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Tiffani Smith: We would like to thank you for interviewing with Crossroads to Freedom. Would you please state your name and date of birth for the record?

Richard Gibbs: My name is Richard B. Gibbs, and my date of birth is August 24, 1938.

Tiffani Smith: Where were you born?

Richard Gibbs: I was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Tiffani Smith: Who are your parents?

Richard Gibbs: My parents are – I was born to **Mathilda** Wilhelmina Maxwell Gibbs. It's a long name. My father was Monroe Allen Gibbs.

Tiffani Smith: What were their occupations?

Richard Gibbs: My mother was a sort of a domestic housekeeper. My father was a jack of all trades. His last type of work that he has ever done before passing and retiring, he worked as basically an electronic inspector for the Navy.

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Tiffani Smith: Okay. Do you have any brothers or sister?

Richard Gibbs: Yes. Alive I have three – one, two, three brothers and one sister.

Tiffani Smith: What are their occupations?

Richard Gibbs: Quite variable. The eldest brother is retired from the post office.

Tiffani Smith: State their names too as well.

Richard Gibbs: That's Vincent. Monroe, he is an attorney, and he is still in practice. I have another brother, Douglas, and he works for an automobile parts company in Carolina.

Tiffani Smith: Okay. I noticed that you said alive. Do you have any deceased brothers or sisters?

Richard Gibbs: Yes, quite a few, yeah.

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Richard Gibbs: The most recent deceased was Valerie. Her name was Valerie Maxwell. She was an RN, and she passed probably 8 or 10 years ago. About 20 years ago, my eldest sister, Bernice, she passed. She was an LPN in St. Thomas. My eldest brother, he passed many years ago, probably 30 years ago or more, and he was a sort of a jack of all trades; sort of a painter, house painter. I had another sister who passed some years back that was Gennie or Genevieve. Gennie was a politician –

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- never really elected to office, but she was in St. Thomas a politician. Other than that, she was a housewife. That was the crux of the immediate family. There was quite a few.

Tiffani Smith: We're going to talk about some of your experiences growing up. Could you tell me about the neighborhood that you grew up in?

Richard Gibbs: The neighborhood?

Tiffani Smith: Yeah.

Richard Gibbs: My early years up to about age 13, I was in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, so the essence of who I am really started there. You did the usual things. You had many aspirations as a child. Sometimes I have visited and tried to reflect as to –

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- what influenced my life at that time, and I can't put it on any one thing as such, but I always felt sort of a need to be in the health delivery system or to be a doctor in person, even from a very small childhood. For some unknown reasons, the older people around me felt it was a good idea. So, I think some of that prompt and my personal passion for being in the health delivery system sort of was founded in that area. That's something I always wanted to try to do. I came to New York at about age 13, and that's where I grew up into my teen years.

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We lived on Downing Street; not number 10 Downing Street, but 46 Downing Street and 74 Downing Street. Number 10 Downing Street, you know where that is, right?

Tiffani Smith: No.

Richard Gibbs: That's in England. Number 10 Downing Street, that's where the Prime Minister of England lives, okay?

Tiffani Smith: (Laughter)

Richard Gibbs: That has nothing to do with New York, but in Brooklyn, New York, the general area is called Bedford **Styverson**, and in the New York area you sort of identify your associates or yourself according to what street you lived on and what block. So, people within a certain block area tend to have some association. Mostly within the same block, -

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- you develop some friendships and so forth. So, I went to high school and part of my elementary school in Brooklyn. High school I finished at Boys High in Brooklyn. It has since changed it's name. It is now Boys and Girls High. There used to be a Boys High and a Girls High, but it's combined now. After doing that, I worked for a few years, and then I applied to Howard University where I finished a Bachelor's Degree. I spent a little while in graduate school. Thereafter I decided to – well, I always wanted to go to medical school, as I said before, but I was accepted to **Meharry** first and then I was accepted to Howard University on my way to Meharry.

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The same day I was leaving, I received an acceptance letter from Howard, but Meharry had sort of given me a first consideration, so I went to Meharry, which is in Nashville. So, I did my medicine there, and that's where it all sort of continued from.

Tiffani Smith: How different was it for you moving from the Virgin Islands to the United States? What were some things that you immediately noticed as different?

Richard Gibbs: Well, it had snow. It had a winter and in St. Thomas it's the Caribbean. It is tropical, and it is hot all the time. People complain about heat, the temperature in New York, but I couldn't understand why. It didn't make much sense, but when you have a change in climate from –

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- summer, winter, spring, and snow and so forth, then it becomes meaningful as to temperature changes. New York was a place that had so many more things to see and to do. It seemed to me the gateway to opportunity and that's the way we looked at New York or Chicago or Florida where people would migrate from. I say migrate, but the Virgin Islands is part of the United States, but when you left the island you were looking for more opportunities or options. So, New York had many more things to offer. It had lots of playlands, which we didn't have on the islands, Coney Island. You had 42nd Street, multiple movies houses, and things to see.

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You had the Statue of Liberty. Then you can go and really do sightseeing on every week almost every day to see something. So, New York was full of culture and history, and that was interesting to me.

Tiffani Smith:

I noticed that you said that some of your sisters and brothers were still in the St. Virgin Islands. Did they come to New York with you or did they stay?

Richard Gibbs:

Well, the progression – back then, and it may still be somewhat the same now – people left the islands one at a time or so, and then somebody else would get on their feet, and they will invite somebody else to come and so forth. You see some of that kind of thinking for progress in Africans today who come to the United States.

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You see it in the Hispanic, when they come from Mexico, Puerto Rico or otherwise. In one come, and then another come, and a friend or a relative allow you to stay and so forth. That's how people came. My immediate living relatives, they are all within the United States, but we're dispersed. One brother lives here, who is an attorney. My retired brother is in the Georgia area and another is in Carolinas. I have a sister who is in Rhode Island. So, we don't cluster. We tend to be adventurous and we carve our own destiny.

Tiffani Smith:

How did your family react when you decided to practice medicine? How did your community react? How did that make a decision on your lifestyle as well?

Richard Gibbs: Well, it wasn't –

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Everyone felt at some time – I don't think it was a reaction one way or the other. This is something I've always thought I would like to do. So, my getting accepted to medical school was a quantity that was fairly well accepted, and some people felt pretty happy about it. The joy of going to medical school was okay. Finishing medical school was more important. It's a journey, and it's not an easy journey. It's one that you have to be just a little bit obsessive about in order to finish the whole matter. So, as far as the family, they felt okay. As far as myself, I think I've expressed that.

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The medical school was getting your foot in the door, that opportunity. I applied to many medical schools, but the historically black schools saw that there may be something in this particular individual. So, I think I made a reasonable choice. Everything has worked well.

Tiffani Smith: When you said you graduated from high school, and you worked a couple of years, where did you work and what did you do?

Richard Gibbs: Well, I worked in New York, and I worked for a handbag company. They made designer handbags. It was a small craft store on Madison Avenue, and they had one on Lexington Avenue. My job was basically that, just a handy person who delivered, picked up -

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- items, assisted in the preparation for making handbags, and stocking the shelves, and keeping the building in order. So, basically sort of a handy person.

Tiffani Smith: That's when you applied to Howard, right?

Richard Gibbs: Yes.

Tiffani Smith: For undergrad?

Richard Gibbs: Yeah.

Tiffani Smith: What year? How old were you when you went to Howard?

Richard Gibbs: Well, that's a good question. *(Laughter)* That's a good question, hmm. That was probably in 1959 or thereabout. I think it was 1959. It was a long time ago, a long time ago. I look back some, but I do maybe a little bit more now. My life has been looking forward, not looking back.

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I was in Washington, D.C. I think last year, and I just took time out to rent a car and drive around, and just try to reflect and see the way I was many years ago, and the where I am now. The city hasn't changed but so much, but I can appreciate a little bit of the fact that there has been some change in my life in terms of what I've done and where I've been from back then. So, Howard experience was very good. It's a nice cosmopolitan group of people, and you saw folks from just about every part of the world. It has a lot of West Indians at Howard University, so I felt comfortable –

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- because there were people like me. In fact, I ran into two of my early childhood competitors or schoolmates. One was a year or two ahead of me because he went directly into college and so forth. The other and I were starting at the same level because he was out doing a number of things. Interestingly, all three of us went into medicine. So, the influence of the islands began this idea of medicine.

Tiffani Smith: So you had a lot of activity going on in the United States. It was very active at that time period. What was it like even working at the company where you did the handbags and going to college during this hotbed in the United States with everything going on?

Richard Gibbs: In New York, I just did my thing.

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In New York, I and my associates were primarily people within that block, two blocks, the neighborhood that I grew up with, and there were some things that were changing. The terminology of calling people instead of being black, they were changing to African-American, Afro-American, things of that sort. In Washington, D.C. in the early days at Howard University, there

was a lot of little sittings going on in Baltimore and some of the other areas around, but I elected not to be a part -

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- of these activities just to keep my nose clean and not be locked up. So, that was when Stokely Carmichael if you might remember. He was at Howard University at the same time, and we were in the same time frame. Him and the other guy named Kahn were very good friends. He was white, and it was rather interesting some years later I saw Mr. Stokely Carmichael and he was always anti-white. He went to Africa, which was fine, and he established his home there, but I remembered back when he was at Howard University. It was a mixed group of people, white and black, who were participating in little –

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- activities in Baltimore and several other places. How he made that shift, I never really understood why he shifted to almost a radical position. It was a good experience overall. I made my way through Howard University by doing a variety of different job skills. Basically, dishwashing, cab driving, and taxiing. Basically, these were things that were readily available in order to make the tuition and several things of that sort. [knock on door] That may be my mail person.

Tiffani Smith: Do you want us to stop?

Richard Gibbs: If you could stop.

Tiffani Smith: Okay.

Richard Gibbs: Well, we were talking about –

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Tiffani Smith: Okay. What I wanted to ask you did you feel like – I know you said in your blog you lived your own world. You were kind of separated from everything. Do you feel like your family kept an environment where you didn't have to be involved in what was going on? How did your family deal with it, or how did you deal with it personally, in just kind of keeping to what you had going on?

Richard Gibbs: Well, are you talking about in New York or otherwise?

Tiffani Smith: Mm-hmm.

Richard Gibbs: New York was just regular, and people, your friends, your socials, your parties, your house parties or you went on boat rides or Coney Island, you moved around. There was nothing too unusual about that. That's the way people did things in New York. Things may be a little different now, but you just sort of float around

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- and sort of associate with your friends and so forth. So, it wasn't an unusual experience. There may have been a variety of things happening, but there was nothing that was changing my course of action.

Tiffani Smith: When you went to school and saw all these things going on, and you felt not to be involved, did you feel like you were treated differently as an islander, or do you feel like it was the same kind of understanding or basis of what was going on in D.C. at the time?

Richard Gibbs: Well, let me say this, back in when I went to Howard University, there were some concerns about racism, and the segregation and so forth that were expressed. Coming from -

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- the Virgin Islands and the West Indies, generally the thinking process was probably maybe a little different. It's not that I didn't feel or that other West Indians did not feel connected with the American blacks; it's just that our emphasis was getting an education, and that way you can change the world, you see? The sense of oppression was not fully experienced by me. When I was in New York, I went wherever I felt like going or where my parents went and so forth.

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So, there was really not much restriction. When I was in Washington, D.C., I kind of moved around where I wished, and not really feeling very limited. There is a different thinking process of being limited or being somewhat excluded, and I didn't feel excluded. The African-Americans might have felt a little bit differently, a little bit more intense. That may have been a little difference there, not that I disagree but I said, "Well, I've gotta get this stuff together," and that was basically the way I looked at it.

Tiffani Smith: Do you feel like -

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- it really changed when you came from Howard to Meharry, going from the North to the South? Did you notice any differences?

Richard Gibbs:

Yeah, there was a little bit on the matter of mobility. I still that had that feeling as to I can go and do whatever I wish, but in Nashville there was some sense of people sort of didn't quite go certain places. When I was at Meharry, I would go downtown. One of my good friends, a roommate who was from Ghana, Africa, we would go different places, and we would see very little black people.

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Some people on the campus wondered why we would go to some of these places. Well, we would go to a theater or a nightclub or a restaurant downtown and we were okay. The years went by, and I can see when I go to Nashville sometime, I'll travel those areas and black people are – they move around, but back then they didn't. They kind of – it seemed like it was a little bit more limited or they limited themselves. I'm not sure which one it was, but I just traveled. It might have been not really knowing there was some potential dangers or otherwise. Being young, I guess I didn't really care that much about it.

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There was a difference, a little difference in the mobility in Nashville. Then there were other events that came along after, and you began to realize that there is a difference of how things are done in the South compared to, say, Washington, D.C. or New York or even back in the islands, but that still didn't limit me per se.

Tiffani Smith:

Can you go a little bit more into detail about what you mean other experiences or something that may have come to mind about how different it was?

Richard Gibbs:

From Washington?

Tiffani Smith:

To the South?

Richard Gibbs:

To the South? That socialization matter is probably about the -

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- one thing that I think was kind of outstanding, but over the years having lived in Tennessee most of my life now, I have learned that when you deal with law enforcement, you just have to be a little more tactful on what you say and how you say it. That can sometimes be a little bit of a problem. Speeding tickets, making the wrong turn or otherwise, those are the things that I've sort of noticed. I've sort of learned –

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- to kind of adjust my freestyle thinking or speech a little bit to some degree. I'm talking now on a different level, but I get really excited. *(Laughter)* It's a little different. It's a little different. Those are just a couple of things that I've noticed. The socialization factors are a little different. In the arena of where I am right now, in the arena of dermatology, when I came to Memphis some years ago, I came here as a medical officer with public health service.

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I just noticed that there weren't many black physicians in the area. It was very obvious. When I thought about where I would want to open up a practice, I talked with Dr. Kenny, who is my preceptor at Howard University in dermatology. He said, "Just select any city." I looked at places where there were a lot of black people and not many physicians. Atlanta at that time was not as populated as it is now, and Louisiana, and I had spent time in Tennessee as a general medical officer. The people were pretty okay. So, I said, "Well, let's look at Memphis, Tennessee."

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So, I wound up in Memphis, Tennessee. It has been a good experience. What I can tell you from a black perspective, a black dermatologist and a black physician, in the South I think black people appreciate the fact that someone is taking time out to develop some skills to address some of their concerns. So that is something that I've become very aware of in my specialty area. So, not to say –

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- that people are not evaluated by other physicians or other ethnic groups, but every day I'm here and someone says, "Well, I just wanted to get another opinion," or something of the sort. It's not that I, as a black or African-American physician, is more knowledgeable. It's just that I'll look at things a little bit different. I just kind of look at the skin and I'll look at the individual a little bit different. I have a tendency to probably take a little bit more time than I need to as I deal with patients. To some degree, I think maybe the patients appreciate that.

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So, those are some things that I have gathered over the years. Some people seem to think, well, they go to the doctor and I'm in and out or they don't come in and say anything; or they never put their hand on the patient. Sometimes African-Americans begin to feel a little bit different if a physician doesn't at least touch their skin, and I can understand some of that. One of my preceptors, Dr. Johnson back at Meharry told us years ago when you have a skin problem and you are dealing with a patient, always touch your patient. Always touch your patient, whether you shake their hand or you look at their skin, touch them.

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So, it seemed to make a difference to some degree. Those are little bits of things in the art and science, more of the art of medicine.

Tiffani Smith: Could tell us when did you move to Memphis from Nashville?

Richard Gibbs: Pardon?

Tiffani Smith: When did you move to Memphis, what year?

Richard Gibbs: I believe I think it was in 1976. I was at Howard University for several years in dermatology, and then I came here, and I spent about 6 months in the dermatology program at the University of Tennessee. It was sort of requirements for completing a certain number of years in residency or preceptorship program. I thought I would want to stay here, -

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- so I was trying to work out some system to be in the area and make the transition. I looked at Atlanta as an option, but they weren't as welcoming to make the kind of transition, sort of 6

months transition area. So, the banks were interested too, so they were welcoming. I was able to do okay in the Memphis area. So, I have been in the area since about 1976 directly. Before that, I had been here for several years before going to do dermatology. I gave a short period of time in pediatrics. When I left I was a general medical officer in public health service. Then I left here, and I started to do pediatrics.

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During that time is when I met Dr. Kenney – he is now passed – and I joined his program in dermatology, sort of a destiny I guess kind of thing. I happened to be there, and I always had an interest in dermatology. So, I used to go hang out and look when he came to dermatology clinics. When he wasn't there, I would see patients, so we got to talking about my joining his program at some time, and a spot became available. So, he offered me a spot to join his program. The things in dermatology – it's a little different now. It's still sort of who you know, but it's a little bit different, a little bit different compared to what it was back then.

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I don't know if I've answered your question of when I traveled from – I didn't come directly from Nashville. I came indirectly and I was in Washington, D.C., and then I came back. I was here first, and then I went to Washington, D.C., and then I came back here. I've been here more or less ever since leaving for short periods of time and continuing education and vacation and things like that. Tennessee is my home, adopted.

Tiffani Smith: Do you have any children?

Richard Gibbs: Yes, I have two sons.

Tiffani Smith: Oh, I'm sorry. Were you married?

Richard Gibbs: Yes, I am still married.

Tiffani Smith: What year were you married?

Richard Gibbs: That's a good question. That's a good question. I think we've been married about going on 45 years.

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Tiffani Smith: How did you meet your wife and where did you?

Richard Gibbs: She worked a Meharry at that time when I was a student then. So we got to talking and going out and so forth. It was back in the day, like I said. My colleague, Dr. Neal Dome, who was from Ghana, we would go different places, and sometimes she would be one of my dates. So, we got to be comfortable with each other. So it worked out.

Tiffani Smith: You got married in 1940 – what is it?

Richard Gibbs: Oh, I got – 1960 – ooh! These are good questions you know.

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You've gotta sort of prep me for that. Let's see. I think we got married in 1968, 1968.

Tiffani Smith: This is while you were still in Nashville?

Richard Gibbs: Yeah, yeah. I was still in Nashville. I was in medical school. I think I was in my third year of medical school or thereabout. We had two sons. One son was born in 1960 – ooh, I don't know. Anyway, he is about 41 or thereabout and he was born in Nashville. The other son was born here. He is about 38 or so. So that's the family group.

Tiffani Smith: What are their names?

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Richard Gibbs: My eldest son is Richard Timothy Gibbs and my youngest son is Joseph Christopher Gibbs. Joseph is – he works for Autozone, and right now he lives in D.C., but that's where his assignment is, but he is back and forth to the Memphis area. Richard Timothy, he is in California, Los Angeles, and he works this kind of – he helps with productions and the visual fields. ETV is one of the places that he works, and he sort of bums around in the television business. So, that's the group.

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None of them felt determined to do medicine. I kind of let them decide what they wanted to do rather than encourage them or force them into medicine. Medicine, I think you do better with when you select it for yourself as opposed to someone telling you that's

what you have to do. I don't think it works well like that. It's a journey that one should do when you have the passion for it. If you don't, then don't do it. It's a lot of work. It's fun after a while. It's a lot of work getting started.

Tiffani Smith: What was it like getting married and starting a family during that time period? You were in school. You were going back and forth trying to find out where you were going to be for medicine. What was it like juggling that and the family?

Richard Gibbs: It was not a problem, yeah. It wasn't really a problem, -

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- just sort of a progression in terms of some people sort of the way you want to raise children and so forth – well, most of the growing up years was right here in Memphis, so they grew up right here. A year or two some place and a year or two some place, and then we settled here in Memphis, Tennessee. It really wasn't much of a heavy decision making on that part.

Tiffani Smith: As a dermatologist today in Memphis, Tennessee, are there some things that you have noticed throughout your career that you felt were important or things that you might have wanted to pass on or tell somebody else as far as your life experience?

Richard Gibbs: That's a lot to say.

Tiffani Smith: (Laughter)

Richard Gibbs: Life experiences?

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Find a passion, and stick with it. It may not come today or tomorrow, but find a passion. I think everybody if they have a passion, then your talent kind of blends with it. That's what I think. I happen to want to help people. That's been my childhood matter. I think it's a key element to selecting what I'm in and sort of the journey that I've taken. That's, again, it goes back to a passion, something you think that you – call it a calling. That's another way. You want to call it a passion or a calling, -

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- something that you are comfortable with in yourself, and feel that this is what you want to do to contribute to the world, to society, to your God, all of those things. That's what I do and feel pretty good about it. So, that's what I can pass on to anybody is find passion. There's always a place for something that you can do, and do it well. I tell folks if you are going to be a domestic, do it well. If you are going to dig ditches, do it well. Wealth and success is not something that just comes out of the clear blue sky.

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Given time and the passion and determination, one can make a living as well as make some contribution. That's what medicine is about, for me anyway; providing something that we can share and maybe improve the quality of life for many people. That's what we do in medicine and dermatology likewise. So, that's what you want to – if you want to pass anything, passion. Stick with it and it'll happen. Anything else?

Tiffani Smith:

I know that you are very passionate, of course, about dermatology. Do you feel like there is something specific that you, Dr. Gibbs, have added to Memphis, Tennessee as a dermatologist; like to the community?

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Richard Gibbs:

What did I bring to Memphis? When I came to Memphis some years ago many black people did not know what a dermatologist does or who was a dermatologist. Dermatology, those that had some idea of a dermatologist was, felt that it was just for wealthy people. Not intentionally, but just to let people know that I was here to provide some services, I did a number of radio shows and television shows and so forth. I find that most people know something about a dermatologist. I think I contributed a little bit to that.

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I'm not patting myself too much on the back, but I had a patient in about a month ago, and we were doing some procedures that she had elected to do. She began to relate back in time as to the shows that I used to do, and all these other things that I had just passed upon. So, I say that because that's 25 years or more that she was talking about. I've been in this particular location for about 24 years, but I was on **Lamar May** airwaves in **Orange Mount** area for

a number of years, and she even remembered when I was there. I also had an experience some years ago. I saw one patient.

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It was a senior patient at the time, but I had written a note for her many years earlier, and she still had the note. I thought that was interesting. So, I think I have enlightened people in general in the community that dermatology is sort of concern about your skin and improving the quality of life. It is not just for other people, but black people can also inquire about those things. So, I think over the years I have been able to allow people to feel good about themselves in many respects, and also to go out and inquire about their concerns. So, those were little things that were done not intending –

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- to change the world, but I think it has changed the world – well, at least in Tennessee to some degree in the Memphis area. So, that I think is sort of something that has helped people in general. It's been a fair exchange. It's been kind of rewarding. I had a patient who came to me not too long ago from Jackson, Tennessee, and I said, "That's a long way to travel," but that happens on occasion. He said, "Well, the doctors that I've been to, my primary doctors, they don't know what they keep asking. They don't know. They are not sure why." When I walked into the exam room, I can see what his problem was.

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I didn't understand why it was such a mystery. Hopefully, I was able to give him some information that will allow him to get a better understanding of what's going on with him, his skin. Maybe he will feel better and his family and everybody else will feel a little bit better about it. The skin is not always respected by primary physicians or pediatricians, which it should be because 30 percent of pediatric problems are the skin problems. Some primary doctors might say, "Well, I don't know what this is, and you'll have to see a dermatologist," and this sort of thing, but if they take a few minutes, they can probably at least give the patient some kind of guide –

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- as to what is going on with them, that they are not going to die tomorrow or something of that sort. People sometimes get that kind of feeling. So those informational type of things have been sort of, I think, helpful for people in general.

Tiffani Smith: So, I know you have been in dermatology for a very long time. Do you see yourself taking a break any time soon, or do you still feel like this is something you have to do because it is?

Richard Gibbs: What dermatology?

Tiffani Smith: Yes sir.

Richard Gibbs: I'm in my last phase of dermatology, yeah. I'm moving towards the sort of retirement phase of dermatology. I'm in the retirement phase of my life. I would like to step aside, and hopefully some other people will come forward and share the practice and maybe turn it over to somebody else. I'm giving myself –

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- probably another year if that much or a year and a half, and I think I will have been at it for a long time. I never complained and never cared about getting up early in the morning. It's always been who I was. I got up at 4:00 or 5:00. I still do to some degree, but I'm finding it a little bit more like a job to get up and come to work. This was not work; it was just something I did. It was fun! So, it's time for me to sort of step aside, and some days I find that I look at the clock at 2:00 or 3:00, and I never did that before. So, it's time to step aside. There are little signs that come

[00:51:00]

- when you've been at the business for a while. So, I just step back and think about it, that I need to maybe just step aside. I always felt I would work until I died, but I don't think I necessarily need to do that. I think I need to sort of step aside at a certain time, and so that's why I'm in my last phase doing my service to the community and to my God and to myself. So what do I do after that? I may still do some dermatology, but not necessarily being totally responsible and having to be accountable for everything. There may be a limited type of thing; one day here, two days here or there; not necessarily here or somewhere else.

[00:52:00]

That's what you do when you retire. You don't totally close the book. You've gotta turn the page and hopefully that will work out.

Tiffani Smith: Do you have any further questions? No?

NeNe Bafford: Is there something that we haven't asked that you would like to add or any lasting words that you would like to give us as professionals, young professionals?

Richard Gibbs: Passion.

NeNe Bafford: *(Laughter)*

Richard Gibbs: Take your passion and run with it. That's basically what – in what you do, try to keep a feeling as though you are making a little contribution to your community or society. I think it's not just a job.

[00:53:00]

You're doing something that you like, but it should also have some kind of connection with those people around you. That's what I can give you all more or less, keep your passion. We all have our talents, but we need to keep that passion going. You'll do well, and we'll probably see you all. You may not do Oprah Winfrey or some of that stuff, but you will probably get there because you're young, and there's plenty of room up at the top. It takes a little while. Well, it's been fun.

Tiffani Smith: Well, thank you so much for interviewing with Crossroads to Freedom, and letting us having the busiest time of one of your days. Thank you.

NeNe Bafford: Thank you.

Richard Gibbs: Okay, well.

[End of Audio]