Mission Trip to Cuba

The unremarkable, dry, fallow fields outside the van window have continued for over an hour. Occasionally there is a small house. If not for the infrequent palm tree, this could be southeast New Mexico. The driver of the van swerves often to avoid large potholes in the road or to pass a horse drawn cart. The interior of Cuba is dry and flat and we have another three hours until we reach Manzanillo. Fortunately they reserved a nice shuttle bus [for the soft Americans] and the seats were comfortable and the air conditioning worked well.

The scenery greens up as we reach the coast and our destination city, Manzanillo. We eat an early dinner and then we are off to the opening rally. The opening rally is where all the participating churches, missionaries and pastors come together to start the week. You can tell a lot about how prepared and engaged the churches are by their participation at the opening rally. It was held in a church with seating for 250 with 300 people in attendance - people standing in the back and in the doorway. Worship was very spirited and energetic. I had the privilege of giving the “keynote” message to

a very enthusiastic crowd.

We were shuttled back to our room, which was over 80º inside. There was no electricity. There was a very slight breeze coming in the window. A battery powered pedestal fan provided a small amount of circulation. It had been almost 24 hours since we got on the airplane in Denver and we were exhausted. We settled in for the night and fortunately the electricity turned on around midnight and we were able to sleep with air conditioning.

Fostering Adventures of Hope

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