



A traditional birth attendant uses a baby mannequin to demonstrate neonatal resuscitation techniques.

ANNA KNAPP

Bringing Hope to Zambian Mothers

Training of birth attendants intended to reduce high infant mortality rate

WHEN SHE ARRIVED at the Mindolo Training Farms in the Copperbelt province of Zambia last year, Anna Knapp was greeted by sixty traditional birth attendants (TBAs) who were

singing and dancing. The Zambians had good reason to celebrate: Knapp, a senior program manager at Boston University's Center for International Health and Development (CIHD), had come to work on the center's

Lufwanyama Neonatal Survival Project (LUNESP), a study that aims to reduce the country's high infant mortality rate and increase the chances that Zambian children will live past their first birthday.

LUNESP trains birth attendants to intervene in four of the most common, preventable contributors to neonatal mortality:

birth asphyxia, neonatal hypothermia, sepsis, and perinatal transmission of HIV.

"The birth attendants often travel for days by foot, bicycle, on the backs of trucks — any way they can — to get to the LUNESP trainings," says Knapp (SPH'07).

Since the inception of the study, which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, with support from the American Academy of Pediatrics, seven LUNESP faculty and staff from the CIHD, Boston Medical Center, and Tufts Medical Center have participated from Boston or traveled to Zambia to work alongside twenty-nine Zambian staff members. With assistance from the Center for International Health and Development Zambia as well as the Lufwanyama District Health Management Team, the LUNESP team has trained 129 TBAs, as well as 16 data collectors and 12 staff members from rural health centers.

ROBIN BERGHAUS

"Not the End of the Struggle, but an Opening"

Paul Farmer draws record crowd to MLK Day remarks

With a record-breaking crowd before him and President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration still ahead, Paul Farmer celebrated the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS'55, Hon.'59) on January 19, at Boston University's annual commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

"If Martin Luther King were here with us today in the flesh, as he is in spirit, he would surely be pleased," said Farmer, the founder of the international aid organization Partners in Health, referring to the election of the nation's first black president. "But he would not regard this momentous event as the end of the struggle, but as an opening, a space, a chance in which the larger social justice agenda might be pursued."

Farmer, a medical anthropologist and a physician, was the keynote speaker at this year's BU event, and he drew a crowd that filled the George Sherman Union's Metcalf Hall to capacity.

The theme of the 2009 celebration was *The Drum Major Instinct*, based on King's sermon of the same name. In it, King called on his congregation to find the instinct that makes us "all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade" and use it to be a leader in love, in moral excellence, and in generosity. JU ■

WEB EXTRA
See a slide show of Paul Farmer talking about his work in Haiti at www.bu.edu/bostonia.

WEB EXTRA
See a slide show about BU's efforts to train traditional birth attendants in Zambia at www.bu.edu/bostonia.

PAUL FARMER



KALIMAN ZABARSKY