

## **PEACE CORPS FAMILY ALBUM PROJECT**

My name is Ernie Zaremba and I am an RPCV who is now in his 70s. I served in the Peace Corps in Tanzania from 1964 -1966.

My retirement from teaching in 2000 gave me the time to set up this project.

I began by using the internet to locate all the members of my Peace Corps group and collecting their stories for a Peace Corps Oral History Project for the Kennedy Library.

I went from there to collecting oral histories from as many RPCVs as I could find.

The next step was moving to video and starting the Peace Corps Family Album Project on YouTube.

In the past 7 years I have interviewed over 900 RPCVs and put parts of their stories in 105 videos representing groups from 98 countries.

My wife, Helene, and I have been criss-crossing the country in our RV (which has been our home for the last 12 years) and collecting RPCV stories through either direct interview or through Skype Video Calls (or iChat or FaceTime).

I feel this is a time to reminisce, a time to keep the spirit alive, and a time not to lose the stories.

One goal is to keep gathering as many stories as possible as long as I am able.

I have recently received an email from a graduate student who is from Sierra Leone that said she wanted to be involved with this project.

To quote her: "As I have read from your responses with the project you are about to undertake I think it will not be complete if it did not include the stories of the students whose lives were affected is not included. That is why I want to ask your permission if we can work together to make this project more meaningful and complete by uniting former students with RPCVs by knowing where they are, what they are, and what contribution(s) have they made in their communities. How were their lives affected either ( positively or negatively) by a PCV."

Falla Lamin -- Sierra Leone

I fully agree with her.

This project is constantly evolving. In addition to collecting RPCV stories, I am asking all the RPCVs I meet to help me find host country nationals who may want to share their stories for this project.

I am looking forward to meeting as many RPCVs as possible and collecting their stories.

Ernie

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