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Steering Group Organized and Ready!

Many of you are aware that a number of people had volunteered to be a part of the Zim Steering Committee to streamline the on-going work with Nyadire.

On Sept 21st, we met to divide out the responsibilities. We decided that ideally we would have two chairpersons on each committee who would then recruit other members as needed. Here's an outline of the committees, their chairpersons, and responsibilities:

- **Leadership Committee**—Drew and Richard—Strategy and vision, coordination, facilitation, assignments
- **Communications, Fund Raising and Special Projects**—Kim and Chuck—communication, publications, coordination of presentations, links to UM connection, fund-raising, website, etc, and special projects such as student nurse sponsorships, future mission trips
- **Conference/GBGM Coordination**—Sara—Determining best way to get financial support to Nyadire, accounting, clarification of roles among global church and conferences, establishing a coordination team in Zimbabwe
- **Hospital Operational Support**—Ron and Sandy—exploring issues such as hard currency, fuel situation, and stock of medical supplies, equipment, and drugs
- **Hospital Staffing/Management Support**—Mark and Janet—recruiting and retention of doctors, staffing priorities, hospital leadership and structure, resource utilization and sharing within the mission
- **Home of Hope**—Mary Beth—Coordinate with Fairfield Orphanage and Finnish Methodist Church, take steps towards implementing the Fairfield model, create job description and hire an administrator, operational plan, fund-raising and child sponsorship



Mission kids at the Thanksgiving Service

“The Nyadire Connection” Name Chosen

After collecting over thirty suggested names from our team for the organization, we met in October and eventually narrowed the field down to five by voting. We discussed the options and reached a consensus: the name we chose is “The Nyadire Connection”.

We felt it important to use the word “Nyadire” as that is our primary (and overwhelming) concern. The word “connection” speaks both to the affinity we feel personally for those at Nyadire and the

official United Methodist “connection” which we are living out in our efforts.

Thanks to all those who submitted names: it was REALLY difficult to choose one over the others!

We all hope that we will live into this name and that it will continue to inspire us when the going gets rough...

Nyadire's Strengths and Challenges

On August 10th, 2006, the leadership of our VIM Team met with Muchie (doctor), Sekai (administrator), Joyce (matron), and Julius (chaplain) to discuss the strengths and challenges that Nyadire currently has.

Nyadire's strengths

- Dedicated staff
- Vital community resource that supports the local economy
- Well-equipped hospital
- Friends and supporters from the US, Finland, etc.
- Outreach programs
- Mission community environment
- Maintenance of four hospital clinics
- Electricity (sometimes)
- Strong and credible history
- Nursing school
- Strong Christian foundation and vision

The challenges were divided into long-term and short-term challenges.

Short-term Challenges

- Copier and paper needed
- PCN graduation ceremony Sept 30th
- \$750 million Zim debt to vendors (approx. \$1600 USD)
- Nursing entertainment
- Central supply space
- Sadza maker broken

Long-term challenges

- Access and cost of fuel
- Medical supplies and drugs
- Cleaning supplies
- Nursing shortage and retention
- Water
- Vehicle maintenance
- Physician support
- Computer functionality—training of key staff

Overall, we were all impressed with the importance of and number of strengths that Nyadire has. We have resolved to work together toward solving both short- and long-term challenges. ✂



“Are they coming back to do another Vacation Bible School during our December school holidays?”
-asked by several VBS participants eager for another round

Julius and Joyce Visit the US, Update All

This month Julius and Joyce Tsigas visited Pittsburgh for a couple of hours. Those who were able, met at Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) for lunch.

After the fantastic lunch, we explained to the Tsigas the various committees and what their responsibilities are.

They updated us on developments at Nyadire. The dormitory that our team worked on while there has been (very nearly) completed.

The children who participated in the Vacation Bible School are still raving about the time our volunteers spent with them. “Who built the ark...Noah, Noah!” can still be heard echoing across the mission.

At the hospital, the staff and doctor are more easily able to access supplies, and the administra-

tion is learning about and working with the computers set up while we were there.

Joyce and Julius agreed to carry back greeting cards for the PCNs from all of us. Chuck initiated this as one of his special projects.

Joyce and Julius also outlined the graduation of the nursing students that occurred on Sept 30th. The occasion was attended by Ministers of Parliament Dr. Muchena (Science and Technology) and Dr. Henry Parirenyatwa.

The Tsigas have brought us a video of the graduation event which welcomed hundreds of people to Nyadire. The staff at Nyadire were very pleased with the turnout and all enjoyed a meal of chicken and sadza provided as one of the short-term challenges by *The Nyadire Connection*. ✂

Nurse Sponsorship Program Working

Over the last several years, St. Paul's UMC and Christ UMC have each raised \$3000 to sponsor nurses at Nyadire to go for additional education.

The nurses that were chosen to receive the sponsorship money were Blessing, Crescenzia, and Irene.

While at Nyadire, we met with these three and found that they had been told of the sponsorship money, but had not yet received any.

Sara Dickey looked into the matter and eventually traced the money which had been received, but forgotten.

Since Sara's inquiry, the nurses have been notified that the money has arrived and they are now able to turn in receipts for their tuition, transportation, lodging, and food during the periods when they are at school.

We hope to be able to sponsor more nurses in the future with any leftover money and any

additional fundraising. At the end of the year, we will have a more realistic understanding of the actual costs of one year of education.

The nurses being sponsored are the more senior nurses (dressed in green). They are attending various schools in Zimbabwe for a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing.



Have You Done a Presentation?

So far we have done **more than ten presentations** since we returned in August! That's fantastic! We also have five more presentations anticipated in the near future!

Very soon, we will have letters to send out to other church and civic groups offering speakers about Nyadire, Zimbabwe. If you know of any organizations that might welcome such information, please let Kimberly know.

Also soon (but not as soon) we will have presentation packets for you. The packet will include a letter of introduction, brochures to hand out, possibly a Powerpoint presentation, and other useful information. Other ideas are needed—what would you like to see in a presentation tool kit?

If you've already done a presentation, thanks! Please let Kimberly know so that she can record the contact information and the num-

ber of attendees. Fill out the form at the right for each presentation and she will record the statistics.

Please be sure to get all the contact information possible as this will be used to build up the newsletter contact list.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter either by email or mail, please let Kimberly know. The more people we have reading about our progress, the more people may be able to help us support Nyadire.

If you have a presentation planned, please fill out a presentation form when you've finished. When Kimberly receives a request for a presentation, she will find an available person and mail them the card with the address and contact info that she knows. Please fill out the rest of the form and get it back to her.

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ZIM PRESENTATION FORM

Presenter _____

Date _____ Time _____

Group _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Approx. # attendees _____

Media Available - (i.e. overhead, laptop, screen, cd player, powerpoint?)

Joeffrez Zingare, Home of Hope Child, Dies

Many of us who traveled to Zimbabwe in July have fond memories of Joeffrez, the ever-helpful, devoted Vacation Bible School student leader.

Last week, we received word that Joeffrez (spelled in a variety of ways) had died. Further communications with Dr.

Muchie Masunda indicated that he died of meningitis.

“Meningitis is an infection of the tissues and sometimes the fluid that surround the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis results in swelling of the brain tissue and in some cases the spinal tissue. When brain tissue swells, less blood and oxygen reach brain cells.

“Meningitis can rage from mild to life-threatening. The severity usually depends on the organism causing the infection and a person’s age and overall health.” (Source: Web MD)

As we grieve the loss of our first Home of Hope child, we are weighing ways to keep his memory alive. If anyone has any suggestions, please let us know. ✂

St. Paul’s to Host Sewing Classes, Donate Tuition to Nyadire

The women in “Creative Hands for Comfort and Warmth” at St. Paul’s UMC in Allison Park create blankets, quilts, and clothing for those in need.

When we sent our VIM Team in July, they traveled with scores of blankets, clothes, and dolls made by volunteers.

Now the women of Creative Hands have decided to support Nyadire in a new way: they will offer classes on a variety of sewing techniques and donate the tuition

money to our endeavor in Nyadire.

Class may include crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, and quilting among others.

Creative Hands attracts people of all ages and faith traditions. Some come already knowing how to sew, while others come to learn.

When they meet once a month, members bring items they have been working on. After explaining how they made the items,

they are able to answer others’ questions. The items are then tagged with the maker’s name and turned in to one of four charities, including Nyadire.

In preparation for our July trip to Nyadire, Creative Hands cancelled its show-and-tell programs and instead held several sewing “bees” when members came together to make a great many blankets in a short amount of time. ✂

McKnight UMC Drama Group Donates \$1000

McKnight United Methodist Church, located in Ross Township in the North Hills, has had a Drama Team for more than eleven years.

Each year, the group donates a portion of their profits to various mission projects. This year they have decided to give \$1000 to Nyadire because of a presentation that one of their members heard on our VIM trip to Nyadire in July.

They were particularly touched by the debt that Nyadire Hospital faces and the fact that their entire

debt is less than a one-day stay in the ICU in the US.

Thank you so much for your generosity, McKnight UMC Drama Team! It’s the support like yours that is going to make our mission possible!



If any readers are interested in seeing any of their performances, the Drama Team at McKnight UMC offers a Dinner Theater in the spring and a Mystery Dinner event in the fall. The church website is www.gbgm-umc.org/McKnightUMC



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!

Email: kgreway@hotmail.com