



The Nyadire Connection

The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a faith-based non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.

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Food Distribution At Nyadire Meets A Critical Need

TNC has worked with the **Nyadire Social Committee** to help meet the critical need for food during the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, our donors provided nearly \$30,000, with funds then sent via World Remit to members of the Committee. Food was quickly purchased and distributed out of the **Home of Hope** beginning in June. TNC received many photos and abundant thanks from many, many people.

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COVID-19 Lockdown Continues In Zimbabwe

As of this writing in mid-July, Zimbabwe remains in a strict lockdown due to COVID-19.

The government began a nationwide lockdown in March, which was slightly eased and extended indefinitely in mid-May. The measure is intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 and requires public activities to cease and informal markets to close, with exceptions for certain food and fuel vendors as well as health-related facilities. People are required to wear face masks in public.

The public is strongly encouraged to remain in their homes, wash hands frequently, practice physical distancing, and wear face masks when it is necessary to obtain food and fuel. Zimbabwe's borders are closed to all human traffic except for returning Zimbabwean nationals and permit holders. Borders remain open for cargo. All arrivals will be subject to strict screening procedures including rigorous enforcement of a 21-day self-quarantine.

Food Distribution At Nyadire...

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The cost to feed one family for one month is \$33. Food and other items provided included Rice, Sugar, Mealie-meal, Cooking Oil, Salt, Beans, Mazoe, Soap, Powdered Milk, Tea, and Vaseline. Mealie-Meal is hard to find anywhere in Zimbabwe, but a source was found that eventually delivered directly to Nyadire.

For the July food purchase, we added the 34 pastors of the Mutoko-Mudzi district and the 44 staff members of the Rural Health Clinics. In all, we provided food for more than 400 families in July.

Abundant thanks to members of the Nyadire Social Committee who have put in long days to purchase and distribute this volume of food. God's Hands are clearly in action!

Hunger remains an ongoing issue at Nyadire and TNC is prayerfully considering how to continue our support. The Nyadire Social Committee has updated the food list to cover only the basics, and reduce the cost. TNC will fund the purchase of this basic list

for August and September, which will again be distributed to more than families. Any additional contributions you might provide are greatly appreciated and will extend what we are able to do.



Mary Beth's Movie Musings During Quarantine

By Mary Beth Zollars

Are you looking for a different kind of film to watch in this time of COVID-19? Here are a few that I've discovered, some serious, some silly:

Mully (Amazon Prime, 2015): This is a docufilm about a young Kenyan street boy who grows up to be a successful businessman. At some point in his adult life, he gives up everything he found to be "successful" and finds his way back to the streets to find a way to care for street kids. Very inspiring and heartening because a Kenyan is doing this for his people. Upon looking at his website, he has international support, as well.

Mama Heidi (Amazon Prime, 2004): This is also a docufilm about a female from the United States with a Ph.D. in divinity, who is called to serve the orphans of Mozambique (Portuguese speaking). Heidi is clearly a woman of faith. I am moved by her well-known quote: "Stop for the One".

Mary and Martha (Amazon Prime/HBO, 2013): This is a movie about an American woman and a British woman who lose their sons to malaria while in Africa. It is a stirring movie about their struggles. Malaria is a very treatable disease. What is portrayed in the movie is the stark reality of health care in Africa and the people's access to it. The movie came out around the time that "IMAGINE NO MALARIA" was at its height (of which the UMC played a leading role). Nets were distributed around Nyadire United Methodist Mission. TNC supports healthcare at the hospital in Nyadire through doctor support and the purchase of pharmaceuticals and the rebuilding of the remote clinics.

Africa United (iTunes, 2010): Termed a comedy, this movie tells the tale of three Rwandan children who embark on a trek to get to the World Cup Soccer Championships in Johannesburg. Adventures, misadventures, children's storytelling, and real-life scenarios make up this delightful film. Watching this film gave me so many glimpses into the life of African children: the absolute love of soccer, the camaraderie, the scraping by, the resourcefulness, the presence of HIV+ in the community, the schooling and role of missions, the modes of transportation. Enjoy!

The Gods Must Be Crazy (YouTube, 1980): This comedy takes the viewer into the Kalahari bush! When a Coke bottle is found by a tribe, all kinds of crazy things happen. You've got to see this one; it's a true culture clash! When I showed this movie to the Home of Hope children, they laughed helplessly, not only at the silly white people but at the silly tribesmen! There is also a sequel: **The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1989)**

Girls Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program Reaps What It Sews

In the midst of the COVID-19 threat, the **GEP program** continues to meet the ordinary needs of participants at an extraordinary time. But it also adds value by improving community resilience. GEP kits, assembled by Pittsburgh volunteers, include materials that recipients at the Nyadire Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe and nearby schools and clinics employ to make reusable cloth sanitary napkins; these enable women and girls to keep working and attending school during their monthly cycles. Now, given the onslaught of COVID-19, some of the fabric is being repurposed to make face masks that afford protection from disease. The repurposing also validates the program's approach of imparting general sewing skills that encourage self-sufficiency.



A fortuitous delivery of container shipments arrived in Zimbabwe in March just before COVID-19 led to local disease prevention measures. These shipments included 1,937 GEP kits; 398 hygiene kits complete with soap, underwear, and age-appropriate menstrual education; 30 sewing machines; 16 irons; and materials to make more than 500 additional GEP kits. Due to the economic situation in Zimbabwe, a decision was made in Pittsburgh to send as much material as possible, even though it was not all assembled into GEP kits.



Upon receipt, the material was distributed with dispatch by our Zimbabwean partners, who separately received patterns to make cloth face masks through social media and other communications with the TNC team.

Immediately, primary school teachers made masks with the fresh supplies; they and their students also began making masks available to nearby medical facilities and schools. At the **Hope of Hope** orphanage at Nyadire, a student who is studying to be a tailor leads the efforts to teach the residents to make masks and sanitary pads. The student, who has received a **Sister Rut scholarship**, is giving back to the community by imparting new skills to the orphans.

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Girls Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program...

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GEP programs are now operating overseas at seven schools and waiting mother programs at the hospital and clinics served by TNC. In Pittsburgh, fundraising continues toward providing schools with sewing sponsorships that fund vocational sewing skills programs.

The GEP team thanks **ALL** contributors in and out of Pittsburgh for their donations of money, fabric, and sewing machines, and for their fundraising and assembly of GEP and hygiene kits. The bottom line: Women and girls will *not* be stopped, and continue to provide the foundation of family well-being in our world. In as little as two days, our Zimbabwean partners distributed supplies and set up face mask production, modeling for Americans an amazing resourcefulness in an environment of extreme scarcity.



For now, the GEP team is considering its options in a post-COVID era, including local sourcing of supplies. During the pandemic, in-kind donations will not be accepted, but please consider saving your machines and other sewing items for future collection. Checks are still accepted, made payable to Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Bethel Park with *TNC GEP Sewing Sponsorship* in the memo line. Please send your donation to CUMC, c/o Richard Dickey, at 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Legacy of Dormont UMW Keeps On Giving To TNC

It's a gift that will keep on giving, thanks to the legacy of the **United Methodist Women's group at Dormont UMC**.

Several years ago, **Myra Frank** led the group to sponsor an orphan at the **Home of Hope**. When the Dormont church decided to close, **United Methodist Church Union** provided assistance and eventually sold the church's remaining property. Myra was able to designate that \$10,000 of these proceeds would be donated to TNC; the funds were received earlier this year, although Myra passed away before the process was completed.

"We're sorry that she didn't live to see it, but I know that she's aware of the gift and would be grateful we were able to do that," said **Janet Westwood**, a friend of Myra's and another member of the Dormont UMW group.

Today, Janet is part of **Baldwin Community UMC's Abigail Circle**, which now sponsors another orphan from the Home of Hope.

Progress Continues On Mashambanhaka Clinic Rebuild

After a delay due to the COVID-19 lockdown, work on the **Mashambanhaka Clinic Rebuild** resumed in April, with completion of Phase 1 expected this month.

Phase 1 includes construction of 3 new buildings: the OPD/Maternity Delivery ward, the Waiting Mothers facility, and one of the 2-bedroom duplexes which provides staff housing. Cooking sheds, Blair toilets, and washing lines are also included. Cost of the scope currently approved is \$115,000, and the total project cost is \$266,597. TNC currently has about \$25,000 available that can be applied to additional work that might be completed before the contractor completes this phase and leaves the site. See recent progress photos below:



TNC Begins Planning For 2021 VIM Trips

Although most **Volunteers In Mission (VIM)** trips have been postponed this year due to COVID-19, we are beginning to plan for 2021 visits. In the meantime, here's a brief look back at one of our trips earlier this year:



Mighty Team of Three: Sandy McKnight, Mary Beth Zollars, and Diane Welty visited 19 schools in the **Home of Hope Outreach Program**, adding 125 new children to the rosters. This large addition is in response to the declining economic situation and high inflation in Zimbabwe. The Team stayed at the **Home of Hope** in the rooms adjacent to the office. Nyadire has been experiencing severe water shortages, yet the Home of Hope has a separate borehole, which made their stay more comfortable. Besides, being close to the children before school, after school, and during the evening provided good interaction, homework help, and playtime.

Tatenda from the Team: We owe so much to our hosts at the Nyadire United Methodist Mission! Our gratitude extends to all, but especially these three: **Rev. Mukundu**, Station Chair of the Mission; **Emmanuel Chiimba**, administrator of the Home of Hope; and the **Nyadire Social Committee**, addressing the needs of the Mission.

TNC Adds Instagram Platform

TNC offers a variety of ways to follow our activities and stay in touch, including our newest platform, Instagram. Follow us at <https://www.instagram.com/thenyadireconnection/>

Program Highlights From TNC's June Meeting

Health Area

- Eyeglasses: Reviewing program structure and Zimbabwe program leadership.
- Ocean Container Shipments: **Creative Hands of St Paul's UMC** has provided blankets/hats for shipment to Nyadire at the next opportunity. Items now in storage: a) for **Home of Hope** – 2 boxes with 15 sweaters and 16 quilts; b) for **Nyadire Hospital** – 5 boxes with 42 baby blankets with hats attached.
- Empowerment Pads: See page 4.
- Medical Supplies: Transferred \$3,000 for purchase of drugs for July/August/September.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: Groundbreaking held at **Mashambanhaka** on Feb. 17 and construction work began in early March. See page 6 for recent photos. We still need to raise an additional \$150,000 to complete this clinic.
- Medical and Hospital Support: No COVID-19 cases had been reported at Nyadire hospital. The staff at the hospital and the clinics have received training on diagnosis and treatment. Due to travel restrictions, several people in the clinic catchment population are unable to get their medications for chronic illnesses like Hypertension, Diabetes, Asthma, heart conditions, etc. There is growing pressure for Nyadire hospital to resume outreach services, and doctor consultations were expected to begin soon.

Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: Fall classes are expected to begin at CMU on Aug 31. Remote attendance will also be offered and it is uncertain how this will affect plans for EWB. The EWB leaders will be **Melina Driscoll, Fanqi Yi, and Yuxiang Nie**.
- Hearing Innovation: The program has been restructured so that TNC will pay for 75% of the student's school/boarding costs, with parents/Nyadire responsible for the rest. **Molly Michael** will maintain program leadership, but we're looking for a volunteer to organize and keep up to date with all sponsorships/renewals.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: While 2020 travel has been curtailed due to COVID-19, **Molly Michael** is looking for anyone interested in leading or joining teams in 2021. See page 7 for photos from the February 2020 trip.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: New applications (6) have arrived and the Committee has met to review them.

Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: July/August funds are being processed...The annual HOH **Rummage Sale at Christ Church** has been postponed but we're hoping to reschedule so please continue to save your items and wait for further information.
- Home of Hope Outreach: Funds for the second term have been sent.

“Prayer For A Pandemic”

With COVID-19 still causing troubles around the world, we’d like to leave you with the same prayer we shared in our March newsletter:

- May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
- May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.
- May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must decide between preserving their health or making the rent.
- May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
- May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.
- May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.
- May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
- As fear grips our country, let us choose love.
- During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.
- Amen

