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The Purpose of *The Nyadire Connection*

For several years, Pittsburgh area churches have supported the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe in a variety of ways.

Christ UMC in Bethel Park raised money to sustain a doctor's salary at Nyadire Hospital. St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park raised money for nursing scholarships.

Many other churches have contributed via the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the "mission agency of The United Methodist Church [which] seeks to be faithful to God's mission throughout the world."

After eighteen United Methodists traveled to Nyadire

in July/August 2006, they formed *The Nyadire Connection (TNC)* which seeks to organize and facilitate on-going support for Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe.

TNC is organized into six committees: Leadership, Communications/Special Projects, GBGM Coordination, Hospital Operational Support, Hospital Staff Support, and Home of Hope Orphanage.

Below you will find an update about the Home of Hope Committee's effort and please also see page two for news from the Hospital Operations Committee.

Shoes Galore for Home of Hope Orphans!

By Elsa Zollars

This Christmas season Mary Beth Zollars (chairperson) and the Home of Hope Committee arranged a Shoe Drive to buy new shoes for the orphans in the Home of Hope Orphanage.

The need for shoes is ongoing. The children sometimes arrive at the Home of Hope with a pair of shoes, but they are quickly worn out or outgrown. Other children arrive with no shoes.

Jean Stout designed wonderful paper shoe ornaments that donors received as a thank you for their donations. The first batch of shoe ornaments had hole-punched eyelets laced with shoelaces made of metallic cord woven by Paula Harvey.

Allison Harvey and members of the Tuesday night CBS Group at CUMC then cut out the ornaments. Kimberly Greway and Phil Himmler handled the drive at MLUMC and FBUMC, respectively.

Posters explained that a pair of shoes for the orphans at the Home of Hope in Nyadire cost \$10 US per pair. The Home of Hope Committee asked people to donate \$2 or \$5 toward a pair of shoes. Not only did people donate \$2 or \$5, but we had several triple-digit donations!

The original shoe ornaments with the metallic cord

were quickly depleted and so the process was scaled down and the next batch of ornaments was much simpler.

At last count, \$1,300 was collected from Christ United Methodist, nearly \$1000 from Mt. Lebanon United Methodist, and \$500 from First Bethel United Methodist - a whopping total of over \$2,800! St. Paul's UMC ran a more general fundraiser for Nyadire and raise approximately \$600.

Thanks to the many people who organized and contributed to the fundraiser. Shoe ornaments were sold at the Alternative Giving Mart at Christ United UMC

and at a variety of events at Mt. Lebanon and First Bethel UMCs.

As several people from Nyadire recently visited the US, TNC sent about a dozen pairs of shoes back with them. Thanks to Mary Kay Miller for these special efforts. The Shoe Drive will help to purchase shoes for all of the Home of Hope orphans. If any money is left over, it will be used for school uniforms.



Team Focus: *Hospital Operations* Committee

By Sue Bower

In November, Dr. Cherian Thomas visited TNC in Pittsburgh. Dr. Thomas works for GBGM. Because of his informative visit in November, Sandy Reid-Treibsch (Hospital Operations Team co-leader) was able to identify an organization in Baltimore that regularly sends containers to Zimbabwe (specifically to Nyadire, Old Mutare and another location) two to three times per year.

Sandy reports that this organization has agreed to allow us to use some of their space for a nominal charge (much less than if we had gotten our own container). Therefore, we plan on sending some supplies in the February shipment.

The container will probably take three to four months to arrive in Nyadire. As weight is not an issue, we will probably be sending some heavy tools collected by Drew Harvey and some hospital supplies collected by Sue Bower.

We also want to send medical journals and clothing which we have yet to re-

quest from donors.

Ron Morris has secured a storage area in Bethel Park so TNC will have space to store and pack donations efficiently.

The Hospital Operations Team continues to work on other methods of supplying Nyadire Hospital with needed equipment and supplies.

We have identified a company in the Netherlands which supplies drugs at a very inexpensive rate. We are working with Dr. Muchie Masunda to find out which drugs and quantities the hospital needs. With this company, we can order drugs online and then they will ship them directly to Zimbabwe.

We are continuing to seek partners in the medical field. We have meetings in the future with Jefferson Hospital, Pitt University Nursing School, and Community College of Allegheny County School of Nursing.

News In Brief...

- **Dr. Muchie Masunda** sends us word that the Christmas Party at Nyadire for which we supplied soft drinks went very well:

"The party was said to be the first of its kind. I had never thought people would be out and dancing like that! We gave out a number of awards to some people including the Longest-Serving Employee which went to a woman who has been working at Nyadire since 1955. Thank you so much for making the party a success."

- TNC sent the nursing students **Christmas cards** this year and upon receiving them, they burst out into song.
- The **plaque** which TNC sent to Nyadire to commemorate the dedication of the dormitories TNC helped to build has arrived safely in Nyadire.
- **TCN newsletters are now online** at: Christumc.net. Click on Nyadire at the bottom of the page.

Treasured Partners in Our Efforts to Help Nyadire

"Teamwork synergizes resources and creativity."

The Rev. Dr. Brian Bauknight

As we continue to build the structure and organization of *The Nyadire Connection*, we've recently had visits and conference calls with four very helpful people:

The Reverend Lloyd Nyarota – Rev. Lloyd works as Special Projects Coordinator to the Bishop of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. He will be our primary liaison and point of contact in Zimbabwe and will help us connect with the proper individuals for each program.

The Reverend Saphirina Sign – Rev. Saphirina is the pastor of the church in Old Mutare where our team worshiped during our visit. She is an incredibly inspiring lady! Currently Rev. Saphirina cares for 11 orphans in her home, and is also working on a master of theology at Africa University. She is now on an exchange program with Wesley Theological Institute in Washington DC and we hosted her for a two day visit here in Pitts-

burgh. She is on the Board of Directors for the Fairfield Home which is our model for developing the Home of Hope in Nyadire.

Dr. Cherian Thomas – General Board of Global Ministries in New York City. Dr. Thomas initiated the Hospital Revitalization Program within the GBGM which is how we first became involved with the Nyadire Mission. We hosted Dr Thomas here in Pittsburgh to review our plans and to discuss how we can best organize, transfer funds into Zimbabwe, and how to most effectively provide support.

Mr. Solomon Chiripasi – Treasurer of the United Methodist Conference in Zimbabwe. Mr. Chiripasi handles the financial aspect of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe in the capital, Harare. He has been to the US a number of times and the TNC Team was able to meet and celebrate with him in early January.

Would Your Group Like to Host a Presentation?

Do you belong to a:

- Rotary/Lions Club
- Sewing circle
- Bible study
- Sunday school class
- Men's Group
- Social action group
- HIV/AIDS support group
- Travel group

Or do you work at:

- A school
- A hospital
- A charity
- A church
- An orphanage

We would love to offer you free speakers/presenters who can tailor their presentations to your needs.

For example, if you teach **elementary school** and are doing a unit on Africa, one of our volunteers could come and talk to your class about their experiences in Zimbabwe.

If you belong to a **sewing circle** looking for a charitable project, invite one of our volunteers to talk about how one area church is making much-needed blankets for a hospital and dolls for an orphanage in Zimbabwe.

If you would appreciate a presentation

on **HIV/AIDS in Africa** or Zimbabwe, we have the people ready to help!

If your **Sunday school class** is interested in how Methodism in the US is the same as or different from Methodism in Africa, call us!

Please contact us at the address below if you are interested in a presentation or if you would like more information about Nyadire

Kimberly Greway
3319 W. Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-531-7131



Correspondence from Rev. Razo

Rev. Razo writes...

Thank you so much for the newsletter you sent us about Nyadire. We are so grateful for what you are doing in developing Nyadire Mission. We pray that the vision be a success. We will provide you with any information that will be of help to you in compiling another newsletter. May God bless you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. P. Razo
District Superintendent

Zoom In on Zimbabwe



Did you know?

- that Zimbabwe has a population of 13 million people living in a country slightly larger than Montana?
- that there are three official languages in Zimbabwe: English, Shona and Ndebele?
- that around 90% of Zimbabweans are literate?
- that one third of adults 15-50 are HIV positive?
- that most Zimbabweans speak two or more languages?
- that "Zimbabwe" means "house of stone"?
- that "Harare," the name of the capital, means "he who doesn't sleep"?
- that Zimbabwe used to be called Southern Rhodesia?
- that Zimbabwe is in southern Africa and shares borders with Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Africa?
- that there are more cell phones in use in Zimbabwe than land lines?

• Vocabulary:

hello ma-ka-DII
thank you ta-TE-nda
I NDI
to want KU-da
to go ku-E-nda
home kumba
My name is... ndi-NO-nzi...
I want to go home.
Ndinoda kuenda kumba.

Donald Sangeni, Home of Hope Child, Dies

The Nyadire Connection recently heard of the death of Donald Sangeni. He was the oldest child at the Home of Hope Orphanage. He suffered from HIV/AIDs and missed a lot of school, but was nonetheless one of the best students in his class.

Donald was an avid reader and writer. He wrote in two recent letters to the US that he missed us and thanked us for teaching the children at the Home of Hope such sweet songs.

Donald had a special fondness for Mrs. Phil who de-

lighted in Donald's choice of animal for the Noah's Ark musical: he chose to be a monkey. Mrs. Phil made a joke of it and always called him, "Donald, my monkey!"

Donald also wrote that Mrs. Mary Kay gave him hope of maybe one day visiting us the U.S., God willing. Donald wrote, "I thought if life could be rewinded, I'll rewind it to be with you again."

Donald was born in 1993. His mother died in 2000 and his father died two years later. He was staying with his aunt in his father's house. Later the aunt sold the house and he had nowhere to stay.

His mother's sister took him but was unable to take care of him and therefore approached the Department of Social Welfare for help.



**Donald Sangeni
1993-2007**

Home of Hope: Reports on Success

By Elsa Zollars

Dr. Muchie Masunda conveyed to the Home of Hope Orphanage Committee the happy news that after a Christmas party for the hospital staff, plans were made and funds raised to have a Christmas party for the children at the Home of Hope the following week.

Dr. Masunda and several others accompanied the children to a riverside venue and took the kids on a boat ride.



Home of Hope child during naptime with a doll made by members of St. Paul's UMC

TCN is so pleased to see Nyadire staff initiating cross-departmental activities that will benefit all of Nyadire Community. We wish we could have been there to enjoy the party.

The Home of Hope Committee also participated in the AIDS Awareness

Weekend at Christ UMC in Bethel Park in mid-January. The Committee set up a table with the DVD of our visit to Nyadire, photos, pertinent articles, and a book of bios of the children at the Home available for sponsorship.

The Home of Hope Committee hosted the table in order to spread awareness of AIDs in Africa, to increase understanding about Nyadire, and to register initial interest in child sponsorship which will be finalized once that process is established.

* * *

If you would like to sponsor one of the orphans at the Home of Hope please contact Mary Beth Zollars by email Mbzollars@aol.com or by telephone (412) 835-1171.

Nyadire News and Articles Welcome!

This is YOUR newsletter! If you have updates about your projects or committees related to Nyadire or Zimbabwe, please let me know.

If you receive a letter or an email from Nyadire with news you would like to share, please email me (kgreway@hotmail.com).

If you want to advertise an upcoming event...send me an advertisement!

Email me with your ideas, suggestions, or comments!

Please also send pictures to be included in the newsletter.

Email: kgreway@hotmail.com