

Happening in Honduras

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am John Taber Shank, the son of Mary Martha and Fred Shank of Gulfport, Mississippi. I also have a twin sister Madison. I am a sophomore at Gulfport High School and attend Trinity United Methodist Church. I am also a Boy Scout and I plan to achieve the honor of Eagle Scout before I leave on this Mission trip (I am working very hard to complete this task!). I also play baseball at GHS, on the JV team. I have played baseball since I was five and I love it!

I want to give you a little background information about the Happening! Happening is, put on by teenagers from all over the state. The few adults present are cooks, chaperones, or just there to become part of Happening. The Happening cannot be considered a retreat because it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It is a three-day experience where the teachings of Christ are discussed in a feeling of joy and happiness, with many singing sessions and informal gatherings. The purpose of the Happening Experience is to initiate/renew personal relationships with Christ.

I went through Happening 64, staffed 65 and plan to staff many more. I didn't think I was going to be able to go through the Happening, because all of the available spots were filled, but five days before the Happening 64, I got a call and they told me that someone had dropped out and that I would be able to attend. God wanted me to be there, I just didn't know it yet. The experience changed my life; I started the weekend with what I thought was a good relationship with God. After the weekend, my faith was so much stronger and deeper with God. I was amazed at how three days with a bunch of teenagers that I had never met could become so close and how we could share our belief and love for God together so strongly! It is hard to put into words it is just an amazing feeling how much closer my walk with God is now. Then shortly after, I received the call to be on staff for the Happening 65. I was so excited and it was awesome as well. I truly believe God has big plans for me!

They announced there was going to be a "Happening in Honduras". Going was not a hard decision. When it comes down to it, Jesus laid out a pretty simple religion for us, Love God, love others, and love ourselves. I want to help spread the word of God with others around the world. While in Honduras, we will be working in villages around and in El Tigre near Lake Yojoa. We will be rehabilitating a house for the Rivera family and working on other construction sites as needed, and holding a vacation bible school for the children of the village. I am excited about what God is going to do in my life

and in other people's lives through this mission trip. Nope, deciding to go was easy. Paying for it however, is a real challenge!

We will be working with "The Children's Impact Network" this network exists to demonstrate God's love to children and at risk youth through mission projects around the world and to train, equip, and network leaders to do the same. CIN is establishing an orphanage in Honduras, and is in the process of procuring land to build the on. While this land is being secured for the building, CIN will be reaching out to the community by, building/renovating homes and providing activities/ VBS for children. You can get more information about CIN at this web site: <http://www.cinonline.org/>

We leave for Honduras May 31, and arrive in San Pedro Sula, and we will return home June 7. The total cost is \$1,600 for everything, and any amount would be appreciated. All contributions are tax deductible. I will need to raise all my funds by March 15, 2012 in order to pay for airline tickets and other items.

While money is important, it comes in a distant second to our need for your prayer support. We will all need prayers that God will prepare us for our visit and bless our efforts as we minister to the people of El Tigre, Honduras. I Hope that I can count on you in that area. As much as God loves mission trips, other people don't. There will be a whole host of obstacles that pop up and entangle themselves around us, and our lives as we prepare to go to help and share the word of God to the people of El Tigre. Knowing that you are praying would mean a lot to me.

When I get return from Honduras, I will write you or meet with you if time allows to share my experiences and pictures that I take while in Honduras. Than you for taking the time to read my letter. I would consider it in honor to go in Andrew's name.

In HIS Grip.
Sincerely,

John Taber Shank

. Please make your check payable to: HAPPENING MISSIONS
Post Office Box 93
Madison, MS 39130

And write : John Taber Shank on the memo line

I also found out yesterday 1/30 that I get to staff Happening 66! I can't wait to spread the word of God to more teenagers and see how God will work in there life. I am, so pumped!