

TNC Meeting Minutes - Feb 22, 2021

1. Prayer
2. General Zimbabwe Situation
3. Health -
 - Eyeglass Program; Container Shipments; Empowerment Pads; Medical Supplies; Rural Health Clinics; Medical/Doctor Support
5. Education / Volunteer in Mission Trips - Molly Michael
 - EWB; HI; Scholarships; VIM Trips
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 - Monday, March 29 - again via ZOOM

TNC Meeting Minutes
Feb 22, 2021 - meeting via ZOOM

I. Opening Prayer

II. General

- A. Zimbabwe reported 31,320 COVID cases and 1005 deaths a month ago at our last TNC meeting. As of 2/20, cases have increased to 35,710 and deaths to 1,430. This is an increase of 4390 cases in Feb, which is dramatically down from the 20,000+ cases reported in January.
- B. Zimbabwe received 200,000 donated doses of vaccine from China and is expecting 600,000 additional doses in early March. Zimbabwe's objective is to purchase 20 million doses at a cost of \$100 million, which would immunize 60% of the population. Vaccine may also be procured from Russia and India. We understand no one at Nyadire has yet received a vaccine.
- C. The Covid-19 variant first detected in South Africa now accounts for the majority of cases in the country. Zimbabwe requires all new air arrivals to the country to present a negative COVID-19 test result issued within the previous 48 hours. The country wide COVID Lockdown was extended until Mar 1.
- D. Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian will serve as the next Superintendent of the UMC Pittsburgh District, replacing Rev Dawn Hand who has been appointed to the Baltimore-Washington Conference,

II. Health -

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

- 1. No shipments to Zimbabwe are currently planned, but hopefully we can schedule something for 3rd quarter 2021. TNC now has several boxes

of medical supplies, GEP items, eyeglasses, baby blankets/hats, and books but none of this justifies an early shipment date.

2. Brothers Brother Foundation is partnering with several local agencies to provide supplies to Texas because of the extreme cold weather and resulting power/water/heat outages. [BrothersBrotherTexas](#)
3. Megan Klingler, GBGM Health Systems Strengthening Program Manager has left Global Health. Others continue working with BBF about possible container shipments to Africa.

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

1. As coordinated by Marie Hunt, Don Ziegler provided an excellent ZOOM presentation of the Eyeglass Program to CUMC's UMW on Feb 13. UMW members are now cleaning and preparing a supply of eyeglasses for delivery to Mission Vision.
2. Don Z. and Dr. Larry have agreed upon the following leadership for the Zimbabwe Eyeglass Team:
 - a) Primrose - Head Nurse at Dendera; Clinical Program Leader
 - b) Artwell - Nyadire Driver; Logistics Leader
 - c) Nurse Paul (Nyahuku/Nyadire)
3. As the Auto-Refractor is not typically available to the Zimbabwe Eyeglass Team, Don is removing this equipment from the procedures. Patients will continue to be properly fitted with Eyeglasses.
4. As soon as in-country travel is allowed, the Zimbabwe Eyeglass Team will go to Nyadire for additional training. After training, the team will schedule and independently conduct eyeglass clinics twice/year at Nyadire and each rural health clinic.

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

1. Received fabric donations and most of the material can be used to produce warm blankets, and will be included as part of future shipments.
2. B. Lawson and S. McKnight worked together on the GEP portion of St Pauls UMC Lenten Calendar.

3. Continue to communicate with program stakeholders.

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

1. Next transfer of funds (\$3000) to company PCD for Nyadire drug purchase will be in late March.

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

1. Mashambanhaka Clinic

- a) Monthly progress report for Dec and January received from Rev Austern Chepiri on Feb 5. R. Duckworth has advised Rev Chepiri that the \$30,000 budget proposal for Phase 2.4 is approved.
- b) The Out Patients Department and Maternity Delivery Building is complete. The Semi-Detached two bedroom home 1 is complete, The Mothers Waiting Home is complete. The Cooking Shed, wash lines, and Blair Toilets are complete.
- c) The Quadruple one Bedroom House 2 is 50% complete. General services of Water and Waste are 90% complete.
- d) Continuing construction work is being done in phases. The next phase is 2.4 at a cost of \$30,000 and includes connection of water and electrical to the Duplex, construction of a new flushing toilet block to the main clinic, and construction of new flushing toilets and showers at the Mothers waiting home. Funds will be sent as soon as requested. The budget for phase 2.5 is being prepared.
- e) Zimbabwe extended the Level 4 national lockdown which will slow construction progress. Currently it is heavy farming season and many of the community people are in the fields, making it difficult to keep up with promised delivery of bricks.

- f) Total cost to rebuild Mashambanhaka is about \$274,000, and TNC needs to raise about \$15,000 to complete the clinic. As soon as this is completed we will begin fundraising to rebuild Chindenga which is the last of Nyadire's six clinics to be rebuilt.

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

1. Salary stipend sent for Jan/Feb/Mar via World Remit. Next transfer to be initiated in late Mar.

III. Education and VIM Trips (Molly Michaels)

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

1. The company of Blessing Jonga and Lewis Makurumure has been selected to provide the biogas cooking system for Nyadire Primary School. However, the digester size cannot be established until a test is completed at Nyadire demonstrating how much cow waste can consistently be collected as feed for the digester.
2. Nyadire began a cow waste collection trial on Feb 9. Two primary school workers are collecting fresh cow waste from the High School, Primary School, and the Home of Hope. Collection has been done for 11 days with a daily range between 150 and 300 pounds. Average so far is 230 pounds/day.
3. A target completion date (not committed) of the BioGas Primary School Cooking System is Aug 2021. However, due to COVID, it is unlikely the EWB students will be able to travel to Zimbabwe for the installation.
4. The EWB students will resume weekly ZOOM meetings on Tuesday, March 2.

B. Sister Rut Scholarship Program (MB Zollars)

1. Scholarships

- a) **AGRICULTURE** - John Sperry engaged with us to build an agricultural aspect of the Scholarship Program. John has deposited funds with the "Foundation for Tertiary Education" that will provide agricultural scholarships at Africa University or other schools. Perhaps the agriculture scholarship opportunity should be expanded beyond Nyadire and the HOHO program to increase potential candidates.
- b) Beauty (HOH/Tabudirira) on attachment at Mutoko Luxury Lodges (hospitality).
- c) Winnet (HOH/Tabudirira) is doing her attachment with a seamstress in Mutoko.
- d) Godknows (HOH/Tabudirira) is awaiting results of his trade exams. He has embarked on a venture of establishing a food stand in Mutoko.
- e) Tinashe Mapfumbidze(MSU) is staying in Gweru. His classes are now on Google Classroom.
- f) Tsungirai Makoni's - finished her attachment and is awaiting the start of her 4th year of study in Actuarial Science at the University of Zimbabwe.
- g) Champion Mujuru (University of Zimbabwe) is back at UZ waiting for the exam period which has been delayed until March.
- h) Lovemore Mbozvi's program of Mining Engineering is totally online. Exams are done. He is currently searching for a company for his attachment.
- i) Bernard Madyauta has begun his next semester at the University of Great Zimbabwe.
- j) Fungai Chigumbura has completed his exams, and is beginning his first semester of his second year.
- k) Maryleen Dandira (Nyadire Teachers College) She looks forward to returning to her teaching practice at Nyamhara Primary.
- l) Lorraine Kapembeza: Africa University, Accounting; registered for second semester. AU opened online. It is currently the only university open.

- m) Ruth Makoni: HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology. Finished first semester; no updates for second semester.
- n) Takunda Pedzai: Midland States University, Human Resources Management. 2nd semester to start in February.
- o) Raymond Chimbwanda: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe; Financial Economics and Trade. Waiting for 2nd semester.
- p) Stephen Chadamoyo: O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, (tuition only); Physiotherapy. 1st semester exams delayed until March.

2. WORK/STUDY:

- a) Lindarose Chibinge: Lindarose has been volunteering at the HOH for about 6 months. Her excellent work, dedication, and commitment has led to a new aspect of the Scholarship Program. Lindarose will receive a small monthly stipend for her work at the HOH. It will be her responsibility to pay for her own tuition and other expenses associated with getting her master's degree. She has agreed to work at the HOH throughout her studies. Indications are that she is interested in staying at the HOH after completion. She plans to enroll in a master's degree in Children's Rights and Protection.

3. Tabudirira Vocational Centre Candidates:

- a) Angeline Mujuru (Campion's sister) (HOHO): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021
- b) Lorraine Chipembere (Fradreck's daughter) (HOHO): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021
- c) Tinotenda Kadyautumbe (HOH): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021

4. On hold:

- a) Josphat Nyatoro (HOHO): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021

- b) Panashe Mafemera: O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe, Sociology, Market Research Analyst (tuition only) - waiting for next semester (January 2021?)

D. Hearing Innovation (Molly Michael & Tendayi Mushapaidze)

1. Volunteer needed to support Molly Micael with the HI Program or the Education Area in general.
2. HI funding is on hold until the school situation is clarified.

E. VIM Trips - Molly Michael & Rev Mukundu

1. Depending on COVID restrictions, Molly hopes to lead a team to Nyadire around July 20th - August 10th, or possibly June 10 - July 1. The ability to travel may be made at the last minute as it depends on the COVID situation both here and in Zimbabwe. D. Harvey will send a message to Nyadire and UMC leadership asking for their counsel.

IV. Orphans - (MB Zollars & Emmanuel Chiimba)

A. Overall:

1. All exams have been completed, but schools remain closed for usual instruction.

B. HOHO - Marie Hunt & E. Chiimba

1. During lockdown: ON HOLD: work on the roof at Manhembra Primary School. Rev. Mukundu has agreed to get an update.
2. During lockdown: ON HOLD: pricing, purchasing, and distributing of the backpacks and school supplies in Zimbabwe.
3. Outreach Committee for HOHO Schools
 - a) Chairperson: Noreen Chitengu (Manhembra Primary)
 - b) Vice Chair: Tawanda Muswe (Rudawiro Primary)

- c) Secretary: Esnath Zimbira (Nyadire Primary)
- d) Treasurer: Nicodemus Bandira (Nyadire High School)
- e) Finance Secretary: Fiona Chiroroma (Nyakabau Primary)

C. HOH - Debbie Soles & E. Chiimba

- 1. Emmanuel reports that the HOH is expecting a bumper crop!
- 2. Lindarose continues to tutor the children while the schools remain closed.

V. Fund Development (Debbie Little)

- A. No update

VI. Promotion / Communication - (Tim Wesley)

- A. TNC organized in 2006, meaning that 2021 is our 15 year anniversary. Tim Wesley will develop a proposal for how this milestone will be celebrated and acknowledged (possibly in Dec).
- B. The April newsletter will begin a new regular feature of profiling TNC Program Leaders. T. Wesley distributed a form asking for input from each leader by the end of March. D. Harvey will be part of the first issue
- C. Finished brochures for Eyeglasses, GEP, Doctor Support
- D. Seeking story ideas to pitch to local media
- E. Updating TNC presentation for website, other purposes.
- F. The Lenten Calendar will be reviewed and then distributed broadly to all TNC supporters. T. Wesley will coordinate.
- G. Kudzai Chingwe and others develop stories for the Zimbabwe UMC Newsletter and are encouraging any story ideas we may suggest.

VII. Finance - (Richard Dickey)

- A. As of 01/31/2021, TNC had \$187,411 in restricted funds and \$36,645 in unrestricted. Preliminary, not final, results for 02/18/2021 has \$176,226 in restricted accounts and \$37,783 in unrestricted.
- B. The Hunger Relief Fund has \$10,328 which is just adequate to fund full food distributions for April, the final month. Recent donations were from an individual (\$700) and from Mt Lebanon UMC which raised \$300 via their cookie sale.
- C. Received a \$1000 donation from an individual in Chicago in honor of Miriam Graham to be used for COVID relief at Nyadire. Marie Hunt will contact the donor and clarify how to best direct the funds.
- D. Funds recently transferred
 - 1. Feb 18 - \$2140 for HOHO exam students, uniforms and supplies for Tabudirira students, and for the internship of Lindarose
 - 2. Feb 17 & 18 - \$10,500 sent via World Remit for purchase of March Food
 - 3. Feb 16 - \$265 for payment of tuition fees at Nyadire Teachers College
 - 4. Jan 27 - \$18,855 to Halstead Brothers; \$2998 to Consultant Garikayi; \$600 for Fabrication/Welding to Consultant all for Mashambanhaka Phase 2.3.
 - 5. Jan 26 - \$980 to Nyadire Doctor for Jan/Feb/Mar salary stipend
 - 6. Jan 22 - approval of \$2140 as reimbursement to MB Zollars for payment of HOHO and scholarship expenses
 - 7. Jan 19 - \$2250 to E Chiimba via World Remit for Hunger
 - 8. Jan 15 - \$7200 for HOH Jan/Feb budget

VIII. TNC Organization / Miscellaneous - (Drew Harvey)

A. HUNGER CRISIS

- 1. \$10,500 was sent vial World Remit on Feb 16,17 for purchase of food to be distributed for March. Emmanuel advises they have now purchased all food at a cost of \$10,100 and it was distributed Monday, Feb 22.

Only 5 days between sending funds and distributing this volume of food is pretty impressive! Working with the Nyadire Social Committee, TNC has now sent \$90,500 for food distribution from June 2020 thru March 2021 (10 months)

2. The food bundle of Cooking Oil, Sugar, Beans, and Mealie Meal continues to be distributed to 420 families each month. We understand that Jan & Feb were very challenging months and many people were short of food, so this March distribution was especially important.
 3. April will be the 11th and last month that TNC will fund the purchase and distribution of food. Crops are nearly ripe, and families should be self-supporting of food after the expected April harvest.
 4. The Pittsburgh Greensburg District churches raised \$5,000 to provide emergency food assistance in their partner Harare West District in Zimbabwe. On Feb 17 they watched via Zoom as 350 food hampers containing Mealie Meal, sugar, cooking oil, salt, beans Soya chunks and a bar of soap were distributed. [ZOOM Video Food Distribution](#)
- B. Christmas Connection - Nyadire Christmas cards for 2020 are stored with JM Simmons at CUMC. If a team is able to travel to Nyadire this year, they will carry the cards.
- C. Sandy McKnight & Barb Greway have completed an electronic version of the annual Lenten Calendar for St Paul's UMC. The calendar has different segments which can be sent out each week, and can be modified to fit times other than Lent. Each day includes a point and questions making it an excellent tool for generating discussion and education within a family.
1. After a final review, T. Wesley will coordinate sending the calendar out broadly to all TNC supporters. People can use the calendar individually, as well as encourage churches to share with their congregation.
- D. When the COVID lockdown situation eases and necessary people are available, TNC plans to discuss opportunities to move Nyadire toward self sus-

tainability. Agricultural development and implementation of mission wide Solar Power would be major contributors. D. Harvey will organize a ZOOM call with C. Billerbeck & S. Sanford to discuss strategy and possible first steps.

- E. As part of agricultural development, B. Lawson suggested that recent work by the Gates Foundation be considered. The focus is on engagement of women specifically for small holdings, the optimization of improved seeds and practices to increase yield & nutrition, the use of smart phones, and more. "The Moment of Lift" by Melinda Gates and the following link describe the concept - <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/what-we-do/global-growth-and-opportunity/agricultural-development> Perhaps this could be introduced thru the network of women now engaged with the GEP program.

IX Recent and Upcoming Events

- Mar 1, 2020 - Construction begins on rebuild of Mashambanhaka
- early March, 2020 - Both containers arrive at Nyadire
- May 21 - 29 - Hunger Relief funding appeal and Nyadire food distribution
- June - Initial food bundles distributed to Nyadire families
- Sept 9 - Appeal letter sent out asking for additional donations to Hunger
- Mid Sept - Phase 1 of Mashambanhaka Clinic complete
- Sept 28 - TNC receives \$25000 grant & \$25000 challenge grant for Mashambanhaka Clinic from UM Foundation of Western Pa
- June 2020 thru April, 2021 - Monthly food distribution at Nyadire
- Dec 2 - "Cash for Clinics" Webinar for Mashambanhaka Clinic
- Jan 25 - TNC meeting
- Feb 13 - D. Ziegler presents eyeglass program to CUMC UMW
- Feb 22 - TNC meeting
- March 29 - TNC meeting
- Jul 20 - Aug 10 - Possible VIM trip to Nyadire led by Molly Michael; other possible dates are June 10 - Jul 1.
- Sept 2021 - Target installation of BioGas Digester at Nyadire Primary.