

TNC Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2020

1. Prayer
2. General Zimbabwe Situation
3. Health -
 - Eyeglass Program; Shipments; Empowerment Pads; Medical Supplies; Rural Health Clinics; Medical/Doctor Support
5. Education / Volunteer in Mission Trips - Molly Michael
 - EWB; HI; Scholarships; VIM Trips; General
6. Orphans - MB Zollars
 - HOH; HOHO
7. Fund Development - Debbie Little
8. Promotions - Communications- T. Wesley
9. Finance - Richard Dickey
10. TNC Organization / Misc - D Harvey

Next TNC Meeting - June 1 (the normal last Mon in May is Memorial Day

TNC Meeting Minutes

Apr 27, 2020 - remote meeting via ZOOM

I. General

- A. There are now 31 reported cases of Corona Virus in Zimbabwe with 4 deaths. The country began a 3 week lockdown on Mar 30 which was then extended until May 3. Individual movements are greatly restricted and enforced by the military
- B. There is concern by many about the lack of food and limited access to water during the lockdown. Malaria season has begun and expected to be very severe this year as many of the control resources are concentrating on the Corona Virus. 531 deaths from malaria were reported in one week.
- C. Nyadire Teachers College and Dendera High School will be used for quarantine of citizens returning from disease burdened countries.
- D. Both the Zim dollar and foreign currency, including USD, are now legal to use in Zimbabwe. Foreign currency will be phased out again by 2022

II. Health -

A. Container Shipments - (Drew Harvey & Rev L. Mukundu)

- 1. BBF is supplying PPE and other equipment (scrubs, beds, masks, etc.) to health facilities throughout the country. They have recently found sources and provided a significant amount to Tri-Community South EMS.
- 2. BBF continues its reorganization with a reduction in staff, consolidation of the Capital Area facilities, and an added focus on support within the USA. New strategies for fundraising, marketing, and public relations have been implemented.
- 3. BBF is actively searching for partners and supporters. Please contact Drew Harvey if you have any contacts or networks that might be interested in the BBF story.

4. BBF's board meeting held last week via ZOOM with 30 people.
5. No shipments to Zimbabwe are currently planned.

B. Eye Glasses - (Don Ziegler & Dr Larry Tanyanyiwa)

1. Working with Dr Larry to identify new Nyadire leadership for the program. Robust local leadership is essential to the on-going success..
2. Due to delays in trips to Nyadire, Don is considering sending training materials and working with the Zimbabwe team to conduct training and practice clinic on their own. The objective is for Nyadire to eventually independently operate eyeglass clinics.
3. Have had major computer problems but am working with Tim W to revise the eyeglasses program brochure. In process of refining his useful draft and sending final photos.
4. When we can interact after the Covid-19 issues are behind us, would like to see if we can form an eyeglasses cleaning team to help clean all eyeglasses collected from various sources prior transporting them to Sandy Kalmar of "Through God's Eyes" who does the processing of them full-time on a volunteer basis.
5. Need to explore other potential funding sources for TNC eyeglasses program, especially to provide on-going funding for locally conducted clinics. Cost are modest and involve small stipends and food for local assistants and volunteers and added transportation costs.

C. Girl Empowerment Pad Program - (Bonnie Lawson & Charity Horiro)

1. Pittsburgh
 - a) Working with Linda Ambroso on an email blast for the GEP program with the goal to update all of our supporters. This will also provide content for the next TNC newsletter.
 - b) The focus will be on the synergy between programs. The email blast will also communicate that we are on hiatus on collecting donations.

2. Zimbabwe

- a) Crescencia sent photos of two young girls who are recovering at Nyadire Hospital. They were provided cute Dress for Girls outfits and hats. This supply probably came from the Olive Branch donation that was packed for the hospital. She also sent photos of newborns wrapped in lovely quilts and blankets.
- b) Charity (GEP) provided the HOH with a manual machine from the Hearing Innovation school so that Winnet (Sister Rut Scholarship Student) could teach students how to make masks and sanitary pads.
- c) It is good to see these 3 programs working together and supported by our very timely container shipment. Our partners in Zimbabwe had the items distributed in record time before the schools closed.

D. Medical Supplies - (Irina Sheyko & Wilson Nhamoinesu)

1. \$4000 transferred to company PCD on Feb 20 for purchase of drugs for Apr/May/June. PCD has not yet confirmed funds have been received.
 - a) The normal drug purchase amount of \$3000 was increased this quarter to \$4000 in consideration of the poor condition of the Zimbabwe health care system and the inclusion of some drugs for the rural health clinics.
2. Clinic visits not made recently due to the Lockdown.
3. We investigated sending face shields to Nyadire but this is now on hold.

E. Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds - (Ralph Duckworth & Rev Austern Chepiri/Hannah Mafunda)

1. Mashambanhaka Clinic
 - a) Groundbreaking was held at Mashambanhaka on Feb 17 and construction work began in early March. Work stopped because of the

COVID19 country wide lockdown on April 9. Work resumed on the site on April 20.

- b) Progress report and photos received from Rev Austern Chepiri on April 22. The contractor, Hama, is progressing well but delivery of materials to the site is very problematic during the continued lockdown. It is also difficult for communities to keep up with the supply of bricks. A UMC conference truck was used to deliver doorframes to the site and to assist the communities with delivery of bricks.
- c) Company Halsted confirmed receipt of the test transfer of \$2000 and their remaining invoice of \$52645 was transferred on April 23. Funds were also transferred to Livingstone Garikayi for engineering and administrative services and well as funds for fabrication of misc steelworks. Union Hardware confirmed receipt of the \$2000 test, and we sent their remaining invoice amount of \$13819 on Apr 28.
- d) 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 this phase is \$113,000 which is approximately the funds we now have available.
- e) TNC has \$115,289 in the clinics account. Rebuild estimate for Mashambanhaka is \$267,000. A plan for raising the remaining \$152,000 is needed.
- f) Four firms (Halsted, Union Hardware, J Mann, and the project engineer) have contracts totaling \$83,824. TNC will pay these firms directly.

F. Medical & Hospital Support - (Sue Bower & Dr Larry Tanyanyiwa)

1. Receipt of funds acknowledged for doctor stipend for Apr/May/June.

2. Nyadire reports a very challenging health situation throughout Zimbabwe and at Nyadire. The lockdown continues, making access to food and water a major concern for many. Malaria season has started with many reported cases. Diagnosis is difficult as early symptoms of malaria are similar to COVID19 and since health workers have little training or PPE, they struggle to know how to respond. Some patients with fever are turned away and eventually come to Nyadire hospital. The ministry announced that Nyadire Teachers College and Dendera High School will be used to quarantine patients returning from disease burdened countries.

III. Education and VIM Trips (Molly Michaels)

A. Engineers Without Borders/CMU - (Drew Harvey & Rev L. Mukundu)

1. As of March 11, Carnegie Mellon University is conducting all classes online and students are not gathering for meetings or events. The three EWB leaders meet each Thursday evening via ZOOM. One is in Pgh., one in NYC, and one in Taiwan.
2. Nyadire has indicated their preference is to continue with installation of the Biogas Digester for cooking at the Primary School. However, there are not enough cattle to produce the amount of waste needed to cook all meals. Firewood would continue to be used when needed, A conference call to completely review the program and finalize implementation decisions is being scheduled. An individual at Nyadire has been suggested that could reliably manage the task of waste collection.
3. The national EWB organization has cancelled all international trips and therefore CMU will not send a student team to Nyadire in August as planned. Plans are to send Request for Proposals to contractors in the fall and travel in Dec/Jan for implementation the Biogas Digester. Prior to travel, the students will prepare an Implementation Report which must be approved by EWB national prior to travel.

4. Cathy Fang and Sophie Yeh will be transitioning out as project leaders at the end of this semester. Melina Driscoll will continue, and the two new leads will be Cara (previous grants chair) and Katherine (current EWB Finance chair).
5. A new Responsible Engineer in Charge, REIC, with Biogas experience has been identified which is a great help on technical issues and implementation strategy.

B. Sister Rut Scholarships (Molly Michael)

1. During lockdown: ON HOLD: 10 students currently in program, 4 at Tabudirira, 1 at Nyadire Teachers College, and 5 at various universities.
2. Graduation at Nyadire Teachers College will be postponed for Kudakwashe Mbozvi and Progress Mutandwa. Graduation fees were sent.
3. Tabudirira students (Beauty, Alice, Winnet, and Godknows) are now home at the Home of Hope. Godknows Mapika is doing his attachment (internship) at Nyadire Teachers College.
4. ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REQUIRED TO DO ONLINE STUDIES OF SOME SORT BUT THE CHALLENGE IS GETTING ACCESS TO THE INTERNET. SOME ARE USING THEIR PHONES AS HOTSPOTS, BUT THAT REQUIRES VERY EXPENSIVE DATA BUNDLES. NO GOOD SOLUTION AT THIS POINT. THE STUDENTS ARE PLEADING THAT CLASSES BE CANCELLED. "THE DATA IS KILLING US."
5. A WhatsApp Group "Sister Rut Scholarship" has been created for group communications.
6. Tinashe Mapfumbidze is staying in Gweru during the Coronavirus shut-downs, doing work online.
7. Tsungirai Makoni has begun a temporary attachment in Harare.

8. Champion Mujuru has headed back to Nyadire to sit out the shutdown. He had been able to do his online studies at times, but now that Nyadire is an isolation center he is not sure how he will continue.
9. Lovemore Mbozvi's program of Mining Engineering is trying to start lectures online.
10. Bernard Madyauta is back in Harare and doing classes via Google class.
11. Fungai Chigumbura is in Harare doing online studies, via Google Classroom.
12. ON HOLD: Elina Nyabote has agreed to assist in the Scholarship Program. We are reviewing the process for tuition payments, funds for accommodations and food, and other needs. Students will send their receipts, results, and logs for community service to Elina.
13. The Rotary's Annual Night of Giving has been cancelled. The committee that evaluates the grant proposals has not met yet. Pete Muck assumes that meeting will take place mid-May. Any received funds will go the Scholarship Program.
14. New applications have arrived. The Committee has not yet met to discuss them. Here are the six applicants:
 - a) Takunda Pedzai: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: Midland States University, Human Resources Management
 - b) Raymond Chimbwanda: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe, Mining & Mineral Engineering
 - c) Lorraine Kapembeza: HOH/HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: Africa University, Accounting
 - d) Panashe Mafemera: O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe, Sociology, Market Research Analyst

- e) Angeline Mujuru (Campion's sister): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Agriculture
- f) Lorraine Chipembere (Fradreck's daughter): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Agriculture

C. Hearing Innovation (Molly Michael & Tendayi Mushapaidze)

- 1. The program name has been changed from Hearing Impaired to Hearing Innovation.
- 2. 860 USD sent from Finland towards HI School Fees
- 3. Working on renewing annual sponsorships!
- 4. Bonnie shared photos of the HI students receiving contents from the containers

D. VIM Trips - Molly Michael & Rev Mukundu

- 1. Will travel for summer 2020 be possible? Most likely not. However, if we can be flexible and adapt to going last minute - Molly is willing. However, we will not move forward with any commitments at this time.
- 2. Possible Team: Molly Michael, Don & Judy Ziegler, Marjorie Dold, Ida, MB Zollars, Jen Fine-Schmidt, Deborah Swineford. The few other people dropped out w/ interest due to COVID-19
- 3. This team is registered on the WPAUMC and UMVIM NEJ websites.
- 4. Is anyone interested in leading a team in 2021?
- 5. Editing the VIM Team Training and Leader Manuals to reflect expectations and boundaries for team members and TNC during travel abroad. These changes will reflect things Molly learned from the UM VIM Leader Training.

6. Charlie Moore's ZIM VIM team of 20 people has cancelled their July trip to Hanwa School

IV. Orphans - (MB Zollars & Emmanuel Chiimba)

A. **Overall:** Lockdown in Zimbabwe is extended for 2 weeks. School re-opening has not been announced. (probably mid-May)

B. **HOHO - Marie Hunt & E. Chiimba**

1. During lockdown: ON HOLD: work on the roof at Manhamba Primary School.
2. During lockdown: ON HOLD: Elina Nyabote has agreed to do the pricing of the backpacks and school supplies for Marie Hunt, so that these items may be purchased in Zimbabwe for the next round.
3. Funds for 2nd term are being prepared. Waiting on any changes in school fees.

C. **HOH - Debbie Soles & E. Chiimba**

1. May/April funds being prepared. Waiting on any changes in school fees.
2. During lockdown: ON HOLD: The fish pond plans are being led by Scott Sanford. Sandy McKnight worked tirelessly with Emmanuel and Kaitano (consultant) to refine the report. (Refer to that report.)
3. During lockdown: ON HOLD: Nyasha Katema and Precious Muripo are taking math lessons to get a better score on their O-level exams.
4. No news on when the HOH Rummage Sale can be rescheduled.
5. Little Beauty has been re-united with her biological mother. Prayers that all will be well.

6. Shelton (13 years old) arrived in March 2020. He is in Form 1. His siblings, Loice (9 years old in Grade 3) and Nathan (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old in ECD-A) joined him in April 2020. They were being raised by a single mother who was abusive.
7. Thanks to Tim Wesley for the highlight of Lynn Dekete in the April TNC Newsletter. Lynn is an intern from the University of Great Zimbabwe and is still at the HOH during this lockdown. Her internship is scheduled to end at the beginning of August.
8. The bean crop that revived (because of rainfall) while we (the February Team) were there, failed. The one borehole was not enough to keep it going when the rains stopped.
9. Winnet (in the midst of her training to become a seamstress) is making masks at the HOH with materials and machines sent through GEP. She now has a room dedicated to sewing, uses both electric and manual machines, and is training the other girls to sew and make pads. YAHOO!

D. Other

1. Sister Rut's children are well.

V. Fund Development (Debbie Little)

- A. Fund raising strategy needed for the Fish Farm and the completion of Mashambanhaka Clinic. Debbie Little and Molly Michael will meet to discuss possible fund raising strategies (internet; video?) specifically for the \$152000 needed for completion of Mashambanhaka. Timing may need to wait until the COVID19 crisis is somewhat stabilized.

VI. Promotion / Communication - (Tim Wesley)

- A. Published April newsletter
 1. Will review distribution process

2. Please send story ideas for next issue (June)

B. TNC brochures

1. All brochures drafted, in design process
2. Will reach out to churches to request display (Dutilh already agreed)

C. Website

1. Will add links to brochures
2. TNC minutes will now be current on the website.

D. Consider ways to recruit volunteers for specific positions

- A. TNC currently has 5 or 6 open positions that need volunteer leaders.
Tim Wesley will organize the descriptions and we will distribute as a way of finding new people

E. St Paul's Lenten Calendar is now available and is organized around "Fish Farming". Tim Wesley will review to see how this can be distributed to all the network churches. Each church could use in a way that fits their calendar and agenda other than utilizing only at Lent.

VII. Finance - (Richard Dickey)

A. As of 03/31/2020, TNC had \$200,214 in restricted funds and \$17,491 in unrestricted. Preliminary, not final, results for 04/30/2020 show \$142,353 in restricted and \$14,166 in unrestricted.

B. \$75 to CUMC for Zoom

C. Funds recently transferred

1. \$2000 to Livingstone Garikayi as test transfer for Mashambanhaka engineering received. On April 15, TNC then wired transferred \$8,468.67 to Livingstone's account for final payment of his invoice.
2. TNC initiated the wire transfer of \$3000 to the account of Livingstone Garikayi on Apr 24. \$1200 to be used for administration expenses and

\$1800 for labor for the fabrication of steel poles, burglar bars, purpose cooking stoves etc.

3. \$2000 to Union Hardware as test transfer for Mashambanhaka steel supply was received. On April 28, the final amount of \$13,819 was sent.
 4. \$2000 to company Halsted as test transfer for Mashambanhaka material supply received. Final invoice amount of \$52,645 then transferred on April 10.
 5. \$2882 to company J Mann for steel supply for Mashambanhaka Receipt not yet acknowledged.
 6. \$4000 to company PCD for drug purchases of Apr/May/June. Receipt not yet acknowledged and trace issued.
 7. \$1950 for doctor stipend of Apr/May/Jun sent on April 10 and receipt acknowledged.
- D. Considering the conversion rate of RTGS to USD and the rapid inflations, we are working with Nyadire to clarify the Hearing Innovation fees required
- E. We have agreed with company SINET that TNC will pay \$8760 to cover the cost of connecting Borehole #2 to Solar and installing a new 5.5hp pump. Funds will be sent when work in complete.
- F. Both Zim Dollars and US Dollars can now be used within Zimbabwe. USD will again be phased out by 2022. World Remit does allow USD cash pickup, but this is difficult with movement restrictions. Funds can also be sent to an account and used as ECO CASH.

VIII. TNC Organization / Miscellaneous - (Drew Harvey)

- A. CUMC has opened a ZOOM account as a non-profit which provides a reduced rate for up to 9 hosts. TNC will be one of these hosts and will pay CUMC \$75 for the year's access to ZOOM. This paid account allows large meetings to last longer than the 45 minutes provided by the free version.
- B. Addition of Solar to the second borehole at Nyadire stopped due to the ongoing COVID19 country wide shutdown. Once this is over (May 3), company Sinet will connect this second borehole and add a new 5.5hp pump. People at Nyadire have now dug the necessary cable trench in anticipation of Sinet's arrival. Upon completion, TNC will pay \$8760 to Sinet. With two pumps operating on Solar, the water system should keep up with most of the demand throughout the mission. A Water Committee is also formed which will control how water is distributed, paid for, and utilized.
- C. TNC is considering a program to install solar that would power all of Nyadire. Discussion will begin after the COVID19 lockdown.
- D. Christmas Connection - Christmas cards for 2020 are now being circulated for signatures by TNC churches. They have been to CUMC, BCUMC, and Mt Lebanon UMC. MB Zollars will coordinate transport of the cards to Dutilh UMC and St Paul's UMC. After this signature page is complete the cards will be returned to the card ministry at CUMC for assembly. Pat Cook is no longer coordinating this project so a new leader is required. Volunteers???
- E. Fish Farm - As the profitability of a large scale fish operation does not look good in Zimbabwe's current environment, Scott Sanford has developed a proposal requiring minimum capital, but that can still utilize the ponds that are in place. He also looked at poultry.
 - 1. To begin with fish, a solar powered borehole is required to provide water and the area should be fenced to avoid predators. Ponds would not have aeration and would therefore be lightly stocked. Capital required is approximately \$17000 and profits are projected to be slightly positive. It would provide a strong learning platform to build

upon and perhaps enable future expansion. The solar borehole is the major expense and it would also enable irrigation of HOH farm crops.

2. For poultry, egg production does not look profitable and broiler operation could produce a small profit, but only with a high level of operational and financial expertise. Poultry could be done at the HOH, but could also be at the farm where some of the existing facilities could be utilized.
3. We will review these options and determine what TNC is able to support.

IX Recent and Upcoming Events

- Feb 6-21; MB Zollars, S. McKnight, D. Welty to Nyadire
- Feb 17 - Mashambanhaka groundbreaking ceremony
- Mar 1 - Construction begins on rebuild of Mashambanhaka
- early March- Both containers arrive at Nyadire
- Mar 30 - TNC Meeting
- Mar 30 - May 3; Country wide COVID19 Lockdown throughout Zimbabwe.
- April 27 - TNC meeting via ZOOM
- May 5 - 15; CANCELLED - UMC General Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- June 1 - TNC Meeting
- July 21 - Aug 11 - Possible VIM Trip to Nyadire . Trip uncertain.
- Dec/Jan - EWB team travel to Nyadire for Biogas Digester Implementation