

# PRINCESS ZULU TO KEYNOTE AT THE KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Friday - 12:00 NOON in the Tacoma Convention Center



Princess Kasune Zulu is a young mother on a mission. Princess is her first name, not a title, but it's the right name for someone with her grace and warmth, and her concern for her people. She's out to fight HIV/AIDS. And her fight is personal. Princess is an AIDS orphan, and she is HIV-positive. But she is a strong voice for hope. She has become an international spokesperson and AIDS educator for **World Vision's Hope Initiative**, a nationwide campaign to mobilize Christians and the general public to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

**HIV/AIDS is predicted to wipe out half the people in her home country of Zambia in southern Africa.** Worldwide, 15 million children have already lost one or both parents to AIDS. Unless more is done, there will be 25 million of these children by 2010.

## Her life story

The first person to die in her family was her baby sister. Princess herself was young and didn't understand. Then her mother became ill and died 2 years later. A few months after that, her father died. At the time, **neighbors assumed the strange disease was caused by witchcraft.** No one was talking about AIDS, or how to prevent it.

She was only 14 years old when she became the head of the household, left in charge of her brothers and sisters. And like many young girls in Africa who are trapped in poverty and needing to survive, she married an older man.

She and her husband later discovered they were both HIV-positive. She knew the stigma of admitting this in public, but she said, **"If we keep quiet, so many more people will die."** She sensed God was calling her to tell others about HIV/AIDS.

## A life dedicated to helping others

Her work to defeat HIV/AIDS includes:

- Hosting a nationally broadcast radio show in Zambia called *Positive Living*.
- Posing as a hitchhiker in southern Africa so she can warn truck drivers about unsafe sex with prostitutes.
- Establishing a community school for AIDS orphans.
- Meetings with world leaders. She spoke with President George W. Bush and pushed for the U.S. to pledge \$15 billion to combat AIDS.
- And helping World Vision mobilize people to fight HIV/AIDS and care for its victims in the developing world.

Princess Zulu is living proof there is hope — life does not end when you are HIV-positive. She has a positive story to tell about her life.