

Monday, March 8

Day 6

Cuba Mission 2010

This morning it was glorious outside. The sun was shining and it was nice and warm. I am sure it is not all that warm back in East Hampton so I soaked up some extra sun for all those back home in New York!

This morning we spent an hour or so with the communist party leader here in Guines. He is a very polite man, very courteous and respectful. We talked with him about Guines and he talked with us about the embargo on Cuba. It was a good conversation and I am thankful that we had the opportunity to talk with him. He mentioned many times the embargo on Cuba by the U.S. and the hopes that it will be lifted. He expressed his belief that lifting it would change everything for the people of Cuba. I expressed to him (through a question I asked) that if it is lifted then it needs to impact in a hugely positive way the people in Guines, etc. In other words, it would need to make a real difference for the ordinary people of Cuba and not just the government.

We spent the afternoon mostly relaxing here at the church. A few of us walked to the square here in Guines to see the main gathering place of the community. It is quite a busy place.

This evening, after dinner, the church had a celebration for International Women's Day. I had not heard of this day but I was glad for the celebration. Many of the men and women of the church stood and read poems and stories about mothers as part of the celebration. Songs were sung and then the dancing started! It didn't take long before I found myself out on the dance floor dancing the Samba! I am sure I was quite a sight to behold, but it was really fun! It was a great way to end the day.

Peace.

Pastor Tom