

TNC Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2024

Communications

Tim Wesley

- March newsletter published and distributed
- Promoting 2024 Mission Trips
 - Info provided to conference and network churches
- TNC Social
 - Watch for info about spring gathering
- Monthly meeting minutes
 - Send to me by noon on Friday before the meeting
 - May meeting: Move to May 20?
- Conaway Munden grant at St. Paul's
 - Deadline to apply is April 5
- Disbursement of funds requests
 - Send to me and allow 48 hours for review

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley, Christopher Kuwana, EWB CMU students, Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora

Engineers Without Borders

- Next proposed project by the EWB student chapter at CMU is to improve the storage process for refrigerated blood and medicines at the Nyadire Hospital during extended power outages.
- Application needed to formally begin a new project has been submitted to Dr. Larry and Gashi for their completion as the benefiting community. No formal response yet.
- Weekly meetings continue including recent conference calls with the project Technical Mentor (Rick Stoffel in the Rochester, NY area) and a potential supplier of one type of phase-change materials.
- Two of the three key student leaders graduate in May. They are receiving applications for new leaders. A project assessment trip is tentatively planned for approximately two weeks before the Fall '24 semester begins on Aug. 26.

Mission Critical Vehicles

- Tag ACA had the windshield replaced and a new registration so it is fully back in service for longer-distance trips to Harare.
- Good timing as ABE has major engine problems and the partially rebuilt spare engine is being finished. It's expected to need \$1,000 in new parts to complete the rebuild but no additional funds have been requested at this point.
- Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora were requested to complete the review of the Critical Hospital Vehicle Commitment with Rev. Mukundo. That review did occur but Rev. Mukundo made several significant exceptions. Some alternatives were proposed to Dr.

Larry and Gashi. Dr. Larry has responded with very workable changes that will be incorporated and resubmitted for approval.

Eyeglasses

Natalie Geer

Zim side:

- Working on a long term storage and container solutions for the eyeglasses at the hospital. These were based off of the recommendations from the November team. Containers were priced out through a hospital vendor.
 - Bonnie Lawson asked Knowledge to purchase a container that was cheaper; Matron liked the boxes because they had rollers and could easily be stored
 - Nurse Primrose added that plastic baggies and a label maker would be helpful. She also suggested that smaller boxes to put within the big boxes might be helpful due to past experience with the clinics. Robb Montgomery is working with the Matron for shelving options, then hopefully we can get a budget together

US Side:

- Natalie's last meeting will be in May; I think the program can continue with Zim oversight. Once the team starts heading to clinics, it will be extraordinarily beneficial for the "old" team to work with the Matron and her team or as her team
- Kathy's team had a sorting party March 8th with over 400 glasses and various rooms to label, sort and clean
- Marie's team is waiting on the arrival of additional glasses from Mission Vision and Rotary clubs

Girl Empowerment

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro

Ongoing Program

- Distribution of locally purchased materials completed to teachers and inventory reports gathered.
- Reviewing reports from teams and developing short- and long-term funding proposals.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot:

- Planting of sugar beans postponed due to drought conditions.
- Photos of lime being spread and plowed into the field received.
- Dorothy said that this was a good example of putting theory into practice. Soil analysis and importance of pH reviewed with students. Protective measures used while spreading the lime. Excellent community involvement.
- The next step is the formation of a team to develop a vision for proposed borehole, security measures and irrigation strategies. Dorothy and team will do some benchmarking and start this after the school testing period and break.
- No update on Ag booklet

Communication and Fundraising.

- GEP Program Update published in Brothers Brother quarterly magazine. Page 18 to 21 <https://brothersbrother.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Spring-BBF-Global-Relief-Quarterly-web-1-1.pdf>
- I have requested extra copies of the magazine for events.
- To read the full interview, view additional photos, and information on how to donate, please visit: https://brothersbrother.org/grq24_education_gep/
- Waiting for publication in UWF Western PA newsletter
- Posted a series of updates on Facebook leading up to funding appeal on the International Women's Day (March 8th).

Looking Forward:

- April 6: Vendor Fair at CUMC. Sharing a booth with GEP supporter Kathleen Kennedy. Pottery and other hand-crafted items.
- Follow up with Rotary Contacts using BBF article and ongoing girl farm efforts.
- Post an update of the Girl Garden project on Facebook.
- Follow up on ag booklet.
- Develop an outline that can be shared with Dorothy's team to support grant writing. Target October funding cycle of Conway Munden fund at St. Paul's.
- Develop strategy for next Inspired Women's meeting. Two new chapters downtown have been opened.
- Research Granting Agencies. <https://yieldgiving.com/> This group put out a public call for the first time this year.

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

Current Situation

- The planting season started out well with good germination but after a month of little to no rain, the crops are considered a total loss. The soils at the mission are sandy clay soils which can only hold enough water for about 3-4 days before the maize would go into water stress. It has been 4-5 weeks now with little rain. The only use of the maize at this point is fodder for cattle.



Maize – January 29, 2024



Maize – March 15, 2024

Irrigation

- The farm department fields do not have any irrigation. Home of Hope only has about 3 areas of land that can be irrigated but it is from a borehole (well) and there is concern that if there is a prolonged drought, it could go dry.
- Esnath, Farm Dept Manager, is looking at sites along the Nyadire River where they could clear some land and grow crops. They have picked a site and are determining costs to install a pump in the river and needed piping to a field. Early stages of planning. More details next month.

Home of Hope

- Poultry – Grain Storage building – A proposal has been developed with costs for the building and startup costs for poultry production. The proposal is about \$28,000 in requests. The project would remodel the partially finished poultry barn so there are 2 chicken runs on one side and a grain storage on the other side that could hold approximately 110 metric tons (4400 bushels) of maize. HOH is planning on raising broilers in one run and laying hens in the other. The Ag committee doesn't have enough restricted funds to start the project so we will need to do some fund raising if the project is approved by the Executive committee. A separate meeting is being scheduled to discuss the project funding. With the current drought and total loss of crops, the grain storage is no longer an urgent matter but completing the chicken runs could provide needed food and income.

Other Projects

- GEP Garden project: Giving advice as required; lime applied; need a water supply to continue
- Nyadire Poultry enterprise: On hold; Edwin who is an Zim UMC conference Ag board member and Rep for Irvines indicated he would take the lead to steer the project.
- Cattle Dip tank: No activity

HOH/HOHO/Scholarship

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- O-level Exam Fees for 2024 have been sent.
- A lively discussion among all headmasters as to who should be allowed to take the O-level exams will lead to some changes for 2025.

S.Y.STEM

STEM COMMITTEE:

Chair: Mr. Musariri – Head of Science Department at Nyadire HS

Secretary: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary

Plus: Bruce (mathematics teacher HS), Mabel (computer teacher HS)

- No new report, but plans are being made for April holidays Coding Club sessions.

HOH

- **March/April funds** have been sent.
- **HOH Update** to sponsors has been distributed.
- **Crop devastation:** loan repayment will be temporarily lifted. Discussions will continue as to food assistance, irrigation, and borehole needs.
- **Dutilh Preschool** will donate its proceeds this year from the annual **Hop-A-Thon** to the HOH for a variety of items: outfitting of the kitchen of the second family unit, bookshelves for the library, and new backpacks for the kids. March 27-28.
- Tinashe Chiimba provided a quote for **bookshelves**.
- Fencing around the fishponds remains a priority for children's safety.

SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- Grant has been submitted to Rotary Bethel Park-USC Breakfast Club for \$5000.
- Conaway-Munden Grant being prepared.

Finishing in June 2024:

- **Lorraine Kapembeza:** Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has found attachment.
- **Ruth Makoni:** HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology; 4.2.
- **Takunda Pedzayi:** Midland States University, Human Resources Management; 4.2 student.
- **Raymond Chimbwanda:** HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe; Financial Economics and Trade; Real Estate; 4.2 student.
- **Nyasha Given Katema:** (HOH) O-levels/A-levels: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. The school offers a variety of certificates and degrees, leading to careers from paralegal to lawyer. Nyasha will proceed from year to year, based on his interest, needs, and success. 2nd year student.

Fourth Year students:

- **Tinashe Mapfumbidze,** (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; retaking 3 modules this semester. His department supervisor will not allow him to finish this semester. He will take a full load next semester and finish his dissertation.

Third Year students:

- **Rutendo Mupfawa,** accepted at the University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 3.2 student; doing attachment at a small accounting firm.
- **Blessing Mabii,** accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 3.2, doing attachment.
- **Stephen Chadamoyo:** O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, (tuition only); Physiotherapy; 3.2 student.
- **Panashe Mafemera:** O-levels/A-levels: Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 3.2 student.

Second Year:

- **Praise Mushamba**, accepted for 2022 September intake, Midland States University, Human Resources Management, tuition only; 2.2 student.

First Year:

- **Praise Josi (HOHO)**, tuition only, Midland States University, Data Science, 1.2
- **Morejoy Madzika**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 1.2

Medical Student (5-year program):

- **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; 5.1 student

Graduate Students:

- **Tsungirai Makoni**, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters 1.1
- **Fungai Chigumbura**, Institute of People Management of Zimbabwe, Diploma in Payroll Management – 6 months, partial scholarship, delayed enrollment.

On hold:

- **Josphat Nyatoro (HOHO)**: O-levels: changed intention to pursuing 3 more O-level subjects in order to attend Harare Polytechnic. His scholarship will be re-visited at a later date.

TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Leeroy Nyamukapa** (O-levels Nyadire High School); Building Studies, doing attachment; perhaps in Harare; no communication
- **Onias Chengai (HOHO)**, Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, 1.1

Finishing in 2024:

- **Yeukai Gwati (HOHO)** has applied to various lodges for her attachment for Hotel and Catering; found attachment at The Pumpkin Hotel.
- **Last Chindoto**, sponsored by Pittsburgh District, carpentry, attachment in January in Tamutsa business centre.
- **Bright Mumanyi (HOH)**; building; preparing for attachment in February.

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- Theresa Nyademvera, 1.3, doing excellent work. Doing community service with GEP.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- **Tinashe Katsuro**: agriculture at Africa University, 2.2.
- **Delight Katsata**, graduate of Katsukunya Secondary (O-levels) and Nyadire High School (A-levels) BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe in August, 2.2 student.
- **Praise Tsaurai**, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 1.2 student.
- **Shelton Chitewe (HOH)**; Tabudirira Vocational Centre, agriculture; doing attachment at the Home of Hope.

- **Yvette Mutize**, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 1.2 student. (3-year program)

New candidates beginning in 2024:

- **Joseph Visent**, Midland States University, Accounting (on hold)
- **Vimbai Kativhu**, AG, Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School (on hold)

Rural Health Clinics

Ralph Duckworth and Rev. Austern Chepiri

- Chindenga total project budget is \$350,680.
- Payments of \$38,666.39 were made during February to Halsted Brothers, J Mann, FFZ fencing, and the Consultant. Further payments of \$4,600 and \$1,243 were made during March to the labor contractor and the engineer, respectively. To date, we have made payments of \$265,595 for the project.
- Work at Chindenga continued during the month and included finalizing Phase 2.3, which is now 100% completed. Work on Phase 3.1 continued during the month and is 70% complete. Work during the month included painting, floor & tiling, electrical and plumbing 2nd fix of the Toilet block. In addition, superstructure brickwork to wall plate/gable level, roof structure & covering, electrical & plumbing 1st fix and plastering was done to the Semi-detached two-bedroomed house. The MCH Building is 100% complete, the Toilet Block is 92% completed, the Borehole is 75% completed and the Two-Family Staff House is 75% completed.
- To date, the local communities have delivered 180,000 farm bricks, 80 cubic meters of river sand, 70 cubic meters of stones, 260 cubic meters of gravel, and 98 cubic meters of pit sand to the project.
- Work planned for next month includes:
 - MCH Waiting Area – general cleaning
 - Toilet Block - general cleaning
 - Duplex Two-Bedroomed House
 - Borehole Drilling and Equipping
- The project is proceeding nicely and should be completed by mid-2024.
- Monthly Financial Activity (preliminary)

○ Balance beginning of the month	\$58,064
○ Contributions for the month	\$ 1,879
○ Disbursements for the month	\$38,666
○ Balance end of the month	\$21,277

Next Zoom call meeting: Monday, April 22, 6:30 pm