

May 4, 2008

Dear Family and Friends:

As many of you may remember, last year I had the opportunity to join a group of thirteen folks from my church (Genesis Metro Church) on a week-long mission trip to a remote village in Nicaragua. It was one of the most profoundly awe-inspiring, life-impacting experiences I have ever had. You don't do something like that and come home the same. Purpose is redefined, calling is discovered, and hope springs anew. After that time in Nicaragua, I vowed to myself that I would never miss an opportunity to participate in something like that again.

This summer, I will join a group of over forty people from Genesis Metro on another week-long trip, this time to Honduras. Our group is again sponsored by North Texas Missions (NTM), a non-profit Christian organization in Frisco, Texas. There will be two trips to the same area this year on back-to-back weeks due to the volume of participants! I will be traveling with the first group, August 9-16.

We will be flying to San Pedro Sula, Honduras where we will spend our nights at a local children's home called Faith Home. From there we will travel daily to the village of El Negrito. We will use a school to hold Vacation Bible School for the local children. Across the road we will begin construction of Promise Home being built by NTM to help abused and abandoned children. In addition to Vacation Bible School and the construction work, there will be sports camps for the youth in the area, playing soccer, basketball, baseball, and various other sports. We will have humanitarian efforts throughout the week as well, passing out rice and beans, reaching out to locals and filling the basic needs of people.

The true purpose of these trips is to bring the message of hope available in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Each day our team of local pastors, including my dear friend and pastor Tim Bourne, will be sharing about that hope. I will also, once again, be able to join the music team which is always an exciting venture for me, as it is a passion of mine.

The purpose of this letter is to request two things from you. First and foremost, I need your prayers. Last year I experienced the true power of prayer in ways that I have never before and some pretty amazing things transpired as a result as I prepared for that trip. Prayer works! In addition to prayers, I am asking those that are able, to support my trip financially. The cost of this year's trip is \$1200. I have saved some of the money for the trip—but I have been told that even though I can afford the entire amount, I should still ask for help. The reason is because not everyone is a missionary—but some would like to participate in what I am doing by giving.

I hope that you would *prayerfully* consider supporting my trip. If you decide to give, here are two options as to how to donate:

1. Make a check payable to **Genesis Metro Church** and indicate my name and mission on the notation section of your check. Address is below.
2. Visit my personal web site at **www.wannabrockstar.net** and click on the "Donate" button in the top right under the "About" section.

If you choose to make your donation via Genesis Metro Church, your donation will be tax deductible. Since you will be sending it directly to GMC, I will not know how much—if any—that you give. That really doesn't matter. Your prayers are much more important. And I know that God will provide me with all I need to accomplish his work.

In advance, I just want to say "Thank you" for your prayers and any gift you can provide. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Humbly,

Patrick Russell
(214) 883-4970

P.S. I will once again be blogging about my experiences as I prepare for this year's trip and will also share my reflections from the trip upon my return. You can follow those entries at this address:

www.wannaberockstar.net/?cat=45.

P.P.S. Genesis Metro Church is once again hosting a charity golf tournament to raise financial support for the upcoming trips. The tournament will be held at West Ridge Golf Course in McKinney, Texas on Saturday, June 14. If you would like to put a foursome together and come out to play, let me know. More information and a registration form can be found at **www.genesismetro.org**.