

World Wide Village

IMPACT TRIP HANDBOOK



I went to Haiti and...

I received the gift of song from children who had nothing else to give.

I held a child who was once malnourished, but who is now strong.

I witnessed God working in the world and gave thanks I had eyes to see.

I went to Haiti to save others, and it was me who was saved.

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Welcome! We are so excited that you are joining us on this Impact Trip and know that God has called you to be a part of what He is doing in Haiti.

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World Wide Village: Our Story

In 2006, Randy & Pat Mortensen traveled to Haiti and experienced the poverty and beauty of the Haitian people up close and personal. Along with a group of entrepreneurs from Minnesota, they pledged to support Haitian families with funding, resources, expertise and a Biblical approach to address poverty, health, education and spiritual needs.

From 2006-2010 World Wide Village partnered with local Haitian leaders to begin the process of helping build sustainable communities. Education is the cornerstone of building these communities, so with the help of faithful supporters, World Wide Village assisted two pastors in building new schools in the rural villages of Williamson & Luly, Haiti.

"I started this school here in 2000. I saw a lot of kids in the streets. There was nowhere to go to school. So I started gathering the kids from the streets. We had about 16 to 18 students. A lot

of times the families aren't able to pay for the tuition. It was about that time we met World Wide Village. They started helping me pay teachers. And this is when the school started to grow. All together we have about 500 students now. This is a big blessing. I fell in love with this community because I felt deep in my heart that this is where God wanted me."

Pastor Joassaint – Williamson, Haiti

During this time, World Wide Village also saw a substantial need for better housing. Many Haitians live in poorly constructed tarp or mud homes. Since 2010, WWV has trained many local Haitians to work alongside American construction crews to build new homes for families in need. To date, WWV has assisted in building over 55 homes in Haiti.

Then on January 12, 2010, tragedy struck. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit near the capital of Haiti. Upward of 300,000 Haitians were killed during the earthquake as pre-existing poverty and poor housing conditions exacerbated the devastating effects.

Pastor Joassaint



World Wide Village responded to this crisis by meeting the immediate needs of the people by providing thousands of Haitian people with emergency medical care, food and clean drinking water.

As the immediate needs of the earthquake passed, it was possible for WWV and the leaders of Williamson and Luly to resume working toward the development of sustainable communities once more. These

efforts included working closely with Haitian pastors and community leaders to discuss their needs, their resources and their goals for their communities.

These discussions led to the vision for *City on a Hill*, a project to revitalize these rural communities with access to:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Vocational training opportunities
- Enhancements in agri-business
- Additional housing
- Spiritual growth and development



As WWV has moved forward with plans for building sustainable communities, it's clear that the foundation of these communities needs to be a strong local church that is rooted in the word of God. Thanks to American church partners with a heart for discipleship, a new pastor's coalition, pastoral training, and local discipleship groups have taken root.

World Wide Village envisions a time when education will be widespread in Haiti, healthcare will be available to all, and faith in Jesus Christ will be a catalyst for the re-establishment of the family unit, healthy children, and economic stability.



Haiti: A Radically Different Culture

Haiti is a country on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea. The entire country of Haiti is about the size of Maryland, but is home to over 1.7 times as many people. Haiti makes up the western 1/3 of the island and the Dominican Republic make up the eastern 2/3 of the island. World Wide Village primarily serves in the communities of Williamson and Luly, Haiti. These rural villages are located 28 miles north of the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The entire region of the Williamson/Luly area has a population of approximately 50,000 people.

Haiti's roots include slavery by Spanish settlers, infiltration of the French, and years of corrupt government. In 1804 after a revolution, the nation of Haiti was proclaimed. From this time, what formed was technically one country, but in reality there were two separate countries. There was the official nation of Haiti, ruled by the government, but centered in the main cities. These cities were controlled by the small property owning elite. But the vast majority of Haitian people lived in the rural areas and didn't belong to "Haiti" in any normal sense of the term. Unfair trade allowed the elite class to make a substantial income, while the masses were only given essentials for living. In 1957 Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier became president and changed the constitution to make himself President for life. Tens of thousands of Haitians were killed or exiled during his reign and that of his son ("Baby Doc") and money meant to help the people of Haiti was stolen by their regimes. By this time Haiti had become the poorest country in the western hemisphere – with deforestation and the loss of topsoil hurting agriculture and the economy.

Then in 2010, a catastrophic earthquake left even more devastating effects, with up to 217,300 people dead and 2.1 million injured or homeless. Currently, nearly 80 percent of Haitians live in poverty and only 52.9 percent of adults are able to read and write. But that's not the end of the story. Haiti – now a democracy, has much improved leadership in the government. Literacy rates continue to improve as more and more children attend school, thanks to student sponsorship programs. The cycle of illiteracy and poverty is being broken one child at a time.



American Culture vs. Haitian Culture

When traveling to Haiti, you will probably notice a radical cultural difference between life in America and life in Haiti. The degree of poverty may shock you and the differences in lifestyle may be very eye opening and life changing. This is a brief summary of some of the differences noted in culture. Keep in mind that these values do not represent everyone in that culture, but tend to be the cultural norm.

- 1) American culture values individualism while Haitian culture values community. Americans live by the motto of "pulling yourself up by your boot-straps." In contrast, Haitians care for others in their community, often bringing in and caring for orphans and other family members
- 2) American culture is task-oriented and puts great value on achievement while Haitian culture has a slower pace of life. Americans say, "get it done" and "time is money." In Haiti, efficiency is not the number one priority.

- 3) American culture is scientifically oriented while Haitian culture is spiritually oriented. For Americans, life is explained scientifically, including illness, creation, suffering, etc... In Haiti, most aspects of life can also be explained spiritually.

The Language Barrier

The main language of Haiti is Creole. Creole is very similar to French, which is spoken by the elite and those in government in Haiti. In working with a translator, here are a few helpful tips to remember:

- Use easy words, not slang
- Speak slowly (but not too slowly)
- Don't look at the translator when speaking; look at your audience
- Give only 1-2 sentences or phrases at a time

