



WORKING TOGETHER

Tiyende Pamodzi

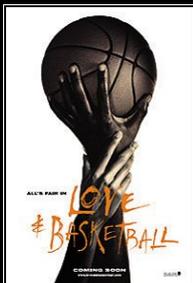
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NOW SHOWING

FEBRUARY 14:
Love and Basketball



FEBRUARY 28:
Malcolm X



American Center 5:30 PM
FREE

American Embassy Lusaka
Public Affairs Section
American Center
COMESA Building
Ben Bella Road
P.O. Box 32053, 10101
Lusaka, Zambia
Phone 260-1-227-993/4

HIV
24hrs *talkline*
"talk to a friend"
Call 990

Free on

ON THE ROAD IN LUAPULA



The road from Kawambwa to Kala Refugee Camp.

See next page >

A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



People in Zambia's political capital, Lusaka, tourism capital, Livingstone, and commercial capitals in the Copperbelt know our faces well. This year, the U.S. Embassy has decided to extend our reach to the remotest corners of Zambia to observe first hand the triumphs and challenges, hopes and aspirations, creative thinking and unorthodox points of view outside the "line of rail."

First stop: Luapula. This month, you will see the dedication and hard work of Peace Corps volunteers, partnering with local villagers to improve education, to create new household income, and to improve families' wellbeing; you will see private Americans giving from their hearts to help orphans and the disadvantaged; you will see concrete examples of our development assistance helping real people in real ways.

Visiting other provinces gives us a chance to explain what we do to new audiences, to meet up and coming leaders and inspirational community workers and, perhaps most valuable of all, it gives us a chance to listen to fresh perspectives and see problems (and solutions!) first hand. So, look for us, off the beaten path.

Invariably, the Zambians we meet on these trips are gracious and hospitable, friendly and industrious: countless new people with whom we plan to *work together*.

GETTING TO KNOW...

Maneesh Varma



Mr. Maneesh Varma is the Peace Corps Volunteer Leader in Mansa, Luapula Province. Maneesh has been living in Luapula since 2006. He has had great success working with the Provincial Health Office and local NGOs and has been to nearly every district within the province.

His responsibilities include managing the Peace Corps Provincial House in Mansa, organizing, scheduling and supporting Peace Corps related administrator visits; visiting with and preparing communities for new volunteer placements; supporting current volunteers in terms of safety and security, ongoing projects, and establishing or maintaining healthy relationships with government and NGO counterparts.

Maneesh is currently running his personal project called "Province-wide VCT Campaign" – the campaign links government and NGO players with all volunteers in every community where Peace Corps operates in order to utilize the presence of volunteers in the sensitization and mobilization aspects of successful VCT programs.

Maneesh holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School (Portland, Oregon).

PAS Lusaka Leads Mission Team, Zambian Media on Luapula Tour



Welcomed in Mununga

In December, a team from the U.S. Embassy invited a group of Zambian journalists on a tour of the Luapula Province to pay visits to U.S.-supported projects, meet local leaders, and conduct programs. The tour, which crisscrossed the entire Province, offered the team an opportunity to see

some of the amazing work being done in extremely remote areas, and the chance to meet dedicated Zambians and Americans who are making a difference here.

One of the strongest impressions from the tour was the vital (and difficult) work of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) throughout the Province. The team had a chance to meet volunteers working on numerous projects, including fish farming (see next page), community health, grassroots soccer, agriculture, education and cultural

integration. Living in remote villages, these volunteers are welcomed in their communities



Peace Corps Volunteer Brette Soucie with the village head men of Kazembe.

GETTING TOGETHER



Clockwise from above: Santa Claus joins members of the Embassy Marine Security Guard detachment to hand out toys to Lusaka children on Christmas Eve, during the Marines' annual Toys For Tots campaign. The Marines gave toys away at four Lusaka orphanages during the holiday season. President George W. Bush welcomes Zambian Martha Chilufya, Director of Lusaka's Mututa Memorial Center, to a White House ceremony on World AIDS Day. Regional Information Resource Officer Barbara Conaty (standing third from right) is joined by MLK Library patrons during an event at the American Center. Ambassador Carmen Martinez holds a fish during a tour of the LKM Fish Hatchery in Chilanga. The U.S. African Development Foundation is supporting LKM to create a viable and profitable fish hatchery.



Peace Corps Deputy Director JJ DiBella and Fanelly Sakala, a teacher at the Kala Refugee Camp, outside Kawambwa.

for the knowledge they bring, their ability to communicate in Bemba, and their selfless efforts to assist tens of thousands of people in Luapula.

So, when she's not teaching villagers about HIV and AIDS, PCV Leah Wilkinson is planning to build a health clinic in Mununga; when she's not advising villagers about fish farming, PCV Katie Pfohl is overseeing construction of a pre-school and a library in Mwense; when she's not doing health work, PCV Alyssa Mooney created a library, works on a clean water project and helps out with the local girls club in Kawambwa. And the list goes on...

The team had the opportunity to visit Kala Refugee Camp, where numerous organizations have come together to help house and



Public Affairs Officer Christopher Wurst and Peace Corps Volunteer Andrea Meyer with members of Grassroots Soccer during a training program in Samfya.

repatriate Congolese refugees. The U.S. Mission supports several programs at Kala, including support for the International Organization for Migration's repatriation efforts and funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to the camp's health clinic. The efforts at the camp, by dozens of relief organizations—and

with many local Zambian staffers—are complex and impressive.

The trip gave Zambian journalists a chance to cover programs and issues outside Lusaka. Said one journalist, "the trip was very informative. It gave me an opportunity to understand how different communities and societies live in [this] vast country." Said another: "The trip helped me understand some of the U.S. Government's contributions to the country's social and economic sphere...and to help me get the views of ordinary people on the interventions being put in place to help them."



U.S. Embassy staff and Zambian journalists at Ntumbachushi Falls.

Kukondwerera tsiku la kubadwa

February 18, 1931: TONI MORRISON



Nobel Prize-winning American writer, editor and professor, best known for novels featuring strong and richly detailed African American characters. Her novel *Beloved* won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for literature. Ms. Morrison's long-awaited next novel *Mercy* will be released this year. In 2001, *Ladies' Home Journal* magazine named Toni Morrison one of the "30 Most Powerful Women in America."

SPOTLIGHT:

FISH FARMING

Luapula province is known for fishing. Besides being an important source of protein, people depend on fish to earn a living. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives enforces an annual three-month fish ban in Luapula to allow fish to breed.

For some people, though, the fish ban is no problem. These folks literally get fish from their backyards! These are fish farmers. Some have dug fish ponds close to their homes and harvest fish for consumption and sale.

One such person is Anthony Kasanda of Chebele Village in Mwense district. Kasanda has two fish ponds that he looks after with his wife. He receives technical support from Katherine Pfohl, a Peace Corps Volunteer based in his village and assisting through the Rural Aquaculture Project (RAP). Kasanda has seen the benefits from his beautiful fish ponds.



"Last month I harvested all the fish. I sold them and got money that I used at home and to restock the pond," said Kasanda. Katherine said the fish ponds are traditional types that have proved very helpful to the local community. In addition to making a profit, Kasanda says the byproducts of his pond have proven to be fantastic fertilizers, and his crop yields have also been higher as a result.

"I help fish farmers with basic business skills, nutrition, and how they can best manage their fish ponds," says Katherine. "I also teach them how to integrate fish farming with the rest of the farm. It is easy to start up a fish pond. You do not need a lot of money. Thereafter the benefits are great."

...ON THE ROAD IN LUAPULA *continued*

The group was able to meet with community leaders at each stop, learning about how programs are implemented in Luapula, ideas for increasing business and industry and creating greater opportunities for tourism. Many district leaders have forged strong and productive relationships with area Peace Corps Volunteers and encourage area projects.

The U.S. Embassy team took advantage of time in Mansa to take calls on Radio Yangeni and to lead a discussion on American culture and U.S. Embassy programs. The team also visited a number of other projects, including several orphanages and a community care project. At an Embassy-hosted dinner for Zambian Government and NGO leaders, Luapula Acting Permanent Secretary Blackson Ndhlovu praised the spirit of the visit, saying it was important for Embassy personnel to visit their rural counterparts. He also singled out the Peace Corps for their strong efforts in Luapula.



JJ DiBella of the Peace Corps learns rope jumping tricks in Nchelenge.



The trip was a great opportunity to meet people who are making a difference in a poor and rural province. The U.S. Mission hopes to continue such trips, working closely with local media members and visiting important projects outside Lusaka. Until then—*Uushitasha, mwana wa ndoshi...Twatasha mwe bena Luapula!*

Embassy Information staffer Mark Maseko, Samfya District Health Director Dr. Albert Koonga, Public Affairs Officer Christopher Wurst and Political Officer Beth Bailey visit a water ambulance that was donated at Lake Bangweulu by USAID in 2006.

AIRC Corner: What's Happening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library

AIRC DONATES TO LUAPULA LIBRARIES

"Read! Let books blow your mind!" shouted the young girls from a local Kawambwa primary school, while reciting a poem. A few minutes earlier, staff from the U.S. Mission and eight touring journalists donated over 300 books to the Kawambwa Public Library and Mwense High School.

Responding to an appeal in the Times of Zambia on October 25, 2007, the Public Affairs Section's (PAS) Information Resource Center selected books for the donation. In making the presentation, Public Affairs Officer Christopher Wurst said that reading played a crucial role in empowering people. He encouraged the library staff and local leaders to find creative ways to promote and utilize the resources they have. He also expressed happiness that the Embassy had the opportunity to assist the community. Receiving the books, Kawambwa District



Kawambwa District Commissioner Wilbroad Mumba with Political Officer Beth Bailey at the book donation ceremony.

Commissioner Wilbroad Mumba thanked the Embassy for the gesture which he said would help improve the reading culture in the district. He also expressed a desire to find a locale for a new public library. And Mwense High School representative Moses Mubita expressed appreciation at the donation that he said would greatly help students at the school with academic and other reading material.



Public Affairs Officer Christopher Wurst hands over books, donated by the American Information Resource Center to the Kawambwa Public Library and to Mwense High School.