

DRAFT (Jan. 31, 2008)

## **AFRICA FORUM: CHALLENGES AND HOPE**

March 28 & 29, 2008 (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Venue: Robert E. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies Auditorium (adjacent to Library, 213 N. King St.)  
Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia  
([www.shepherd.edu](http://www.shepherd.edu), [www.byrdcenter.org](http://www.byrdcenter.org), [www.ezekielsplace.com](http://www.ezekielsplace.com))

### **PROPOSED AGENDA**

(Selected readings will be compiled from each forum speaker and will be made available as weblinks)

*The Africa Forum aims to bring together people from the Tri-state and Washington D.C. areas to increase understanding of and engagement with development efforts in Africa.*

### **Friday, March 28**

#### **Session 1: Challenges & Progress on Africa's Sustainable Development**

(Note: All forum organizations/speakers have been confirmed).

9:00-9:30 a.m.: Welcome and Key Note Remarks

- Introduction and Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Suzanne Shipley (President, Shepherd University)
- Key Note Remarks (via video): Honorable Senator John Rockefeller (US Senator for W. Va., and Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee).

9:30 – 10:15 am: Mirza Munthali (from Malawi), Public Outreach Director, TransAfrica Forum  
([www.transafricaforum.org](http://www.transafricaforum.org)) “Rethinking US/Africa Relations and the Way Forward”

10:15 – 10:30 am: Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Ousmane Badiane (Senegal) – Coordinator of Africa Program: International Food Policy Research Institute ([www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)) “Recent Progress in the Role of Agricultural Development in Reducing Poverty in Africa and Perspectives on the Way Forward” (+ **small group facilitator for Day 1**)

11:15 – 12 noon: Small Group Discussion (3) (to address key themes from morning presentations)

12 - 12:30 p.m.: Plenary Discussion (remarks and moderated by Larry Goodwin, Field Coordinator for Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)))

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.: Multi-Cultural Luncheon (hosted by Shepherd U., Multicultural Student Affairs)

1:15 – 1:45: Africa Musical Performance (Coordinated by Jona Masiya, from Zimbabwe, and Musical Major at Shenandoah U.). African art/sculpture will also be displayed at the forum by Prof. Rhonda Smith (Shepherd U.)  
Venue: Storer Ball Room, Shepherd University Student Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) (Across from Byrd Center)

#### **Session 2: Challenges & Progress on Africa's Leadership, Governance & Human Rights**

2:00- 2:25 p.m.: Jeff Thindwa (Malawi) Sociologist/Governance Expert, World Bank ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org))

2:25 - 2:45 p.m.: Ryan McCannell, Democracy & Governance Specialist/Africa, USAID ([www.usaid.org](http://www.usaid.org))

2:45 – 3:05 p.m.: Lynn Fredriksson, Amnesty Int’al, Advocacy Director for Africa, [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

3:05 - 3:45 p.m.: Short Coffee Break, to merge immediately into 3 small discussion groups

3:45 - 4:30 pm: Plenary/Panel Discussion (with several Forum speakers as Panel Members)

4:45 - 5:30 p.m.: Informal African Student Interaction with Forum Speakers

**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

**Session 3: Empowering Approaches toward Sustainable Development (in the Work of Church Missions, NGOs and Businesses)**

Church Mission Perspectives and Experiences:

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.: Victor Sawyer (from Sierra Leone), Sr. Pastor/Colesville United Methodist Church

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.: Ann King-Grosh, Country Representative for Somalia, Mennonite Central Committee ([www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org))

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.: Rhodes Woolly, Sr. Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church, Winchester, Virginia

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.: Cliff Gilchrest (Member) & Doug Sensabaugh (Communications Director), from the Shenandoah Presbytery (and involved in the Presbyterian/Ethiopian Partnership and Hunger Action)

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.: Coffee Break

NGO Perspectives and Experiences:

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.: Larry Goodwin, Field Organizing Coordinator, Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)) (+**small group facilitator for Day 2**)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.: Diuto Esiobu (from Nigeria), from the African Christian Fellowship USA ([www.acfusa.org](http://www.acfusa.org)) and Professor at Florida Atlantic University (+ **small group facilitator**)

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Alysson Ford, West Africa Regional Representative for Catholic Relief Services (includes a Catholic perspective on Africa's development)

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.: Henry Bagazonzya (from Uganda) – Microfinance Specialist, World Bank (Experiences from a Uganda Diaspora NGO Initiative in SW Uganda, International Community of Banyakigezi, Inc)

11:15 -12:00: Small Group Discussion (3) (on church mission and NGO perspectives)

12:00 – 12:30 Plenary (Short Presentations by 3 Discussion Groups & Panel Discussion/Presenters)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: Lunch

Business Perspectives

1:30 – 1:45 p.m.: Bob Rogers, President of Global Medical Data Inc. (via Videoconference), sharing on the Phoenix Alliance with Liberia ([www.globalmedicaldata.com](http://www.globalmedicaldata.com), look for Phoenix Alliance info)

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.: Rudy Bropleh (Liberia) – Adjunct Professor of Economics at Shepherd U. and Pastor at Asbury UMC (+ **small group facilitator**)

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.: Charles Chuka (Malawi) - Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (World Bank)

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Bob Downing: President of Spero Group (“Integrating Business Development with Mission Outreach”) [www.sperogroup.com](http://www.sperogroup.com)

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.: Plenary (Presenters of Session 3 as Panel Members)

3:00 – 3:05: Short Break

**Session 4: Opportunities for Personal Involvement to support Sustainable Devt. in Africa**

3:05 – 3:50 p.m.: Brief presentations by the representative from each forum organization (including participating African students) (note: relevant pamphlets will be distributed with additional information to facilitate deeper understanding and personal engagement (in the USA and/or in Africa))

3:50 – 4:25 p.m.: Plenary/Panel Discussion (interaction by participants and several Forum presenters)

4:25 – 4:30 p.m.: Closing Remarks (David Hostetter, Byrd Center at Shepherd University, [www.byrdcenter.org](http://www.byrdcenter.org))

4:45 – 5:30 p.m.: Informal African Student Interaction with Forum Speakers