



World Wide Village Incorporated

Not your average Spring Break

(June 17, 2010)

While most high school students spend their spring break doing anything but work, this year one young lady went to Haiti with her parents on an unforgettable mission trip. **Megan Brass**, a recent Mahtomedi high school graduate, spent her final high school spring break on a mission trip in Haiti with World Wide Village, Inc:

How many times have you been to Haiti with WWV, or was this your first time?

This was my first time to Haiti.

From pictures that came back with you, it looks like you visited a school. What struck you the most about the school visit?

We did many things while we were in Haiti. We worked at the tent hospital in Leogane, helping them organize supplies. We also worked at a school in Dumont taking school pictures-the kids loved it. It was such a joy to see them light up when they received their pictures. Such a simple joy. We also taught the kids some crafts. The concept of making a paper snowflake...was pretty far out for them.



On our last day, we went to the Real Hope for Haiti rescue center for malnourished kids in Cazale. It was very sad, but I would say it was my favorite and the best part of the trip. I was completely exhausted by the end of the day, but these kids changed my life more than anything else. They are all sick and could die, but still have the joy and energy of children. The minute I walked in the tent, three little kids came running at me and grabbed onto my legs. I mean, that's adorable. I love every one of those kids and if anyone is complaining of a tough day, physically and/or emotionally, that is where I would send them in Haiti. Bath time was one of the toughest parts for me. With their clothes on, the kids looked normal and almost like healthy little kids. After we took their clothes off for their bath, the reality showed. That is something that will make you cry-I could see all of their ribs, bones and big tummies from malnutrition.

You were at the school during a mealtime-was there anything that surprised you?

Nothing really surprised me about their mealtime, except for the large amount of food they received. Being the only school in the area that served kids lunch, it was most kids' only meal of the day (maybe even the week if they had not been to school). The large portions for these hungry kids were good to see. The principal's wife also made us a meal on our last day there-such a wonderful gift for her to give us, and it was delicious. The school in Dumont was so full of hope and joy. Although they do not have much, its very clear the principal and teachers truly care.

How did going to Haiti change how you face life back in the United States?



I have done mission work before and always seem to find myself changed when I come home. I truly believe that doing mission work changes the missionary more than the people we go to help. This trip certainly made me so grateful for all the blessings and things I have in my life-such as a home that will withstand the rain...and even an earthquake.

What was the most encouraging part of the trip for you?

The most encouraging part of the trip for me was seeing the resilience of the Haitian people. Although [because of the earthquake] they have lost almost everything they have, they still have joy...going to church was definitely encouraging. The people with their broken drums and squeaky microphones praised and sang all through the hour and a half of worship. I found

myself in tears listening to the children singing their hearts out behind me. Music is a huge part of my life and worship songs are a universal praise. Even if the songs are not in my language, the power of music shows God's love and power in crazy ways.

How would you encourage others to pray for Haiti?

I would ask people to pray for a better life for the Haitian people. It is sad to me that it takes something as awful as an earthquake to make people realize that the people of Haiti really need help. They have needed help for many years, and missions have known that but I am not sure other people do. I would pray for God to put it on peoples' hearts to go and help in any way they can-not just now, but for many years to come.

How would you respond to someone indicating fear/nervousness about going to Haiti?

If anyone is nervous about going to do work in Haiti, PRAY!! God has obviously put it on your heart to go. I would say pray, have God take your fears away-He knows what He wants to do with you there even though you may not know what you are doing. For sure go-do not let your fears and anxieties stop you from going on a life-changing trip.



As a young person, how do you think your life and world view were affected by your trip to Haiti? What kind of impact has the trip had on plans for your future?

I would say my life

was affected by bringing God and my faith more to the front of my brain and apparent in my everyday life. It is hard being a teenager, being a Christian, and trying to live the way I should. The trip also made me more reflective. I'm not sure it is a good or bad thing, but it made me think a lot about everything. Going off to college and choosing a school was difficult, and it is a daily challenge for me to find the path that God has laid out for me. I never know which way to go and I second-guess just about every decision I make. But I have to say I'm so glad I went to Haiti. It was the best way for me to spend my high school senior year spring break! I even got a nice suntan. The people (especially the children) of Haiti hold a special place in my heart forever. I would love to go back.

If you are interested in participating in a future mission trip with World Wide Village, Inc. and forever making a difference in your own life as well as in the life of Haitians, please feel free to contact our office at (651) 777-6908. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience!

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