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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 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.

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

Zimbabwe Mission Trip Information Mtg.

Monday, Oct 15th, 7pm, Mt. Lebanon UMC

All those interested in supporting Nyadire, Zimbabwe are welcome at an informational meeting on Monday, Oct 15th from 7pm to 8:30pm at Mt. Lebanon UMC.

At the meeting, leaders will outline the summer 2008 mission trips, give updates about Nyadire, show slides, and answer tons of questions.

If you are interested in getting involved, this is the place to be! The meeting is open to anyone interested in Zimbabwe—we hope to have a wide variety of attendees.

Applications will be available and people who have been on mission trips already to Zimbabwe will be able to answer your questions.

If you are interested in supporting Zimbabwe, but don't want to go on a mission trip, this is also the meeting for you! You will hear first-hand stories and discover many ways that you can be involved without getting on a plane!

Monday, Oct 15th

7-8:30pm

Mt. Lebanon UMC

Mt. Lebanon UMC is located at 3319 W. Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15216. The phone number is 412-531-7131.

Rev. Lloyd Nyarota to Visit in October

From Oct 24th to Oct 30th, TNC will be pleased to welcome Rev. Lloyd Nyarota to Pittsburgh.

Rev. Lloyd Nyarota works as a special assistant to Bishop Nhiwatiwa in the two Zimbabwean Annual Conferences. His official title is Area Projects and Communications Coordinator.

Rev. Nyarota facilitates the interactions between Zimbabwean projects and their supports.

Over the last year, Rev. Nyarota has been an invaluable asset to The Nyadire Connection. He has been able to follow up with Nyadire on projects and questions and keep communication flowing in both directions.

You will have numerous opportunities to meet Lloyd. Each of the events below is open to anyone wishing to attend:

Thurs Oct 25

- 11:30am—MLUMC Mission Sewing Group, Epworth Chapel

- 6:30pm—Lloyd speaking at St. Paul's UMC

Sat Oct 27

- 10am—Brunch at Christ UMC (RSVP please)

Sun Oct 29

- 8:30am—Lloyd preaching at the early morning service at Mt. Lebanon UMC (Sanner Chapel)
- 9:30am—Sunday School (Mt. Lebanon UMC)
- 10:45am—Lloyd speaking about Nyadire during the service at Mt. Lebanon UMC
- 4:30pm and 7:15pm—Lloyd speaking to the Christ UMC Youth Group
- 6:15-7pm—Lloyd speaking to the Mt. Lebanon Youth Groups

Mt. Lebanon UMC can be reached at 412-531-7131. **Christ UMC** can be reached at 412-835-6621. **St. Paul's UMC** can be reached at 412-486-7006.



Rev. Lloyd Nyarota

Area Projects and
Communications
Coordinator

A Day in the Life of a Child in Nyadire - Kids Connect

"A day in the life of a child in Nyadire, Zimbabwe" was the theme for the Kids Connect Program held at Christ United Methodist on Wed., March 28, 2007.

The Home of Home Orphanage Committee, consisting of Mary Beth Zollars, chair, Mary Kay Miller (both of whom visited the Nyadire Mission last summer), Marie Hunt, and Elsa Zollars planned the evening to connect CUMC children to the Nyadire children through songs, games, and devotions. The program focused on sharing and resourcefulness.

To start the program, nineteen children, ages 4-13 were invited to play with wooden African animals and play dough that resembled sadza, (ground corn), the mainstay of the Zimbabwe diet.

Mary Beth taught the children the traditional Zimbabwean handshake and greetings. Mary Kay led them in a litany of thanks, to which the children responded, "Tatenda, Mwari," (Thank you, Lord.)

An experiential day for a child in Nyadire followed:

Fetching water at the pump

One leader explained that the power often goes off, necessitating going to the pump in order to get water to cook and wash. Several children demonstrated how Nyadire children carry water home

in buckets on their heads. CUMC children then washed their hands in the Zimbabwean style.

Breakfast

Mary Kay explained that Nyadire children often ate sadza for all three meals and described how the sadza was prepared. Nyadire children also ate bananas which CUMC children then had for a snack.

Chores before school – chopping wood

CUMC children learned and sang a simple chant with wood-chopping motions.

Singing as they walk to school

The CUMC children held hands and sang "Hakuna Wakaita sa Jesu" as they literally walked and wove their way to school over rocks, (one of which was wobbly), across a stream, and through sand.

School

After asking the CUMC children how they dressed for school, Mary Kay showed photos of the Nyadire children in their school uniforms attending large classes. She also spoke of the scarcity of materials and paper.

Games

CUMC children had a big surprise when they saw the similarity between their

By Elsa Zollars

games and those of the Nyadire children. "Rotten Egg" was much like "Duck, Duck, Goose." "Come Little Bird" involved hopping one leg continuously and turning around for an extra challenge.

Toys

All kinds of toys were assembled from a variety of scraps and discards. The youngest children proudly made balls by squishing plastic bags together and fashioning them in a ball shape with lots of rubber bands. More elaborate creations involved paper towel tubes, and paper bag puppetry.

CUMC children left the Kids Connect evening of fun with maps of Africa, fact sheets about Nyadire, their toy creations, and photo bookmarks created by Marie Hunt. The words on the bookmark summed up the experience of the evening with a popular Nyadire saying:

"Good is good, all the time. All the time, God is good."

Thanks also to the youth helpers whose help with the activities and children was invaluable.

Container Off to Nyadire!

Many of you know that we collect needed items for Nyadire throughout the year. We store them in our storage unit until a shipment is ready to go.

In this picture you can see just a portion of the items that recently left on a container to Zimbabwe. We sent bicycles, reams of paper, hospital gurneys, toys, surgical instruments, and many other items.

If you know of items that Nyadire might be able to use, please contact us.

As always, we welcome donations to cover the cost of shipping the donated items to Nyadire. Each shipment costs approximately \$10,000. Could you "sponsor a box" for \$35? Your box will contain much-needed supplies for Nyadire!



Garage Sale for Home of Hope Orphanage

By Elsa Zollars

When my long-time friend, Marilyn Gilman stated emphatically, "Let's do a garage sale for the Home of Hope Orphanage," I was excited.

Then she added, "We'd hold it at my house. It'll be a piece of cake. I've done these for charities before, and I want to do this for the children of the orphanage."

My excitement turned into disbelief and concern. Marilyn is an attorney, very involved with her family, and has a few side interests such as antique dealer, artist, gardener, CASA volunteer, etc.

But we did it, thanks to her and many energetic people who felt they wanted to support the Home of Hope (HOH).

Quality items appeared like magic from friends, neighbors, and members of The

Nyadire Connection. Bruce and Vicki Goodman volunteered their truck and picked up and even delivered some items afterwards.

Kathy Selekas and Linda Cobb helped with sales and Bill Zollars provided those missing pieces when needed.

Mary Beth Zollars, chairperson of the HOH Committee, was on hand to answer questions about the program as buyers and browsers viewed the information on display and lingered over cake and coffee (also provided by Marilyn.)

Good part? --- \$1,055 was realized for the Home of Hope Orphanage and the 20 children who live there!

Best part? --- The energy that surrounded the sale and the awareness that resulted. Many folks said when their items were being totaled, "Keep the change as a contribution." And better yet, many left a donation without buying a thing!



The garage sale was like a puzzle with so many people putting the pieces together in their willingness to donate or help in other ways.

Focus on the Home of Hope: Chriswell Kachidza

By Mary Beth Zollars

Chriswell Kachidza is 13 years old and is now the oldest child at the Home of Hope. He writes, "I am in grade six B. I am good in class. At home in free time I play football. I have four Mothers in [the] HOH. My Mothers is good for me. I like to eat rice and chicken. At school we like to learn about Shona. At school I like to play basketball. My school is very nice."

This short letter tells a lot about the lives of these young Zimbabweans. Most instruction at school is in English, and the children know how important English is for being able to pass the exams that allow you to continue with high school.

English is also one of the official languages of Zimbabwe, impor-

tant to its businesses and communications with one another and others in the world.

However, the children speak Shona with one another, as it is their native tongue.

School is highly valued in the Zimbabwean culture. They are very proud of their strong educational traditions. Classes may have 50 children, but they are well behaved and disciplined.

The United Methodist Mission in Nyadire is blessed to have many educational opportunities: pre-school, primary school, secondary school, teacher's college, nursing school, and opportunities for trades and apprenticeships.

Football is, of course, soccer, played with any object when a ball is not available!

The Home of Hope has actually one "Grandmother", who lives with the children. The other "Mothers" take turns helping to launder, cook, clean, garden, clothe the children, and tend to the sick. Together, the mothers provide a loving, safe, and Christ-centered home for all.

We ask that you pray for Chriswell as he takes on the role of older brother and mentor for the littler ones!



Up-to-Date Information about Zimbabwe on the Web

Many people wonder where they can get up-to-date information about Zimbabwe.

Below is a list on online sources of information followed by a brief description. TNC has no control over the information on these websites.

The Zimbabwe Situation

www.zimbabwesituation.com

Contains links to current political news reports and has a directory of people to contact.

ZWNEWS

www.zwnews.com

ZWNEWS provides links to headlines from VOA, Associated Press, etc. that have to do with Zimbabwe.

SW Radio Africa

www.swradioafrica.com

Website contains up-to-date news articles from a variety of sources. This site also broadcasts its shortwave radio programs through its internet site between noon and 2pm each day. Many programs are in English.

Yahoo! World News

news.yahoo.com/fc/World/Zimbabwe

Yahoo! collects relevant articles from a variety of sources: BBC, AP, The LA Times, The Economist, etc.

The Herald

www.herald.co.zw

The official daily newspaper in Zimbabwe. Printed in English.

All-Africa.com

allafrica.com/zimbabwe

News reports about Zimbabwe from African sources.

Zoom In on Zimbabwe

Did you know...

that the Zimbabwean flag was adopted on April 18, 1980? Below the colors and symbols on the flag are explained:

- **Green**—vegetation and agriculture
- **Yellow**—the country's mineral wealth
- **Red**—blood spilled during the liberation struggle
- **Black**—black Zimbabweans



- **White Triangle**—for peace
- **Red Star**—Zimbabwe's socialist history
- **Zimbabwe Bird**—national symbol

TNC October Calendar and Important Upcoming Dates

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|-----------|--|
| Oct 10th | Presentation by Mary Beth and Janet at Christ UMC at 7pm. 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park; 412-835-6621 for info. |
| Oct 15th | 2008 Mission Trips Informational Meeting at Mt. Lebanon UMC from 7-8:30pm. 3319 W. Liberty Ave, Mt. Lebanon. 412-531-7131 |
| Oct 24-30 | Rev. Lloyd Nyarota in Pittsburgh from Zimbabwe |
| Oct 25th | 11:30am—Rev. Lloyd visiting the mission sewing group at Mt. Lebanon UMC 6:30pm—Rev. Nyarota to speak at 6:30pm at St. Paul's UMC, 1965 Ferguson Rd., Allison Park 15101. 412-486-7006 |
| Oct 27th | 10am—Brunch with Lloyd at CUMC (please rvsp) |
| Oct 28th | 8:30am Rev. Lloyd preaching at Mt Lebanon UMC service 9:30am Rev. Lloyd visiting Sunday schools at Mt. Leb. UMC 10:45am Rev. Lloyd speaking at Mt. Lebanon UMC service 4:30 Rev. Lloyd speaking to Christ UMC's JH youth 6:15-7pm Rev. Lloyd talking to Mt. Leb. Youth Groups 7:30—Rev. Lloyd speaking to Christ UMC's SH youth |
| Oct 29th | 7pm—Monthly <i>Nyadire Connection</i> meeting at CUMC. |

You are welcome to attend any of the above events!

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*

Application for Volunteers in Mission Teams 2008

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Phone _____ (w) _____ (h) _____ (cell) _____
Address _____ Email _____
_____ Church Membership _____

1. Please provide a short description of your faith journey.

2. Why do you wish to participate in a VIM Trip to Zimbabwe?

3. How did you hear about the trips?

4. What do you know about *The Nyadire Connection*?

5. Are you willing to attend sessions and do readings to prepare for the trip? _____

6. Are you willing to serve as a representative of *The Nyadire Connection* in some way when you return home from the mission trip? This may include telling others about the trip, joining a committee, advocating behind the scenes, offering your special skills, etc. _____

7. What gifts or skills do you possess that you could contribute to the mission?

8. What kind of teams would you be interesting in joining? Please rank them with 1 being your first preference.

___ Construction ___ Children/Youth ___ Medical Team ___ Care-giving/Pastoral

___ Other: _____

9. Please rank the dates you would prefer with 1 being your first preference. If you are only available for one date, please mark it with a 1.

___ June 12-28 ___ July 31-Aug 17 ___ Oct 2-18 ___ approx Dec 26-Jan 11

10. Are you willing to deal cheerfully with the accommodation provided which will probably include power and water outages, sharing a room with others, and unfamiliar food? _____

11. Will you remain calm, patient, and flexible at all times? _____

12. Please list any previous mission trip experiences (foreign and domestic):

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Responsibilities</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|

13. Please list all your medications and dosages that you take regularly.

14. Please indicate any medical issues that would be relevant (diabetes, asthma, etc.)

15. By initialing below, I indicate that:

- A I understand that there are inherent dangers in foreign travel. I have read the current travel warning posted on the Department of State Website concerning the country (countries) to which I am traveling. (<http://www.state.gov/trave/>). _____
- B I realize that I am responsible for the full cost of my trip. This includes but is not limited to: shots, passport fees, visa, NEJVIM registration and insurance, airline tickets, in-country transportation, lodging, food, and drink. (Average \$2,800) _____
- C. I agree to cooperate at all times with the team leader concerning our life together, including daily assignments, food, lodging, and transportation. _____

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent if a minor

Date

If your application is accepted, other forms required include:

1. Photocopy of Passport Info Page
2. Medical Information
3. Emergency Contact Information
4. UMVIM NEJ Insurance form and payment (<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/umvim-nej/Insurance%20form%20UMVIM%20NEJ%20web.htm>)
5. Liability Release

Necessary forms will be mailed to you for completion except for the UMVIM NEJ Insurance form which you can print directly from the link above. If you cannot print the form, it will be mailed to you as well.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

The Nyadire Connection
3319 West Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-531-7131