

# Locals join global initiative to end poverty

By Frank A. Albano  
Sentinel-Voice

Pastor Lawrence Temfwe, longtime activist against poverty in his native country of Zambia, a Christian minister turns international missionary with the same zeal that he exhibited to relieve his people's plight of hunger, economic despair and disease in Africa.

The pastor is in America as part of a partnership with ONE Vote '08, a grassroots organization dedicated to garner support among municipalities nationwide to make awareness of poverty and disease a campaign issue. The campaign, which claims to have the support of 123 towns and cities nationwide.

"The effort is having an impact," stated Temfwe. "For the first time, grassroots efforts and leaders are talking and making decisions about HIV/AIDS."

When asked to assess the differences in poverty, hunger and disease between Africans and African-American

cans and the solutions, he said, "There is more opportunity in America." He went on to say, "We need new leaders."

In the U.S., the campaign will solicit support from both major-party presidential candidates and ask the hopefuls to pledge more money and resources to relieve the catastrophic conditions that exists among poor people worldwide — no matter who becomes the next U.S. president.

Temfwe characterizes the ruling government in Zambia as "corrupt." He also says there is a second "colonization." Referring not to past European-controlled African colonies, but to a new colonization power on the horizon — China.

Temfwe expressed concerns: "China is providing more business contracts," but at a cost to Zambians, he said.

"The cost is not a neo-European colonization effort, but a Chinese takeover."

Countless Zambians have



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, right, Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson, middle, and Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman addressed poverty during a recent forum.

died due to hunger and disease and Temfwe says, "We can't get information [exact mortality information] from our government." He did indicate that the number is in the "millions."

"I'm on a global campaign to empower Christians to come together and engage in poverty reduction."

In speaking with Temfwe,

there is the clear impression that he personifies the truth in the adage that "charity begins at home." Temfwe is concerned that while Zambia's natural resources are being exploited, there is no trickle-down effect to the population of the vast wealth coming into Zambia; instead, the largesse is going into the pockets of the elite. Well-

documented reports show that the exploitation of Africa's natural resources is an old story dating to 19th century colonial times.

He has turned his energies into a worldwide awareness mission campaign, not only of the plight of Zambians, but all Africans caught in the grip of extreme poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS, and exploitation of the citizens for their natural resources and land.

"Zambians live on less than a dollar a day," he said. He joined the ONE movement to help on a broader scale.

Locally, the ONE Vote '08 campaign tour met this week at Las Vegas City Hall to announce the participation of the cities of Henderson and North Las Vegas. The mayors of Las Vegas and Henderson, Oscar Goodman and Jim Gibson, respectively, and Clark County Commis-

(See Poverty, Page 5)

## Breast

(Continued from Page 1)

they would take tissue from my stomach and butt area and put it into my breast after removing the cancerous tissue within my breast, of course I agreed to the procedure. They also took out 5 lymph nodes from underneath my arm, because once cancer hits your lymph nodes, it can travel throughout your body."

"Currently I have yearly check-ups; I will soon be moving to getting check-ups every six months because I am considered [high-risk]. I make sure that I eat lots of fruits and vegetables, stay away from sugar and sugary products. I also drink purified water. It is important that we educate ourselves on the importance of consuming the correct kinds of foods," said Jeannie. She noted that all money raised from the fundraisers goes back into the organization to help women with things like medication, gas for their cars and other unexpected expenditures.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$13 at the door. For more information about the event call 648-3410.

\*\*\*\*\*

Courage Unlimited is a powerful service organization sponsored in part by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Southern Nevada Affiliate. In conjunction with The Whis-



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Divas For a Cure traveling van supporting breast awareness. The group consists of women with the love of motorcycling.

pers, Styles in Pink with Tea will be held on Sat., Oct. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Lahaina Grill at 4570 Hualapi Way as a fundraiser for the women's support group.

"Highlights of the afternoon will include a special celebration for breast cancer survivors, educational activities, a contest where volunteers will select their favorite hats from the audience and, of course, the High Tea Party," according to Executive Director and Co-founder Sandra Jackson.

Jackson is a three-time cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in 1993 at the age of 43 with breast cancer in her left breast; in 1995 she was diagnosed with lung cancer and 1997 with a recurrence of cancer in her right breast — she has lost part of her

chest wall.

"As a breast cancer survivor and now someone that has undergone breast reconstruction, I would like to take this opportunity to express and educate those that are considering this undertakings," said Jackson.

"I had no one to talk to and had to research breast information sites myself to understand why I was having muscle spasm in my breast. It has been a painful journey of healing and soul searching to why I would want to have reconstruction. I recall saying to one of my doctors that I didn't need reconstruction because I was sure of me. I know that reconstruction is not for everyone and, again, I thought that I was one of these women. Wrong. I need to feel whole."

"My relationship with

Paul — my honey of 19 years — is stronger than ever, but my breasts have a strong hold on me and I still want cleavage. I did not realize that the shell of the breast had to heal before the reconstruction procedure could start. The pain is unbelievable! The pain is from the shrinking of the breast — thank goodness for pain medication. If you are having radiation, it is suggested that you wait until the treatment is over before pursuing reconstruction."

Jackson said that she goes through bouts of depression and asked if she was afraid, she replied, "Yes, I get frightened all of the time. Although I know that death is appointed to us all, I still get scared when I allow myself to just think about things and know that I will probably die from this disease. I also know that God is beautiful and good, so I cannot complain. I know that he has put physical angels here on earth to take care of me and there is my [spiritual angel] who takes care of my spiritual needs."

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person. It will be hosted by Monica Jackson, the trademark jovial anchor and morning show co-host on Fox 5 News.

For more information or reservations for the Styles in Pink with Tea event, call 453-3855 or 612-4093.

## Gaming company targets diversity

By Fred Green Jr.  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The MGM Resorts and Casinos in partnership with the City of Las Vegas is launching a very ambitious project. The City Center complex, a multi-billion dollar endeavor, will bring lucrative contracts to both the private and public sector, not to mention become one more jewel of a resort and vacation facilities in the MGM crown.

"One of our primary goals is to include as many qualified construction diversity firms as possible as we build City Center," says Anderine Cowan, MGM-Mirages Construction Diversity Manager.

"We have spent the past year reaching out to companies in Las Vegas and now we are expanding the search throughout the U.S. There are numerous opportunities for us to engage contractors."

In 2005 alone, total construction expenditures exceeded \$350 million with more than 85 million spent with minority contractors. Hispanic and African-American contractors each received more than 40 percent of the funds allocated for minority enterprises.

But, the diversity picture hasn't always been so rosy for MGM. In the past they have been forced to confront suits by former employees on sexual harassment and issues brought before the EEOC specifically in March of 2000.

Medina Rene, a hotel employee who is openly gay, lost his case against the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas in an appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Rene, 48, had worked for the hotel for more than two years as a butler for wealthy guests and claimed he was continually harassed by other butlers.

(See MGM, Page 11)

### Lyle Jones Lightford

Son of Calvin Lightford  
Nephew of Katherine Joseph

Visitation: Friday, Oct. 19th, 4 pm to 6 pm  
Thomas & Jones Funeral Home  
310 Foremaster Lane

Service: Saturday, Oct. 20th, 1 pm  
Grace Immanuel Baptist Church  
809 West Bartlett Ave.  
(702) 646-0953