

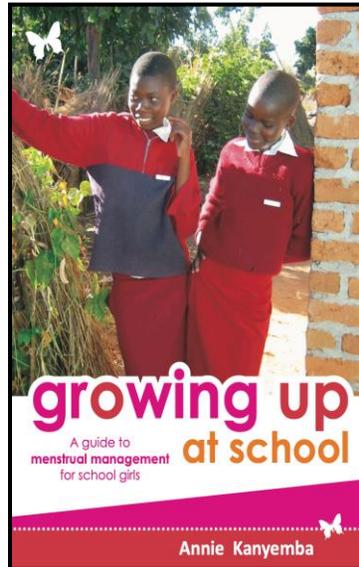
Weekly Lenten Calendar 2021

The Nyadire Connection

GEP



Hand crank sewing machine



Handmade masks



Students from Hearing Innovation learning to sew.

How does a program designed to help empower girls and women help a community stay safe during a pandemic? Thanks to the networks and supplies put in place by TNC's Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) program, women were able to come together to create face masks to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Sunday 3/28	Monday 3/29	Tuesday 3/30	Wednesday 3/31	Thursday 4/1	Friday 4/2	Saturday 4/3
<p>Pray for an abundance of interest, supplies, equipment and education for this program to continue.</p>	<p>Give 25¢ if your electricity has ever gone off.</p> <p><i>In Zimbabwe, for those that have electricity it is frequently off.</i></p>	<p>Give 20¢ if you have ever tried to thread a needle. Add 10¢ if you have to wet the thread first.</p>	<p>Give 25¢ if you have a washing machine and dryer in your home.</p> <p><i>In Nyadire they wash their clothes by hand and hang them outside to dry.</i></p>	<p>Give 25¢ if there is a sewing machine in your house. Give 50¢ if you don't have one or it isn't used.</p> <p>TNC sends refurbished manual sewing machines to Nyadire.</p>	<p>Give 10¢ for everyone in your family who wears a mask.</p> <p><i>At Nyadire women and teens are making masks for the community to wear.</i></p>	<p>Give 25¢ if you have learned to sew in school.</p> <p><i>Nyadire girls learn to sew in secondary school. It is one of the exam subjects.</i></p>

GEP Program - Since 2011, TNC has sent over 130 refurbished sewing machines to Nyadire Mission, to be distributed to schools and medical clinics throughout the region. Around 50 of those machines had been carefully converted to manual machines, which are highly sought after in a country where electricity is very expensive and often non-existent. With economic conditions in Zimbabwe deteriorating through 2019, leaders of the GEP program shipped all of the kit-making components (more details below) they had available on a container ship which arrived at Nyadire days before the nation-wide lock down. This included reams of fabric, thread, needles, yarn and other sewing items. Charity Horiro, a program leader at Nyadire, quickly mobilized the women involved to sort the materials and transport them to the seven scattered school districts surrounding Nyadire. Using materials in hand, the women were able to create the face masks that would keep their families and communities safe.

The GEP program recently completed a pilot study at the Hearing Impaired School at Nyadire. With an investment of \$500, recipients bought fabric, hired a tailor, and taught students to lay out patterns and sew. The students helped make 24 winter school uniforms (shirt and pants) and numerous pairs of shorts and shirts.

Adults only or families with older children may want to read on to learn how this program got started. Girls in Zimbabwe can quickly fall behind their male peers in school when they must miss several school days a month due to a lack of feminine hygiene supplies. Grown women are often likewise hampered in their daily work and activities. To make matters worse, the physical changes occurring in the body during puberty are a taboo topic of conversation, isolating girls even further, often leading to a lack of self-esteem. This problem came to the attention of TNC in 2011. The result was the creation of the Girl Empowerment Pad program (GEP). GEP kits, assembled by volunteers from dozens of churches, sewing and women's groups, include fabric and other items recipients can use to sew their own hygiene products. Culturally and developmentally appropriate hygiene education is a key part of the program. The pad program has taken advantage of TNC's presence in schools and clinics across a wide rural area in order to distribute the kits and education. Program leaders have even been able to locate and purchase in Zimbabwe a locally produced booklet for girls to describe the changes in their bodies that they experience as they go through puberty. Program leaders hope to build on the skills and networks created by the program to expand upon other ways to empower women in the Nyadire region. Contact Bonnie Lawson, bonnielawson58@comcast.net for more info or to get involved!

On behalf of their students, GEP program teachers in Zimbabwe have expressed their thanks as follows:

- *Our children in the pad program will live to remember this, as their lives were changed for the better.*
- *It is so difficult here for children to discuss [health] with a [teacher]. You gave us a breakthrough. Pupils confide in us now. They are not even shy to ask for emergency kits.*
- *The program has boosted their confidence, as they can now attend school even on their period days.*

TATENDA!



Weekly Lenten Calendar 2021 The Nyadire Connection Eyeglasses



Those of us with the gift of clear vision, or the good fortune to be able to see an eye doctor (this kind of specialist is called an optometrist) and buy eyeglasses, may take for granted our ability to easily read words on a page or a sign, or even see a small bird high in a tree.

Sunday 4/4	Monday 4/5	Tuesday 4/6	Wednesday 4/7	Thursday 4/8	Friday 4/9	Saturday 4/10
<p>Pray for those with poor vision that we might help bring them clearer eyesight.</p>	<p>Give 50¢ if you have EVER seen an eye doctor.</p> <p><i>95% of Zimbabweans have never visited an eye doctor.</i></p>	<p>Give 10¢ for each "E" or "Y" or "S" in your name. What word can you spell using 2 "E", 1 "Y" and 1 "S"?</p>	<p>Give 25¢ for each member of your family that wears glasses.</p> <p><i>About 500 million people in Africa need eyeglasses but are not able to obtain them.</i></p>	<p>Have a staring contest with someone in your family. The first one to blink donates 25¢.</p>	<p>Which is larger, a thousand or a million? Give 50¢ if you said a million.</p> <p><i>In USA, there is one optometrist for each 6000 people. In much of Africa, there is one optometrist for each 8 million people.</i></p>	<p>Count the number of people in your first class at school that are wearing glasses.</p> <p><i>Give 5¢ for each one. Approximately 64% of people in the USA wear glasses.</i></p>

Most people in the Nyadire region of Zimbabwe, have never, ever been to an eye doctor - whether they are young children or very old people. Poor eyesight affects their ability to learn, work and simply enjoy life.

Every day in the U.S. we discard eyeglasses as our prescriptions change and new styles evolve. Partnering with Mission Vision, a non-profit based in Cranberry, PA, our goal is to match as many discarded U.S. eyeglasses with needy eyes in Zimbabwe, and it's working! To date we have served more than 7,500 patients in Nyadire and its six rural medical clinics. We are driven to achieve this joyful outcome: After we have spent much time with a patient – evaluating her/his vision with our many tests and instruments, having them try on numerous pairs of eyeglasses, and then finding the correct pair – they put on their new eyeglasses and can see clearly!

Local Zimbabweans are trained and paid a small stipend to conduct eye exams and distribute glasses when necessary, thus the program continues without the necessity of a TNC member being present. Eyeglasses are shipped in container ships commissioned by TNC. The goal is to support a year-long effort by the local technicians, at an annual cost of about \$6,000 to cover the technician's stipend and travel expenses, including fuel, lodging and food.



Zunze 94 years old

TATENDA



Faith Geer...July 25, 2015

Our newest project was distributing used eyewear. We took over 2000 pairs of distance and reading glasses to give to folks. We were taught how to measure their vision, took the numbers, and matched them to used glasses. It's truly the Holy Spirit working overtime as we matched glasses to eyes that can now see! What an honor it was to be a part of this miracle! Donations are still needed... please consider donating used eye glasses to give to Vision Mission to distribute. "Open my eyes that I may see, visions of truth you have for me..." Faith

**Pittsburgh,
USA**



**Weekly Lenten Calendar 2021
The Nyadire Connection
Ocean Container
Shipments**

**Nyadire,
Zimbabwe**



Next time you see a giant truck on the road, consider that it may be carrying items that have just crossed an ocean! Massive ships can carry more than 10,000 large truck-sized (40 foot) containers (think of a huge metal box!). The containers can be transported to and from a ship just by attaching them to a truck cab - and off they go!

Sunday 4/11	Monday 4/12	Tuesday 4/13	Wednesday 4/14	Thursday 4/15	Friday 4/16	Saturday 4/17
Give thanks and praise for all of the supplies sent to Nyadire from the Pittsburgh area which benefit the people on the mission.	Give 25¢ if you know someone who owns a truck. <i>At Nyadire it would be more common to know someone who owns an ox cart.</i>	Give 50¢ if you sleep on a mattress. <i>In rural Nyadire most children sleep on the floor or ground.</i>	If you have ever ridden in a truck give 25¢. If you have sat in the back of a truck give 50¢. <i>In rural Nyadire most children have never ridden in a truck.</i>	Give 5¢ for every toy vehicle or boat that you own up to \$1. <i>In rural Nyadire children rarely have store bought toys.</i>	Give 10¢ for every suitcase in your house. <i>A suitcase is like a miniature container when you go on vacation.</i>	Give 50¢ if your family buys things online and has them delivered to your house. <i>In Nyadire this doesn't happen.</i>

Partners at Nyadire identify needed items. If it is possible to procure these items at a reasonable cost in Zimbabwe, that is preferred, as this will help the local economy. If not, TNC will seek out donations of the items wherever possible. We then arrange to ship these items in 40 foot shipping containers, which are subsequently trucked to Nyadire or the outlying rural medical clinics. Each container costs \$15,000 to ship to Zimbabwe, with a travel time of 3-4 months. TNC works closely with Brother's Brother Foundation and ZACH (Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals) to complete documentation and to obtain import clearances. We must be very careful with what we send and where it is used to protect our ability to send items duty free. It's a complicated



Starting to load truck in Pittsburgh.

process, but well worth the effort!

To date, we have sent X-Ray equipment, surgical tables, hospital and birthing beds, a wide variety of medical supplies, computers, back packs with school supplies, educational and sports equipment, vehicle parts, maintenance and garden tools, sewing machines, Girl Empowerment Pad materials, hand-made baby hats and blankets, eyeglasses and pastoral supplies. Container shipments enable several other TNC programs. For example, each rebuilt rural health clinic is furnished with medical supplies shipped via container.

If you have access to organizations that provide medical or educational supplies please contact TNC at info@nyadire.org



MaryBeth and Kimberly in Nyadire when container arrived.

TATENDA!



Mattresses for Hearing Innovation students arrived in a container shipped from Pittsburgh.