

Hope

HAD THE GREAT FORTUNE to visit Zambia and Zimbabwe for five weeks last April on a Rotary International exchange program for young professionals. After spending a week in the Copperbelt of Zambia, our team traveled to Zimbabwe. We arrived in the capital city of Harare just 10 days after the 2005 parliamentary elections, which fair or unfair, 81-year-old Robert Mugabe, reigning president since 1980, was re-elected. We left the country only one month before Operation Murambasvina (restore order) was initiated.

Staggering statistics of AIDS, a quarter of the country's population, and domestic abuse in Zimbabwe are on the rise and with the current "urban renewal" operation; the situation is increasingly distressing. This "clean-up" operation, which left 700,000 people homeless in June 2005, has disrupted many lives and with that, the distribution of Antiretroviral (ARV) treatments as well. Zimbabweans queue for hours to get simple things we take for granted every day: money out of cash machines, fuel for their cars, milk and flour. Unscheduled, country-wide power outages are an every day occurrence. The one thing we found there was no shortage of is humor.

Our group was able to see the country in such a different way than an average tourist (if there were tourists in Zimbabwe) would see it. We were taken into several homes and within each home, a different story unfolded around us. These images I have selected show glimpses into the amazing resilience that I found in all the faces of the people I met in Zambia and Zimbabwe—curious, smiling, open—and most of all...hopeful.

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YOU'RE INVITED!

WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *IE* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.