



# ***World Wide Village Inc.***

## **Gibbons' Interview- April 27, 2010**

One of our core philosophies here at World Wide Village is that in order to truly understand the state of the Haitian nation, it is imperative to see it firsthand. Starting this week, World Wide Village Inc., will be publishing a short series featuring interviews with people who have recently traveled to Haiti with WWV. In the weeks to come, you will read stories of what people did while on their trips, what made them think, and how the trip touched their lives. We begin the series with an interview with Nikki Gibbons:

### **Interview with Nikki Gibbons:**

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

This was my first time going to Haiti.

***What activities did you participate in? Where did you go? What did you see?***

We went to the village of Luly, which was also the first time the Mortensens had been there. We were able to establish what will hopefully be an ongoing relationship with this village. Through WWV, we provided Luly with a water purification system and the resources to build much-needed benches for their overflowing church, which has been forced to meet under a canopy outside since the earthquake damaged their building. We also went to a rescue center where the men helped paint their new buildings and the women did some filing and loved on the precious little children recovering from malnourishment.

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

Seeing first-hand the extreme poverty and poor living conditions has given me the knowledge to never be able to forget what I saw, or neglect the desperate needs throughout the world. I am more passionate about 'doing my part' and I definitely want to travel back to Haiti and other parts of the world.

***What was the most encouraging part of the trip? Discouraging?***

The most encouraging part was meeting and interacting with the sweet Haitian people. It was awesome to know that we helped them in various ways, and I was so amazed at how genuinely thankful they were. I was also very encouraged by the joy that the Haitian people show in spite of all their current circumstances.

I was very discouraged by the poor living conditions and the fact that so many people lost their homes due to the earthquake and are living in tents or under tarps and sheets. Even more discouraging is the fact that they have to start all over to rebuild what little they had.

***What would you like anyone who has never been to Haiti to know?***

We need to be thankful for what we have. We also need to pray for this nation, one that has so much poverty, disease, and poor access to many basic necessities that we take for granted.



***What should the general public keep in mind while watching news about Haiti's recovery from the earthquake?***

The media is only capturing a very small portion of the damage and recovery. There are endless needs that are not highlighted.



***How would you describe the work being done in Haiti by WWV?***

Their work is helping to improve the quality of peoples' lives every day. They are intentional about building relationships with communities/villages and then empowering the local people with the tools necessary to carry out what WWV has helped them establish. WWV is helping to feed hundreds of kids every day, kids who otherwise may not know where their next meal is coming from.

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

I would say that it is probably very common for someone who has never been there to experience fear and nervousness, as they are stepping out of their comfort zone and into unknown territory. I would encourage them that God will protect them, and that they will be so touched and changed and blessed by this trip, that it is not worth allowing their fears to keep them from going to help the Haitian people.

**If you are interested in participating in a future WWV trip to Haiti, please feel free to call our office at 651-777-6908 for more information. It will change your life and the lives of those you work with in Haiti!**

***Donations can be made via our website by going to our website ([www.worldwidevillage.org](http://www.worldwidevillage.org)) or by mailing checks to:***

***World Wide Village, Inc.  
2515 White Bear Avenue, Suite A8-205  
St. Paul, MN 55109***

**Donations received for earthquake relief will be used solely for the recovery and rebuilding of Haiti.**