of their faith. At about 10am everyone left the sanctuary and went to a coffee hour in the courtyard. It was a time for fellowship, coffee and cookies. It was a great way to lead us into worship.

Worship started at 10:30am. The worship service is structured but not too much. Yampier and I sat up front, the choir was down front to the side, and the congregation filled the pews. There were so many people in attendance. Even the communist party chair for Guines and his family were there.

The worship service was very inspiring and uplifting! The music, the sharing of prayers, the joy was tremendous. It strikes me how joyful the people are even as they live in such need and lack of freedom.

After worship, Yampier and I stood at the back and shook hands with some. I say some because most gave us hugs and kisses!

The mission team then met with the Session and talked about the church here in Guinness, about their struggles as well as their dreams. We talked about the needs of the church and how we might form a meaningful relationship between us. I am hopeful that our church will enter into a formal partnership with the Guines church. I am also most hopeful that the youth of the church will come next summer with me to a youth conference in Havana and then spend time here in Guines in 2011.

Mission such as this, that focuses on the building of relationships, is life-changing!

We have just over two days left here in Guines. I am sensing the sadness of having to leave my new friends. I hope that I can return next year. Peace! Pastor Tom