



# Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

May 2008

## Inside this issue:

- Team of Three; Murrysville UMC; Annual Conference Help Needed** 2
- Bethel Park and Backpacks** 3
- Bicycle Donations; Pharmaceuticals Sent** 4
- Water Project; Presidential Elections; Article about Kayla** 5

### The Nyadire Connection

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

After eighteen United Methodists traveled to Nyadire in July/August 2006, they formed The Nyadire Connection (TNC) which seeks to organize and facilitate ongoing support for Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe.

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

This newsletter helps to keep informed those interested in Nyadire. Please email the editor with the emails of those who wish to receive the monthly newsletter.

Kimberly Greway, Editor  
kgreway@hotmail.com

## The Nyadire Connection Gets New Logo

By Richard Dickey

We have created a new LOGO for *The Nyadire Connection*. This new one can be used on different colored backgrounds and hopefully is more readable.

With the old logo, some power point presentations made it look like "Hyadire". Add to that our typical Pittsburghese mispronunciation of "Nyadire," and confusion broke out!

So now we need to develop a story to go with the new one. What does it represent? Who can come up with the best description? No prizes but definitely an affirmation in a later newsletter.



Here goes my shot. Is it A for Africa?

Or maybe the triangle represents the connections between Western PA and Nyadire.

The left side being the people of Nyadire; the right side the people of Western Pennsylvania; the bottom leg being the The Nyadire Connection supporting all of the endeavors. Maybe the apex represents the services spilling out into the Nyadire Community.

I'm pretty sure you all can discern some better symbolism. Look for Kimberly's explanation of the logo in the next issue.

## Containers En Route To Nyadire

There are currently two ocean containers in transit to Zimbabwe. One was sent (GBGM) by the General Board of Global Ministries out of Baltimore and the other we sent through Brother's Brother from Pittsburgh.

The one from GBGM contains only medical supplies and is currently in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

This container has supplies for all three United Methodist mission hospitals in Zimbabwe: Nyadire, Old Mutare, and Mutambara. It should all be distributed soon.

The container sent through Brother's Brother is entirely for Nyadire and includes things for the Mission in general as well as items specifically for the Hospital.



Ocean-going containers ready for shipping

It is currently on a train moving through Mozambique on its way to Harare. Once through customs it will be transported to Nyadire.

We are hopeful of sending at least one more in 2008 but that will depend on funds available. It costs between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to ship a 40 ft. container.

## Team of Three Reports Back from Nyadire

Kayla Mahalchak, Mary Beth Zollars, and Elsa Zollars recently returned from Nyadire. They were there about nine days in the latter part of January.

Mary Beth teaches in the Chartiers Valley school system and Kayla is a senior in that school district.

Kayla's family is heavily involved in the medical field so Kayla decided that for her Senior Project she would like to visit a remote hospital to observe the medical procedures there. Her intention was to write her paper on that when she returned.

Mary Beth's mom went along to keep

the other two out of trouble (you know Mary Beth) and was pretty successful. Well, except for a small delay with the luggage!

Mary Beth heads up the Home of Hope Orphanage Committee and she was very interested to see how it was going with the new administrator.

Kayla met students of all ages at the various Nyadire schools. According to the Bridgeville Area News Kayla says "I think I have 40 pen pals now, I was very overwhelmed and fell in love with the high school students." And, as always, the orphans are cap-

tivating.

Kayla is very interested in the medical aspects of the mission due to her family experiences. However it seemed to be the people that most impressed her. The friendliness and hospitality from people with very little in the way of material things can be overwhelming.

Kayla planned an extremely successful fundraising dinner at the Heidelberg Fire Hall in April 2008. She raised a total of \$2892! The funds raised will be donated to the people of Nyadire.

## Help Needed at Annual Conference 2008

For the second year in a row we are planning to have an information table at Annual Conference. The dates are June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup> at Grove City.

We need volunteers to sit at the table to talk to people and answer questions during those dates. We will try to cover the tables from the hours of 10:00 AM through about 5:00 or 6:00 PM. In shifts of several hours, but we are very flexible.

If you've ever wondered what all the pastors do at Annual Conference, now's your chance! While there you are welcome to attend sessions or worship as long as the table is covered by someone else.

While there is not much to do at the table while the conference is in session, during the breaks lots of people stream into the hall to look at all the booths and many express interest in Nyadire. In other words, bring a book and be ready for a lot of down time interspersed with brief periods of frantic activity.

Anyone that is interested can let Richard Dickey know. Email is [Sarah@aol.com](mailto:Sarah@aol.com) phone is 412-914-0121. No experience needed.



## Murrysville Mission Weekend

TNC recently had the opportunity to speak at a Mission Weekend being held at Murrysville United Methodist Church. This church has been very active in missions in the past and is continuing to provide ways for people to become more involved.

The weekend was to start with small group meetings on Friday night and continued with large group presentations on Saturday morning, a hands-on project Saturday afternoon, and a sermon by a missionary on Sunday morning.

The Nyadire Connection was invited to participate as one example of international missions. Drew Harvey was the speaker and Richard Dickey went along to help talk with the people.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and Friday evening was snowed out. (We did get a chance to share with the Outreach Committee anyway and had a great meal.) Saturday morning a large number of people arrived for breakfast and then the presentations were run 3 times each so that people could attend more than one. There were a total of five different mission examples being given.

About 30 people attended Drew's presentations and there was a good dialogue and lots of questions and interest expressed.

In summary it was a great experience and we are continuing dialogue with them as some are very interested in going on some of our trips with us. The enthusiasm is heartening.

If you would like to have presentation in your school, club, or church, please contact Kimberly Greway at [kgreway@hotmail.com](mailto:kgreway@hotmail.com).

# TNC Partners with Bethel Parks Schools to Provide Backpacks to Needy Kids

When Mary Beth Zollars and Janet Elders were at Nyadire in the summer of 2007 they became aware of many orphans and vulnerable children in the villages around Nyadire Mission. Accordingly, they, with the help of the local people, took pictures and short biographies of many of these children.

They hoped that we could find people to sponsor at least some of these children. They need about \$50 a year (now \$60) to attend public school; this includes tuition and the necessary uniform.

In addition school supplies are non-existent. Most classrooms do not have desks so the children work on the floor or on a clipboard. If there are desks often as many as ten children will share one desk.

The Nyadire Connection decided to fill backpacks with a bunch of supplies: paper, pencils, erasers, clipboards, etc. Mary Beth and Janet put together a short list of which supplies would be most useful.

The Nyadire Connection approached the Bethel Park Schools to see if there would be any interest on their part. We talked to Nancy Rose, Assistant Superintendent and were treated most graciously.

People from TNC went to each of the elementary schools and delivered a presentation on the needs in Nyadire and what can be done to help. As a result, the Bethel Park schools and their PTOs have taken on the project with gusto.

Each homeroom in the elementary schools agreed to support one of the children. They collected the necessary money and acquired and filled the backpacks. The High School has also acquired and filled close to a hundred backpacks.

The teachers have been able to use this project as a teaching moment to help acquaint our children with other parts of the world and what their needs are.

Over 200 backpacks were collected and shipped to Nyadire. Mark LaRosa found a contact within DHL Global that was able to secure us a discount on transportation charges.

The backpacks are now in Nyadire and are being distributed by Mr. Chiimba, the Home of Hope administrator.

This program is being called the Home of Hope Outreach program or (are you ready for this?) the HOHO program.

TNC is hopeful of expanding the program to include other schools for next year, and perhaps shipping the backpacks via ocean container.



## Free Ride! Donates Bikes to Nyadire

When Rev. Lloyd Nyarota, assistant to the Bishop in Zimbabwe, visited Pittsburgh he expressed his desire for us to become involved in the support of rural pastors around Nyadire.

Many of these pastors receive little or no support from their churches because the churches do not have the resources. Many pastors serve a multi-point charges which entails a lot of traveling from village to village between churches.

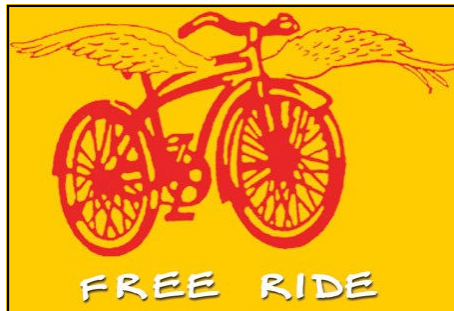
With Zimbabwe's depressed economy, 'transportation' often now means walking. Pastors spend so much of their time walking to different villages that they are unable to accomplish the tasks necessary to support their churches and their families.

Since there is little fuel available in Zimbabwe, cars are not the answer.

Rev. Lloyd's idea was to supply each pastor with a bicycle to reduce their travel time significantly. The Nyadire Connection thinks that we can go beyond that and also supply teachers, nurses, and others with bicycles at Nyadire.

Rev. Kimberly Greway contacted Jessica of *Free Ride!* ([freeridepgh.org](http://freeridepgh.org)) through a parishioner of hers.

This Squirrel Hill-based organization rehabilitates bicycles and redistributes them. Their website indicates that "Free Ride! is a non-profit recycle-a-bike shop that enables people of all ages to obtain, recycle, and maintain bicycles."



Free Ride! supplied The Nyadire Connection with 29 like-new trail bikes as well as extra tires, tubes, and pedals.

Ron Morris and Richard Dickey took the Christ UMC vans over there and

brought the bikes back. (For future reference you can get 21 bikes into a 15 passenger van.)

These have been stored in our storage space and will be on the next container shipped to Zimbabwe. We were met at Free Ride by Jake Holburg who is a bicycle messenger downtown.

The operation is very impressive. They have scores of bikes in various stages of repair. The repair program is very thorough with a strong emphasis on making sure that the bike is safe.

Wonder if the emphasis on safety might come from Jake's profession? Free Ride! can always use volunteers to help with the reconstruction and they are helpful in finding spare parts for anyone that stops in.

Once the bikes are rehabilitated they are sold for a nominal amount to anyone that has a use for them. We are thrilled with the donation of so many bikes and look forward to matching each bike with its new Zimbabwean adult or youth owner.

## MAP Drugs Fly around the Globe

As many of you will know, there is a desperate lack of medications at the hospital in Nyadire. We agreed to supply the financial backing to secure the most needed drugs for the hospital.

We recently ordered another batch of drugs from MAP to be shipped to Nyadire. Mary Beth Zollars was able to bring back a list Dr. Tshani's (pronounced "CHA nee") needs from her last trip to Nyadire.

We had to scale his order down because it was more money than we had available but what we are sending is a good sized batch that will carry the hospital for several months.

If there are any specific drugs that would help they will let us know so

that we can fill in the gaps.

MAP ships the drugs by air directly from their operation in Europe to Nyadire. They should be arriving in the next few weeks.

Since the drugs have expiration dates air shipment is the most effective way to get them there. Ocean shipping often takes many months and the drugs often arrive too close to their expiration dates to be very useful.

We plan to send at least one and perhaps two more shipments of drugs in 2008.



If you would like to "sponsor a medication" please contact Kimberly Greway at [kgreway@hotmail.com](mailto:kgreway@hotmail.com). You can choose any "strength" sponsorship from Amoxicillian to Cipro!

## ***Nyadire Water Project***

The water situation in Nyadire is continuing to deteriorate. When we visited there first in 2002 there was ample running water which was thoroughly treated. As a matter of fact we drank it just as it came out of the tap and had no problems.

As those who have visited more recently can attest that is no longer the case.

The situation in a nutshell is this: originally there was a mission water system using local boreholes (wells) and reservoirs. As the Zimbabwe government became established, ZINWA (Zimbabwe National Water Authority) approached the Mission offering water supplied through their treatment facilities from the nearby river which they had recently dammed.

The Mission evaluated the costs and decided it would be more cost effective to go with ZINWA. Thus, the local boreholes and reservoirs became superfluous.

Now unfortunately, due to the collapsing economy, ZINWA is unable to continue the water supply. Can you imagine running a hospital without running water?

TNC, along with the Mission and the Zimbabwe Conference, asked a Zimbabwean engineer George Mutasa to look at the possibility of resurrecting the old system. George has recently completed a very similar project at Old Mutare Mission.

His report came back that it was very doable and would cost about \$80,000 to \$100,000 to complete. The plan is to construct two new reservoirs and put solar powered pumps on several of the boreholes. Solar pumps are being chosen due to the shortage of electricity and fuel. Solar pumps are very practical for this type of installation.

The existing distribution system will be used and will be examined to

eliminate as many leaks as possible.

Knowing that this was beyond our current budget, we talked to anyone that would listen to the problem. When our friend Shannon Trilli of UMCOR/GBGM heard about it she approached UMCOR and was able to secure funding through them.

Yes, this is the same UMCOR that we all donate to every year. It is really good to see some of the fruits of these donations.

Now that the funding is in place, the project has been kicked off. It is expected to take about six months to complete. We are hopeful that it will be up and running by the time of our October trip this summer.

There may be some work that our teams can do but we are specifically not planning that because we do not want the Zimbabweans to think they have to wait for us to be there.

## ***Zim Presidential Election Date Set***

In the presidential election in Zimbabwe that occurred on March 29th, no candidate received more than 50% of the vote. In order to avoid a run-off election, laws in Zimbabwe require a candidate to surpass the 50% mark.

The date for the run-off election has recently been announced as June 27th.

## ***Article about Kayla Mahalchak***

The National School Boards Association recently printed an article about the value of senior projects done by high school seniors. The article focuses on Kayla Mahalchak joined the Jan 08 team on a trip to Zimbabwe.

Go to the following address and search for "Zimbabwe" to read the article.

<http://www.nsba.org/>

