

**TNC Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2015**  
**CUMC - Room B112**



DEVOTION by M.B. Zollars

1. General

- Xenophobic attacks against immigrants, including many Zimbabweans, escalated again in South Africa. Approximately 3 million Zimbabweans are now in SA.

2. The 13 Ongoing Programs of TNC

1. Medical Doctor Support & general medical items - (D. Harvey & Dr. Larry Tanyanyiwa)

- In response to Dr. L. Tanyanyiwa's specific request, we will send suture with the July teams. Both Global Links (536 sutures) and Brother's Brother have assembled most of the requested amount which Sue Bower will collect and send. Cat Rico is the new suture coordinator for Global Links and TNC has paid the \$300 required to participate.
- Numerous materials & supplies to be included in upcoming container. Sue Bower has assembled boxes specifically organized for Chikwizo & Nyahuku clinics.
- D. Harvey met on 4/30 with Karen Berson of Meharry Medical School to discuss opportunities to improve maternal & child health. Meharry is collaborating on a program with United Methodist Women, the General Board of Higher Education, & Africa University.
- Salary supplement for May & June was sent in April.

2. "Nyadire Rural Clinics Renovation" - (R. Duckworth/T. Wesley & Hannah Mafunda/Austern Chipiri)

• Chikwizo -

- ➔ Letter sent to Dr Larry and Rev Chepiri advising the items that will be included in the upcoming container, and advising that remaining items should be purchased in Zimbabwe. The cost of remaining items is estimated at \$12,301 which

means the remaining \$17,700 should be released from the Chikwizo account and available to construction at Nyahuku.

- ➔ Details of patient use at Chikwizo have been requested, specifically to contrast the before and after of the clinic rebuild. Hannah Mafunda is working on this but the data is not easily available as ministry reports do not show individual clinics.
- ➔ Based on the requirements list of equipment & furnishings needed for Chikwizo Clinic, TNC will include the following with the May Container Shipment:
  - ➔ BBF will provide 20 beds/mattresses for Chikwizo and also 20 beds/mattresses for Nyahuku
  - ➔ BBF will provide 24 of the 30 requested bedside lockers, 2 exam tables, 4 drip stands. 2 Exam Tables will also be included for Nyahuku
  - ➔ Mark LaRosa has provided 6 filing cabinets donated by West Penn Allegheny Health. BBF is providing additional filing cabinets for Nyahuku. E. Zollars donated filing cabinets and shelves.
  - ➔ Sue Bowers has purchased Fetal Monitors & the required Gel. The gel will be sent with the container and the monitors carried over by the July team.
  - ➔ Two laptop computers (one for Chikwizo, one for Nyahuku) were purchased from Computer Reach for \$260 ea and will be carried over
- Nyahuku -
  - ➔ The first Nyahuku monthly progress report was received on 4/28.
  - ➔ Based on funds available, the Outpatient Department, the Ward Block, the Mother's Shelter, and the water borehole will be completed. Work is active on these portions & has been contracted for the total of \$142,168. Completion of this portion is scheduled for July 17, 2015.
  - ➔ Work began on March 15. Based on his low bid of \$42,000, "Hama" was awarded the contract for the labor portion of the clinic rebuild. Work is progressing very fast.
  - ➔ D Harvey, R. Duckworth, and T. Wesley met on 4/29 to discuss overall "Clinic Rebuild Project Management" & to initiate more fundraising efforts. We are requesting a meeting with DS Paul Taylor to discuss opportunities involving Pittsburgh district churches. DS Taylor will be traveling to Zimbabwe this summer.
  - ➔ J. Gourley & S. McCann returned from Zimbabwe on April 8. They spent ~ 4 weeks at Nyahuku providing invaluable support to the initial construction. Nyahuku can host small numbers of future visitors if they are prepared for the primitive conditions.

- ➔ The Nyahuku community is providing all bricks, riversand, stones, and pitsand. This requires much long distance walking and "bucket brigades" from the area river bed.
- ➔ Currently we have about 1/3rd of the \$347,000 required to rebuild Nyahuku. We have requested a build schedule to understand what can be accomplished before work must be stopped due to lack of funds.
- ➔ Photo album by Sue McCann - <https://plus.google.com/photos/111172478211078559708/albums/6131808631987247217?cfem=1>

• Clinic Renovation Planning

- ➔ TNC continues to simultaneously pursue 3 fundraising strategies for continued clinic rebuilds (\$1.5M required)
  - Appeals to individuals and churches. Our expectation is that many of our contacts have already contributed and that this approach will move very slowly with unpredictable results.
  - Grant application by the ZIM UMC to various international NGO's, specifically Bread for the World. Hannah Mafunda met with ~ 20 church leaders on April 25 to discuss this approach. Bread for the World has expressed interest in the project and could potentially fund rebuild of all remaining clinics. TNC will provide \$5500 for the consulting firm IZano to help with preparation of the grant request.
  - Investment in Nyadire Farm Renovation with agreement that future farm profits will first be used to fund clinic rebuilds. See status below of Farm Renovation.
- ➔ Hannah Mafunda remains hopeful that the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health might provide funds for construction of 2 waiting mother's shelters.
- ➔ D. Harvey & Jim Howell will explore funding opportunities with Rotary International.
- ➔ Sandy McKnight prepared and submitted the \$5500 grant request on 4/18 to the United Methodist Foundation (Pittsburgh) to cover expenses of the IZano consulting work. IZano will support Hannah Mafunda on preparation of grant applications for rebuild of all clinics.
- ➔ TNC money donated so far for the clinics breaks down as follows :
  - Dutilh UMC 31.31%
  - Individuals associated with Dutilh 20.45%
  - Individuals associated with CUMC 17.08%

- Christ UMC 13.29%
- Indiegogo 10.43%
- St. Paul;s UMC 4.02%
- Mt. Lebanon UMC 2.08%
- Misc 1.14%

3. Medicine Supply - (Irina Sheyko/Sara Dickey & Wilson Nhamoinesu)

- We have received no reports tracking the consumption of medicines and no requests for purchase. As it is time for the next purchase of medicines, Irina Sheyko and D. Harvey will again request input & status from Nyadire.

4. Container Shipments -(D. Harvey & Rev J. Tsiga)

- The 40' Taber container of books for libraries throughout Zimbabwe arrived in March, 2015. Nyadire collected their items and Elina N. has confirmed receipt of books designated for the HOH & HOHO programs. Natalie Geer will help with distribution when she arrives in June.
- BBF held a fundraising "gala" in Washington DC on April 25. BBF is supporting installation of Solar Electrical Power to clinics in Liberia which may also be an opportunity for Nyadire's Rural Health Clinics. D. Harvey will monitor.
- BBF is partnering with organizations Himalayan Health Care & ADRA to provide support and supplies in response to the major earthquake in Nepal of April 24.
- MB Zollars and team held several work days and now have all backpacks packed, labeled, and ready for pickup.
- D. Harvey, MB Zollars, and Ron Morris collected a pickup-load of schools supplies from Washington Elementary School which were then sorted & packed for the container shipment.
- 13 individuals spent the morning of 5/2 at TNC's Storage Unit packing all items in preparation for pickup by BBF. All items are now labeled and the master packing list completed. On May 6, BBF will pick up backpacks from the Surma storage unit, Bibles from D. Harvey's house, and items from TNC's storage unit at the Industrial Park. General contents include:
  - About 220 boxes from the storage unit, ~70 boxes of backpacks at the Surma storage, and 40 boxes of Bibles for a total of 330 boxes.
  - Boxes of medical supplies including some specifically for Chikwizo & Nyahuku clinics
  - Many boxes of school supplies collected from Washington School

- Filing cabinets & Shelves from E Zollars. .
  - 40 boxes of Bibles from Jimmy VanderSchoor
  - 16 boxes of hymnals, Bibles, and soccer balls from Sandra Matoushaya
  - Children's Books - 32 boxes collected from BBF.
  - Many boxes of hand knitted baby caps/blankets from St Paul's UMC and several from Brenda Pavlack of CUMC.
- In addition to items collected by TNC, BBF will fill the container with items they are donating for Chikwizo & Nyahuku clinic as noted above. The container should depart BBF in mid May which means probable arrival at Nyadire by November, 2015.
- TNC will pay BBF \$12,000 to cover shipping costs.

5. Home of Hope (M.B. Zollars & E. Chiimba/E. Nyabote)

- Update received from Elina Nyabote:
  - Clearing of the site for the new HOH is almost complete, fencing is in progress, & water connection & access road work will start May 4.
  - Febbie had malaria but is now OK
  - Two new HOH children added - Tanatswo, a 6 yr old boy, and Tanaka, a girl in Grade 2
  - Talent's current location is not known
  - 9 boxes of books received from the recent container shipment
- Natalie Geer will be staying at the HOH, helping with the children from June 16 to July 22.
- Several updates received from E. Chiimba as he attends the Asian Rural Institute in Japan. He is doing very well
- M.B. Zollars is presenting at the Mt. Lebanon UMC networking class on May 3.
- A garage sale to raise funds for the HOH is being organized for May 23. Location is the Surma storage room in Mt Lebanon.
- \$6925 wired for HOH budget of March & April, plus an additional \$400 to cover Lorraine's boarding and fees.

6. Home of Hope Outreach (M.B. Zollars & E. Chiimba/ E. Nyabote)

- About 70 boxes of backpacks (250 packs) will be included with the container.

- Hearing Impaired - Vicki Smith of UMC communications in Nashville will call MB Zollars to discuss the orphanage and the hearing impaired program. Mary Beth will contact Catarina of Finland to understand the current status of the Hearing Impaired program.
  - Sponsorship forms for both the HOH and the HOHO programs are now available online at [www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org) .
  - E. Zollars & P. Himmler picked up 23 backpacks & 4 teacher crates from Ben Franklin Elementary School and also presented the HOHO story to 7 classrooms
  - E. Zollars presented to to the Children's Montessori Schoolhouse in Bridgeville. This school has a great model for engaging the classroom in the HOHO program. The teacher sponsors a HOHO child and the school donated 3 backpacks with supplies.
  - Violet Mutasa's daughter, Kundai, is searching for scholarship support to attend Africa University. Please call Faith Geer with any interest or suggestions.
7. Pastor Partnership (Rev Lois Swestyn & DS Rev Mutasa)
- Funds for pastor sponsorships of May & June (\$1240) transferred on April 24
  - Rev Lois Swestyn's presentation of the Pastor Partnership program at the Pittsburgh District Annual Conference meeting on Apr 19 went well. A Sunday School class at Mt Lebanon UMC is giving DS Paul Taylor a one year partnership with DS Rev E. Mutasa.
  - Rev Lois Swestyn and Marie Hunt have reviewed the program and are recommending several process changes. The July VIM team will review these proposals with DS Mutasa and others at Nyadire. Currently, we are not collecting enough sponsorship funds to cover the program and the account will be depleted in July.
8. VIM Trips (Rev Kimberly Greway & Rev J. Tsiga)
- Molly Michael and Faith Geer will co-lead a VIM team from Jul 2 - 22. In addition to the 2 leaders, Mark & Logan Boyce from Dutilh UMC complete the team. Others needed and welcome!!
    - Arrival in Harare is Wed, July 3 at 12:15pm on Ethiopian Air #873
    - Excursion is to Antelope Park from July 17 - 20. Arrival back in Washington DC is Jul 21
    - Team will drive to Washington DC on Jul 1 and stay at Sterling UMC.

- An optometrist has offered Faith Geer a supply of prescription glasses and simple vision test equipment which the team will carry to Nyadire. Rev Tsiga confirmed this is needed and many are expected to participate. Marie Hunt and Sue Bower also have access to reading glasses which could be donated to the team
  - Suggested activities for the team:
    - Vision testing
    - Distribution of items from past container shipments; Review of procedures
    - Review of Pastor Partnership program and the proposed changes
    - Review of Medicine Supply program and need for tracking and order placement
    - Distribution of books to the HOHO schools
    - Review of the Empowerment Pad program
    - Carry over and delivery of Christmas Cards
    - Possible visit to Nyahuku Clinic
  - Others are planning to travel to Nyadire, but are not able to travel at the dates for the July team. - Those include Mary Beth Zollars, Tim Wesley, & Ralph Duckworth.
  - An Engineers Without Borders assessment team of 3 CMU students (Kavin Sanghavi, Maddie Gioffre, Allison Fisher) & 2 mentors (Matt Bovee & D. Harvey) will travel to Nyadire from Aug 15 - 29 The overall program addresses Nyadire problems resulting from intermittent electricity with a beginning project to provide non-grid connected campus lighting. Maddie Gioffre and Rev Kimberly Greway are organizing "cultural training" sessions for the team to be held in May.
9. Seeds of Hope (Jim Howell & Esnath Arichara )
- J. Howell has contacted Walmart and hopes to arrange a large seed donation at season end.
  - Rev Kelly Smith advised that Mifflin Ave UMC will start collecting seeds earlier this year.
10. Christmas Connection (Rev Lois Swestyn & Joyce Tsiga)
- Cards will be sent over with the July team. Marie Hunt will coordinate with the CUMC group that is making the cards
11. "O" Level Textbooks (Sandy McKnight & E. Chiimba)
- no activity.

12. Micro-Loans (Chuck Billerbeck & Nicodemus Bandera)

- no activity

13. Farm (D. Harvey & Esnath Arichara)

- Nyadire Dryland Farming - Although the drought has been severe, Bryan Saunders still predicts a harvest of 30 to 40T of sun-hemp and 30 to 50T of maize.
- Irrigation Proposal -
  - The vision is to develop an Irrigated Farm that will generate funds to rebuild clinics and to eventually lead Nyadire to more of a self supporting/sustainable ministry. There is some concern in Zimbabwe as they do not want to risk diversion of funds away from the clinics. However, TNC views this as the method for actually funding the clinics.
  - The business model continues to be refined, but the proposal is essentially complete. Investment is ~ \$1,000,000 with payback in 6 years. 4 crop rotation with potatoes dominating the financials. Initial plantings of 40-HA followed by 40 more HA's in year 3.
  - D. Tripp met with Rev A Gurupiri on April 24 and reviewed the project:
    - Development of the farm is a key strategy for the Zim UMC. If the land is not developed, there is some concern the government could redistribute it to others.
    - Due Diligence is a priority and should be completed in May.
    - If funds are available, an advisory/management board is recommended.
    - A broad stakeholder meeting is expected in early July which TNC must attend.
  - Key Questions:
    - Will UMCOR & TNC be able to fund the investment?
    - Should the CUMC capital campaign funds (possibly \$300000) be directed to farm investment as a way of funding the clinic rebuilds?
    - Will UMCOR and the Zim UMC also commit their portion of farm profits to Clinic Rebuilds?
    - Can an advisory board or suitable means of management be established for this complex, commercial operation?

3. Projects

- Engineers Without Borders - see above in VIM program area



- Empowerment Pads - Jim Henckley has agreed to refurbish sewing machines and prepare them for shipment to Zimbabwe. He met with Bonnie Lawson on April 27 to review what is required. Natalie Geer will follow up on this program during her stay at Nyadire.

#### 4. TNC Organization / Activities / Misc.

- A "TNC Strategic Review and Planning Meeting" was held on March 15. There was much good discussion & agreement that TNC should establish a model for bringing in new leadership and insuring the organization's ongoing survival. A "task team" has since been created that will study options and come back to TNC's lead team with recommendations. Tim Wesley will coordinate this team which includes Rev Kimberly Greway & Mark LaRosa. A date will be scheduled for this team to first meet with TNC's lead team and clarify the objective, scope, and schedule of their task.
- Jim Gourley and Sue McCann were in Zimbabwe from Feb 3 to April 8.
- A leader and team will be established to coordinate an event celebrating TNC's 10th anniversary (summer 2016).
- Jeff Matheny of West Virginia coordinated a conference call (attended by D. Harvey) on April 22 of the "Mutare Connection". This diverse group of supporters is working to upgrade Old Mutare Hospital and also plans to refurbish their 6 rural health clinics
- Violet Mutasa plans to visit Pittsburgh from Sept 15 until Nov 19, 2015 where she will stay with both Faith Geer and Virginia Fraser-Smith. TNC provided a letter of invitation and is also sending an itinerary of her activities.
- Western PA UMC General Conference is June 11- 14. Diane Welty will again organize and staff a TNC table, including the sale of crafts.

#### 5. Communication / Publicity

- D. Harvey sent information to Pastor Taurai Emmanuel Faforo (Communicator, Zimbabwe UMC) in support of a story he is writing on Zimbabwe Partnership Projects
- Vicki Brown, News editor of UMC Communications, (located in Nashville) recently returned from Zimbabwe and is developing a story on Nyadire. D. Harvey provided much information during a phone call on April 23 and she will also follow up with a phone call to MB Zollars. Vicki is interested in any ongoing story opportunities about TNC and Nyadire.

- Several individuals that previously lived in Nyadire have recently contacted TNC. Catherine Carroll maintains a FB page called "Mish Kids" that has many historical photographs of Nyadire and the clinics. Shirley Finster of California also spent much time at Dendera and Nyadire. Al Streyffeler, former farm manager at Nyadire, also maintains a blog with much Zimbabwe info - <https://altruisms.wordpress.com/category/zimbabwe/>
- TNC Website - Training session led by Noel Slater were held on April 19. Noel will provide overall website guidance and the following people will update specific sections:
  - D. Harvey - specific programs, meeting minutes, and calendar
  - E. Zollars - newsletters, current events
  - MB Zollars - HOH & HOHO programs and applications
  - Marie Hunt - Pastor Partnership program and application
  - Rev K. Greway - VIM trips programs and application
  - Keith Wilson - Photo Gallery
  - Janet Elders - Photo Directory
- The May CUMC magazine (The View) has an excellent article describing construction progress at Nyahuku Clinic
- Newsletter - content is complete and Jackie Schaefer is now formatting. Should be distributed soon.

#### 6. Finance

- As of 3/31/2015, TNC has \$68,972 in Restricted Accounts and \$35,597 in Unrestricted Accounts.
- TNC will provide \$12000 to BBF to cover shipping expenses for the May container.
- \$300 will be contributed to Global Links for participation in the Suture Donation program for 2015. \$520 will be paid to Computer Reach for purchase of laptop computers for Chikwizo & Nyahuku clinics. Sue Bower will be reimbursed for purchase of various medical supplies.

#### 7. Recent & Upcoming Events

- Feb 3 - April 8; J. Gourley and Sue McCann in Zimbabwe
- Feb 18 - April 4; St Paul UMC Lenten Calendar program
- Mar 13 - Ground Breaking ceremony at Nyahuku Rural Health Clinic
- Mar 15 - TNC Strategy Work Session
- April 19 - Pgh District Annual Conference meeting. TNC present the Pastor Partnership Program

- April 25 - Hannah Mafunda meeting in Harare to discuss a grant application to Bread for the World for clinic rebuild funds.
- April 27 - TNC Meeting
- May 2 - Workday at TNC's Storage Unit packing items for the Container Shipment
- May 3 - MB Zollars presents at the Mt Lebanon UMC networking class.
- May 6 - BBF collects all TNC items
- May 23 - Garage sale at the Surma Storage Room; Funds go to HOH.
- May 11 - BBF container loaded and departs Pittsburgh for Nyadire
- June 11 - 14; Western PA UMC General Conference - TNC to host a table & sell crafts
- Jun 17 - Jul 22; Natalie Geer in Nyadire, primarily working with the HOH
- July 1 & 2 - tentative date of stakeholders meeting in Zimbabwe to discuss Farm Development
- July 2-22 - VIM trip to Nyadire led by F. Geer & M. Michael
- Aug 15 - 29- EWB assessment trip to Nyadire by 3 CMU students & 2 mentors
- Sept or Oct - Nyadire trip by Brad Devor & Tammy Shewell of VITAS
- Sept 15 - Nov 19 - Violet Mutasa in Pittsburgh
- Oct 9, 10 - TNC sells crafts at the CUMC' Prime Time Craft Sale.
- Oct or Nov - BBF container expected arrival at Nyadire
- Dec - E. Chiimba returns from Asian Rural Institute training program in Japan

NEXT TNC Meeting:

Monday, June 8 CUMC, room B112 - [NOTE DATE CHANGE due to Memorial Day](#)