A Life Changing Experience

On the last night we had in Panama, Jack Farbar (head of the campaign) asked me what my observations of the trip were. I told him that I could sum it all up in one word, unity. The unity started with the 13 individuals from Concord Road (Jessica Daniel, Matt and Kim Barnes, Nancy Smith, Stephen Rutledge, Jessamyn Barrett, Tara Sanders, Chris Walker, Bill Jones, Kelly Nickell, Tandi Keeling, and Emily Ramsey). I consider it an honor to have been with these people on the trip. All of them worked hard from about 6 AM till about 10 PM every single day. I never heard a cross word or a complaint from anyone. Everyone was on the same page and we could not have asked for a more unified, better dynamic than we had on the trip. I jokingly said that we sat up eating banana splits every night and that is pretty much true. Everyone seemed to enjoy spending time together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The unity doesn't stop with the Concord Road group though. There were so many people from all over Latin America that we were able to work with. They too were united with us for the purpose of spreading the Gospel.

I will repeat this story when we give our report in a few weeks, but my favorite moment of the trip happened on Thursday night. Stephen Rutledge was supposed to lead singing for the English portion of the service. He got with Jose Chavarria (a young man from Panama) and they decided to lead singing at the same time, one in English and one in Spanish. That way everyone would be singing in unison. Even though the languages were different, the melody and the message were the same. Even though we couldn't speak each other's language we understood we were praising God.

I encourage everyone that if you have never been on a mission trip that you should do so. If you can't go to some foreign land you can evangelize in your own neighborhood. Glorify God in all that you do.

By: Ryan Daniel