

Second Saturday Net

December 2004

Zimbabwe



Interview with Mr. Kudzai Shava

Last August, Mr. Shava became coordinator of disability resources at Gweru University. More recently, he received the Claude Ake award from the African America Institute and a \$6,000 grant to do research on HIV/aids prevention with the blind. We met in Los Angeles on October 29th to talk about his visit to this country and the work he has been doing in Zimbabwe.

Nubra: *How was did you experience flying here from Harare?*

Kudzai: It was kind of interesting being my first time--you know flying a long distance is kind of frightening, but the excitement overcame the fear...The British Airways flight attendants were so wonderful--they really wanted me to enjoy the part of my trip that was from London, England to Washington, DC in the United States...They had me fly in first class even though i was supposed to be in economy class, because it wasn't very full and they wanted me to really enjoy the flight... and Oh!--the food was really very good and I just ate and ate so much!

Nubra: *For how long will you be in this country?*

Kudzai: I will be here a bit less than a month...I arrived on October 20th and will be returning to Zimbabwe on November 15th.

Nubra: *What kinds of things are you doing while you're in the U.S.?*

Kudzai: In Washington I attended an orientation program along with other award recipients, and then I came here to do a presentation at the University of California Los Angeles for their School of Public Health...Earlier this week I had a very enjoyable visit with the disability resource center at the Braille Institute of East Los Angeles, and tomorrow being Saturday I'm planning a trip to the beach with one of the other award recipients and some of the people who are hosting us here—I just want to put my feet into the ocean one time!...Then first thing on Sunday I fly to Ohio to visit with Professor Gwen Fischer and while I am there will be talking at Hiram College and at Kent State University...From there I will be flying to the city of New Orleans in Louisiana where I will be attending a very large African Studies Conference. Afterwards I will be returning home again by way of Washington and London.

Nubra: *Please tell us about the research that earned you this award and travel opportunity?*

Kudzai: It all started when I was a student University of Zimbabwe, and my wife Theresa and I realized the blind were not being provided with information about HIV/aids and how to protect themselves...We began by using our own money but were operating on a very small scale. Then Prof Fischer gave us \$200 from her Reuter grant that was used to interview boys and girls at St. Michael's School for the Blind in Masvingo on their knowledge about sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases. We later got a \$1,000 Reuter grant and were able to start braille books and pamphlets for training peer educators who eventually conducted over 100 interviews with other students who are also blind...This grant from the African America Institute will be used for more braille production of books and pamphlets and to develop audiotapes that can be used to reach many more of the blind. They really need this information, as blind students often drop out of school and go into the streets to beg...For these young people we need outreach programs and income generating projects like one that currently teaches blind girls how to crochet and embroidery items to be sold for income. With small funds we can start many more of these kinds of programs to protect these women from serious health risks associated with prostitution...

Nubra: *That sounds like something that might interest the Africa Women's Development Fund. They support community based organizations and can be found on the internet at www.awdf.org.*

Kudzai: Yes—I would be very interested in contacting them...Ah--there is so very much to be done that I sometimes wish I didn't have to waste time sleeping! * * *

Highfield High School
P.O. Box DH 19
Highfield
HARARE

4 October 2004

Hello Dr. Nubra Floyd

The US\$300,00 you sent last year has now arrived. It converted into ZIM\$1,605,471.00, after the bank deducted ZIM\$8,000.00 for telegraphic money transfer charges. In July and August 2004 bank charges of ZIM\$15,000.00 and ZIM\$9,000.00 respectively were further deducted from the amount deposited. This left an overall balance of ZIM\$1,573,471.00. The bank balance as of 14th September 2004 was ZIM\$1,329,831.01. This was after paying school levies and fees for the beneficiaries. Because of the high bank charges I suggest that we deposit the money with the Century Asset Management (Money Market)...

ZIM SECOND SATURDAY NET: The students at this school have been meeting and they have since taken over the running of the school tuck shop as a way of raising funds... We withdrew an amount of ZIM\$253,300.00 as seed money for their tuck shop project. This amount has to be refunded back to the Century Bank account once they are fully operational...

Best regards

F M MASHOKO

Post Office Box 8347
Santa Cruz, California 95061-USA
phone: 831 427 3487
email: secondnet@hotmail.com

Greetings Mr. Mashoko!

So nice to hear from you and to learn of the good things you were so far able to accomplish with the \$300 in funding we provided last August. Now we can begin to solicit additional funds to meet our original donation goal of \$500 for the 2003-04 school year.

We would be content to have you make the decision about where the funds should be deposited and in what kind of account but will need further information from you about how you would like to have them sent to you. If you like, we can go back to using the postal service, since there did seem to be some difficulty with the first wire transmittal...

Hope this finds you and your family doing well and look forward to hearing from you again as soon as possible.

All Best Wishes!

*Nubra Elaine Floyd, PhD
President & Project Coordinator*

*October 4th
2004*

The beautiful world - poem by Phyllis Murahwa

Ooooh beautiful world people love you
How wonderful you are - walking in the streets
You meet different people - oh wonderful world!

As I walked into the forest I heard birds singing
On the trees the music produced sounded great
As I walked round and round I saw different creatures
With different characteristics - huge mountains and green
pastures - Oh truly this is the wonderful world!

Looked up into sky what did I see?
During day we have sun and at night moon and stars
shining and glistering - What does that give to the world?
Oh wonderful world!

You beautiful world - people need you
Things found in you are so precious and marvelous
You help us in many ways so I say to myself
You are the beauty and light to the world!



Phyllis Murahwa at St Kilda Rd Flats.
photo by Gwen B. Fischer Feb 2002