



The Nyadire Connection

Founded in 2006 and based in Pittsburgh, TNC is a faith-based, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe

Mission Team Arrives In Nyadire With Many Activities Planned

A 10-person TNC mission team arrived in Nyadire in mid-June with a number of activities planned during the group's three-week stay. Team leader **Mary Beth Zollars**, a retired teacher from **Christ UMC**, is on her 19th visit to Nyadire!

The team plans to focus on a number of activities: tutoring, mentoring and playing with children at the **Home of Hope**; assisting with distribution of supplies to students through the **Home of Hope Outreach**; helping to organize **Eyeglass** storage; assisting with repair projects at the orphanage and around the mission; participating in food distribution; teaching lessons to **Hearing Innovation** students; reviewing other TNC programs; and expanding the Coding Club.

Other travelers are: **Marie Hunt**, retired teacher, **Christ UMC**; **Deborah Swineford**, ASL expert, **UMC**; **Jen Retsch**, teacher, **St. Paul's UMC**; **Bill Retsch**, engineer, **St. Paul's UMC**; **Ken Simmons**, retired engineer, **Community UMC**; **Pam Harden**, retired nurse, **Community UMC**; **Marjorie Dold**, retired teacher, **United Church of Walpole**; **Tuomas Rosqvist**, Pastor, **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland**; **Hanna Rosqvist**, teacher of Swedish, **Swedish Methodist Church in Finland**. Please pray for our mission team members and the important work they'll be doing!

We are already planning future trips, so please contact our mission trip program leader, **Molly Michael**, at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com for more information.

TNC Exceeds Goal To Support Emergency Food Delivery

Two months ago, we began an emergency appeal to support food delivery, to help offset a crisis caused by the severe drought in Zimbabwe and other areas in Africa. Our goal was to raise \$100,000 by May 31, and thanks to the generous support from our incredible donors we have exceeded that goal, raising \$110,000!



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TNC Exceeds Goal...

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“We wanted to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing supporters,” says **Ralph Duckworth**, TNC chairman. “And special thanks goes to **Christ UMC of Bethel Park**, which donated \$35,000 from its Missions and Outreach Committee to support this emergency food appeal. These donations have already made a difference in Nyadire. Since our campaign began, we have sent funds to purchase food, and that food has been delivered to families with desperate needs. The Nyadire Social Committee is administering and monitoring the food distribution program. The Committee determined that the cost of a minimum food bundle that helps to sustain a family of five for one month is just \$41, so the funds we have raised will support nearly 400 families through the end of this year. Our mission team currently visiting Nyadire will provide an update on the program, which may need to continue into next year depending on drought conditions.”

TNC supporters can continue to donate to the food appeal through this PayPal link on the TNC website: <https://www.nyadire.org/donate.html> (Please note that the donation is for “Nyadire Hunger Relief.”)

Or, you can send a check made out to “The Nyadire Connection” (please put “Nyadire Hunger Relief” in the memo line) to:

Christ United Methodist Church
Attn – TNC Hunger Relief
44 Highland Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Dutilh’s Pre-Schoolers Raise Money With ‘Hop For Hope’

The pre-schoolers at **Dutilh United Methodist Church** raised money again this year through their “Hop For Hope.” The youngsters had fun hopping around an obstacle course and raised more than \$1,750 for the **Home of Hope** orphanage at Nyadire. The proceeds are being used for backpacks and shelving.



“This is an awesome example of God's love for his children everywhere,” says TNC’s **Debbie Little**, who, along with TNC Chairman **Ralph Duckworth**, spoke to the kids. “Many thanks to the kids and staff at the pre-school!”

Says **Julie Willoughby**, pre-school director: “Thanks to Ralph and Debbie for being a part of our time together, sharing with the children all about the amazing opportunity to bless the Home of Hope Orphanage.”

A View From Nyadire: Emmanuel Chiimba

Editor's Note: During a 2023 VIM trip, TNC's Marjorie Dold interviewed some of our Nyadire friends; this story is based on one of those interviews.

"Love God, love others, love to serve." -- Emmanuel Chiimba, June 2024

Emmanuel (shown below with TNC's Scott Sanford, Agriculture program leader, and Jim Gascoine, retired pastor from Dutilh UMC) is a man of enduring faith and profound integrity, with a sense of fun, and a dedication to taking risks in order to serve others. He is a passionate activist for children.

Background: Emmanuel, the fourth child born into a family of 10, grew up in Nyamuzuwe. During the height of the War of Liberation, Nyamuzuwe High School was closed.



Many of Emmanuel's fellow students crossed over to Mozambique to train as freedom fighters, while he served as a war collaborator in Zimbabwe from 1977-79. Emmanuel "held a very dangerous role, involving reconnaissance of areas where enemy troops were stationed and carrying supplies of ammunition to frontline areas." In 1980, after enduring war experiences and gaining independence, the students resumed their secondary education where they had left off as Nyamuzuwe High School reopened.

After graduating from Secondary School, Emmanuel began training at Nyadire Teacher's College (now Nyadire College of Education) in 1987. While student teaching in 1988, he and Catherine were married; and after completing college, Emmanuel worked in the Zimbabwean Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. Continuing his education, Emmanuel studied to become a vision specialist in Special Education and became a District Remedial Tutor for the Mutoko School District. Over the years, he held many roles in educating children, including as a crisis management counselor. Of utmost importance to Emmanuel is his role as a "child activist."

Family: Emmanuel and Catherine, a lecturer at the College of Education, married in 1988 and have three children: Blessing Chikomborero, born in 1989; Tinashe "with God" Benard, 1993; and Victoria "meaningful wish" Stachido 2002

Nyadire Home of Hope: The combination of Emmanuel's faith and experiences led him to the 21 children who were living at the **Home of Hope** (HOH) orphanage at the Nyadire Mission in 2007, where he is a beloved and unwavering advocate for children. Prior to this time, the Home was supported by the **United Methodist Church of Finland**. About that time, TNC began what would become a long-term reciprocal relationship with the people of Nyadire and the children there. "TNC has supported us so much," Emmanuel says. He very much appreciates the support that TNC has offered to accomplish goals and assisting the HOH to look to sustainability in the future, including providing funds for plowing and irrigation. Emmanuel received a grant in 2015, partially funded by the United Methodist Church, allowing him to go to Japan for a nine-month training in organic farming.

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A View From Nyadire...

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Emmanuel's dreams for the children often transform into reality, and TNC has collaborated on many of these endeavors, such as: obtaining three to four hectares for the HOH to grow plants; rebuilding and expanding the HOH (by the people in Finland), including installing a secure fence and building an administration block; creating the **Home of Hope Outreach** (sponsorship) program in 2007, enabling children in rural villages to attend school by pairing with sponsors; as well as creating and maintaining a garden, fish pond, piggery, goat project, and a cattle breeding program. By providing food for the Home and selling surplus to the community, Emmanuel hopes to create and maintain a revolving fund to enrich the lives of the children. "We love each other!" he says. In the following years, a scholarship program was established for students who had finished secondary education and were continuing their academic pursuits at vocational schools, colleges and universities.

Successes: Preparing to move the HOH to a new location on the mission was a huge endeavor, which involved convincing people, clearing land, and proving that "we can be self-sustaining." Expertise from the community was utilized and relationship-building was very important. "Transparent running of the Home brings confidence. The children have accomplished a lot that people had not expected."

Challenges: Plans do not always meet expectations, as he has learned. The Home's tractor, for example, is not always available to prepare the fields at planting time. Funding and resources are always scarce. He expresses deep gratitude to donors for raising funds for several self-sustaining projects and keeping the children fed, healthy, and in school. Sadly, some of the children "come from various backgrounds where there has been a lot of trauma."

Hopes and Dreams: "It is my prayer that one day the Home will sustain itself." He believes we need to "keep loving these children and understanding them as they are, as unique. Remember they come from various backgrounds and keep loving them and helping them."

I Want People To Know About Zimbabwe: "Zimbabwe is a lovely country with a lot of potential. If we can maximize all of the gains that we've made from our independence, even people from outside will cherish coming to it. We want to fully reach our potential to develop our mission."

Motto: "Everybody has the potential to do good," by **Julius Nyerere**, former president of Tanzania.

Childhood Memory: "I grew up in the rural area where people are very poor, but have so much love for everyone. Everyone is everyone's child. I grew up with this spirit, and to this day it rules my life. Every child matters to me as my own."

Beyond Emmanuel's work and ministry with children, he has a huge heart for spending time with family, lending a hand to others, and serving as a lay reader at Sunday services. And he can occasionally be spotted enjoying a big slice of watermelon on the side of the highway!

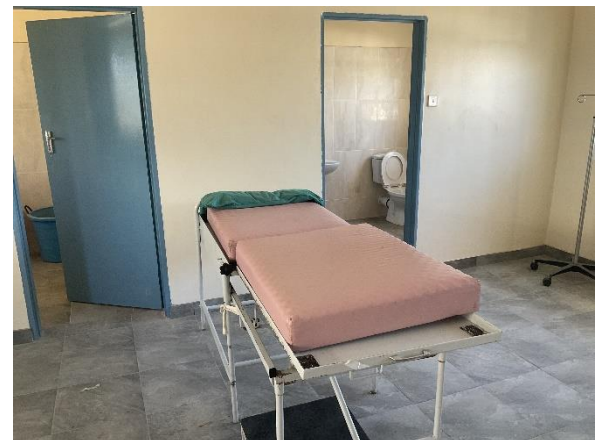


Chindenga Rural Clinic Renovation Nearing Completion



Work has continued on the renovation of the rural clinic at **Chindenga**, with the project expected to be completed this year. This is the final of six rural clinics in which TNC has been involved. Following is a summary of Chindenga details provided in the most recent report submitted by Nyadire's project coordinator, **Rev. Austern Chepiri**:

- The total project budget is \$350,680 with \$30,000 being funded by GBGM.
- Recent work was concentrated on painting walls, and electrical and plumbing on the toilet block to mothers' waiting home. In addition, Blair toilets and waste management pits were constructed. The MCH Building, the toilet block, the Borehole and the Two-Family Staff House are all completed. The waiting mothers' home toilet block is 70% completed and the Fencing and other General Services are 90% completed.
- Phase 3.1 is 100% completed and Phase 3.2 is 90% completed.



- To date, the local communities have delivered 185,000 farm bricks, 80 cubic meters of river sand, 70 cubic meters of stones, 260 cubic meters of gravel, and 100 cubic meters of pit sand to the project.

- Work planned for next month includes toilet block, painting, floor tiling, electrical, plumbing, general cleaning, construction of cooking sheds, construction of Blair toilets, and construction of waste management pits.



Home Of Hope Poultry/Grain Storage Project Seeks Funding

The **Home of Hope Orphanage** is building a poultry/grain storage facility, and is seeking additional funding to complete the project. **Scott Sanford**, leader of TNC's **Agriculture** program, helped the Home to develop a creative solution to a longstanding issue.

"For many years, the Home stored harvested grains in dormitory rooms, but the grain attracted rodents so we needed to find another place to store it," Scott explains. "They started to build a poultry barn as part of their sustainable fish pond project, but ran out of grant funds. The barn was larger than



needed so we suggested that they finish the building but make half of it for grain storage and milling, and the other half for raising poultry. Some of the eggs and meat raised will provide food for the orphanage."

A generous TNC donor provided funding for the construction of the building, which is nearing completion, but the project requires up to \$10,000 in additional funding to install electric service in the building, to pour a concrete pad in front of the grain storage end of the barn for drying and threshing crops, and to purchase chickens and feed to get production started.



Chicken runs

"When complete," Scott says, "the building will be able to store about 4,000 bushels of grain in three 'tight' rooms and have runs to house 250 broiler chickens and 200 laying hens. We are seeking donations to finish the project, and if we receive funds in excess of the estimated amount needed to complete it, we would invest in other agricultural projects at the Nyadire Mission to increase its ability to become more self-sufficient."

To contribute to this project, you can use the PayPal link on the TNC website: <https://www.nyadire.org/donate.html> (Please



Storage room entrances from milling room

note that the donation is for "HOH Poultry/Grain Storage Project".)

Or, you can send a check made out to "The Nyadire Connection" (please put "HOH Poultry/Grain Storage Project" in the memo line) to:

Christ United Methodist Church
Attn – TNC HOH Poultry/Grain Storage Project
44 Highland Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102



Milling room entrance with steel doors

Waiting Mothers Benefit From Girl Empowerment Pad Program



Not only does TNC's Girl Empowerment Pad program help girls in Nyadire attend school during their monthly cycles, the program also benefits waiting (expecting) mothers.

Through the program, led by TNC's **Bonnie Lawson** in the U.S. and **Charity Horiro** in Nyadire, school girls sew their own reusable sanitary supplies. Now, many new moms at the **Dindi Rural Clinic** are also participating in the program. They're learning to make their own pads, and they receive health information, including booklets in their native Shona language called "Growing Up In School."

"They can share the booklets with their older children and the community," Bonnie says. "It's part of our approach to reach the next generation, and it greatly expands the reach of our program beyond the boundaries of our seven supported schools."

The booklets were funded by a grant from GBGM.



Program Highlights From TNC's June Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather by Zoom to review programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting (Note: A few of our program leaders are currently in Nyadire on a mission trip, so some of these highlights are from our May meeting):

- Sister Rut Scholarships: See a complete list of students in the monthly minutes on our website.
- Home of Hope: May/June funds have been sent, and Term 2 has started ... The children received new backpacks and the bookshelves are completed, thanks to the Dutilh Hop-A-Thon (see page 2) ... Due to crop devastation, loan repayment will be temporarily lifted, and discussions will continue as to food assistance, irrigation, and borehole needs ... Fencing around the fishponds remains a priority for children's safety.
- Home of Hope Outreach: We serve 22 schools through the Outreach program ... Funds for Term 2 have been sent.

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Program Highlights...

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- Agriculture: The **Nyadire Farm Department** is selling cabbages and has planted green, red and yellow peppers. Challenges include inadequate water pipes and fencing is needed around the gardens ... The **Home of Hope** had its first fish harvest, with all fish going to the children ... See page 6 for an update on a new Poultry/Grain Storage project.
- Girl Empowerment Pad: See page 7.
- Eyeglasses: We continue to look for a new program leader in the U.S. No travel to Zimbabwe is necessary, and training and support will be provided. Please contact **Tim Wesley** at timwesley61@zoominternet.net if you're interested ... The team in Zimbabwe has made progress on long-term storage and container solutions for the eyeglasses at the hospital (photo at right).
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: See page 5.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: EWB National has defined the NGO for the next project to be the Western Annual Conference of UMC in Zimbabwe. **Rev. Austern Chepiri** has agreed to be the key contact at the Conference and he has completed the required information along with **Gashi Chikonyora** from the **Nyadire Hospital** for the Community Based Organization project request ... Funds of \$800 were spent to replace the tires on the ambulance.
- Hearing Innovation: The Resource Unit for the Deaf at **Nyadire Primary** now has 23 learners currently enrolled ... Working with **Tinashe Chiimba** to get estimates on building bookshelves and cubbies for the classrooms.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See page 1 and watch for our next newsletter, which will provide detailed coverage of our team's June-July trip!



If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, we strive to highlight a variety of our programs and the efforts of our network churches and other supporters.

If you have story/photo ideas that you would like us to consider for publication, please submit them to **Tim Wesley**, at timwesley61@zoominternet.net