

TNC Meeting Minutes - Jan 25, 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, Feb 22 - again via ZOOM

TNC Meeting Minutes
Jan 25, 2021 - meeting via ZOOM

I. Opening Prayer

- A. Lord, we pray for your guidance during this time of uncertainty. We look to you throughout this season. Thank you for all that you have given us, especially the love we share with those in Zimbabwe. Thank you for bringing this passionate group together to serve Your will. You have moved mountains with this partnership. We pray for our friends at Nyadire as they navigate the difficulties of COVID-19, and daily struggles to live. Lord, bless everyone who serves You through TNC. May we continue to spread light in darkness, establish hope during times of fear, and provide for those in need. Amen.

II. General

- A. Zimbabwe reported 11246 COVID cases and 307 deaths a month ago at our last TNC meeting. As of 1/24, cases have increased to 31,320 and deaths to 1005. This is an increase of over 20000 cases in one month and the situation is felt to be much worse than the numbers indicate.
- B. Four high ranking government officials have recently died of COVID, including Sibusiso Moyo, minister of foreign affairs and international trade.
- C. COVID is active at Nyadire Mission, including some staff at Nyadire Hospital and several patient deaths. Station Chair Rev L. Mukundu remains in the hospital with COVID and other complications, but is reported to be improving.
- D. In response to increased COVID infections, the government instituted a new nationwide lockdown on January 5. Curfew is from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. In-

ternational air travel is permitted subject to testing requirements but international land travel and inter-provincial/inter-city travel are largely prohibited. Masks and social distancing are mandatory. Only essential businesses are open from 8am-3pm. Restaurants and bars are closed. Schools remain closed.

- E. Regional COVID numbers have all spiked up - as of 1/24:
1. Zimbabwe - 31,320 cases; population 14.7million (1 case for each 469 people)
 2. Malawi - 18,395 cases with population of 18 million (1 case for each 979 people)
 3. Zambia - 45,337 cases with population of 18 million (1 case for each 397 people)
 4. Mozambique - 32,418 cases with population of 30 million (1 case for each 925 people)
 5. South Africa - 1.41 million cases with population of 60 million (1 case for each 43 people)
 6. USA - 25.6 M cases with population of 328,240M (1 case for each 13 people) Allegheny County, where Pittsburgh is located, has 1 case for every 18 people.
- F. Crops generally look good throughout the country with the continued hope of a good harvest.
- G. UMC Pittsburgh District Superintendent Dawn M. Hand will return to the Baltimore-Washington Conference to serve as a district superintendent, effective July 1, 2021.

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 mid 2021.

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

1. Don Ziegler collected eyeglasses on 12/19 from Debbie Little and delivered to Mission Vision. D Harvey, MB Zollars, Marie Hunt, and B. Lawson will deliver collected glasses to CUMC by Feb 2. Marie Hunt and the UMW Deborah Circle will clean the glasses at CUMC and Don will then collect and deliver to Mission Vision.
2. Don Ziegler will be presenting to the United Methodist Women Deborah Circle at 9am of Feb 13 via Zoom. All are encouraged to attend and please register for the ZOOM link at CUMC's website.
3. Dayton UMC (a small church) has collected 250 pair of eyeglasses and recently sent Don Ziegler the current box, as well as a very nice letter of appreciation.
4. Not much current activity due to Lockdown and COVID restrictions. Plans when possible include:
 - a) Don Z and Dr. Larry will bring the team together for advanced training, followed by conducting an eyeglass clinic at Nyadire, and perhaps one of the Rural Health Clinics.
 - b) Don will update the training material and then send to Nyadire or Harare for printing (via email, flash drive or other). Key team members (Head Nurse Primrose, Nurse Paul Chibanda & Driver Artwell) will conduct the training and certification, under Don's remote leadership.
5. Depending on travel possibilities, Don, and perhaps his wife Judy, hope to return to Nyadire with a VIM team in June, late July or August.

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

1. No update. Much of the program is on hold due to COVID lockdown restrictions. Several donations of fabric and sewing machines received.

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

1. On Jan 12, TNC transferred \$3000 to company PCD for medicine procurement for use at Nyadire in the first quarter, 2021. PCD has acknowledged receipt and Wilson is now organizing collection of medicines.

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

1. Mashambanhaka Clinic
 - a) In accordance with the industry regulation in Zimbabwe the construction industry closed on the 18th December 2020 and opened on the 18th January 2021. The Building Contractor for Mashambanhaka Clinic closed the site on the 21st December 2020 and returned to site on the 11th January 2020. As activity was so limited, there is no monthly report for December.
 - b) Phase 1 work (\$113,000) is complete and included a new OPD / Maternity Building, MCH Waiting Area and the new Duplex Two Bed-roomed House. Funds (\$47,611) were sent for Phases 2.1 and 2.2 which completes the Duplex House, much of the new Quadruple House, the Mother's Waiting House, the new Waste Management Pit and the elevated Water Storage Tanks.
 - c) Based on our very successful fundraising webinar, we advised Rev Chepiri that \$85000 is now available for continued work on Phase 2 of Mashambanhaka. Rev Austern plans to break the remaining work into phases..
 - d) Phase 2.3 (~\$25,000) will finish the Quadruple house excluding the electricity connections together with external sewer and water reticulation. Payments will be made to company Halsted Brothers for building materials, the consultant's supervision fees, the payment to the Building Contractor, and payment for fabrication of burglar bars and security screens.

- e) Remaining work includes new toilet blocks for the clinic and for the Mother's waiting home, renovations to the existing clinic building, fencing, and drilling of a new solar powered borehole. Scope and budget for Phase 2.4 is being developed.
- f) The "Cash for Clinics" webinar raised significantly more than our target and has brought us within about \$20,000 of all funds needed to complete Mashambanhaka. In addition to the Western Pa UMC Foundation initial grant of \$25,000, they added \$25,000 because we successfully raised \$25,000. An update and "Thank You" has been sent out to all supporters.
- g) Total cost to rebuild Mashambanhaka is about \$274,000. As soon as this is completed we will begin fundraising and plans to rebuild Chidenga which is the last of Nyadire's six clinics to be rebuilt.

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

- 1. No update

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. Based on previous collection trials, there is only enough cow waste available to feed a digester sized to cook 1/3 of the total meals required. However, this number can be greatly improved by bringing all cattle together in one place, installing a concrete floor in the corral, improving the collection system, and other methods. Rev Mukundu has proposed

that waste may also be collected from the communities so that a full size digester can be installed. EWB requires that a 2 week trial be conducted demonstrating the amount and method of collection before the program can proceed.

3. Schedule for completion of the BioGas Primary School Cooking System is Aug 2021. However, the escalating COVID crisis may cause delays.

B. Sister Rut Scholarships (MB Zollars)

1. **AGRICULTURE** - John Sperry has deposited funds with the "Foundation for Tertiary Education" that will provide agricultural scholarships at Africa University or other schools. Precious Muripo is the first potential candidate from the HOHO program as she aspires to attend a college with a strong agricultural program. Also, Rodney Matonga (Rev. Forbes and Nyaradzai's son) is a leading candidate. He will be writing exams at Blackford by Agricultural Institute in July (end of 1st year), where he is doing a diploma program (in contrast to a degree) in Agribusiness and Farm Management. After his exams, he will do a 9-month internship, at which time he will be awarded a diploma. Perhaps the agriculture scholarship opportunity should be expanded beyond Nyadire and the HOHO programs to increase potential candidates.
2. Beauty (HOH/Tabudirira) on attachment at Mutoko Luxury Lodges (hospitality).
3. Winnet (HOH/Tabudirira) is doing her attachment with a seamstress in Mutoko.
4. Godknows (HOH/Tabudirira) is awaiting results of his trade exams. He has embarked on a venture of establishing a food stand in Mutoko.
5. Tinashe Mapfumbidze(MSU) is staying in Gweru. His classes are now on Google Classroom.
6. Tsungirai Makoni's - sent a description of her attachment in Harare: In her own words:
 - a) Okay, so I am attached at City of Harare Council, and it has many departments, so I am working at the department of Finance but in the

Risk and Insurance Office. In this department, we mainly undertake the insurance of the City of Harare and we make sure it is handled properly and that all assets are insured and those assets include motor vehicles, buildings, etc. In the insurance section we undertake a number of policies such as assets all risk, fire, public liability, motor insurance and many more. For example, when a motor vehicle belonging to our company is involved in an accident, we receive a notification from, which the affected party fills in and the insurance section hands over the claim forms to our insurance brokers and the insurance brokers pass the forms to our insurer whereby they agree on the percentage they have to pay for the claim. The same applies to a fire when a fire incident happens. We insure our buildings only.

We also have a public liability whereby City of Harare is responsible for the public. Our company is able to sue or can be sued by the public. In the unfortunate event that a third party is wronged by City of Harare, they can notify the Council and the third party can fill in the public liability forms and they can be compensated. These claims usually arise when a third party's cars are damaged by potholes, or when trees fall on their property, or when pedestrian are involved in motor accidents and City of Harare will be at fault

Yes MB, I really like the work My appreciation goes to the TNC for sponsoring me, I would have not made it this far without your support, I'm really, really grateful

7. Champion Mujuru (University of Zimbabwe) - complete his observation work at Nyadire Hospital. Thanks have been extended to Dr. Tanyanyiwa and staff. Champion is now back at UZ.
8. Lovemore Mbozvi's program of Mining Engineering is totally online. Exams are done. The next semester is starting in December. He is currently searching for a company for his attachment.
9. Bernard Madyauta has begun his next semester at the University of Great Zimbabwe.
10. Fungai Chigumbura has completed his exams, and is beginning his first semester of his second year.

11. Maryleen Dandira (Nyadire Teachers College) She looks forward to re-turning to her teaching practice at Nyamhara Primary.
12. Lorraine Kapembeza: Africa University, Accounting; registered for second semester.
13. Ruth Makoni: HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology. Finished first semester; no updates for second semester.
14. Takunda Pedzai: Midland States University, Human Resources Management. 2nd semester to start in February.
15. Raymond Chimbwanda: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe; Financial Economics and Trade. Waiting for 2nd semester.
16. Stephen Chadamoyo: O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, (tuition only); Physiotherapy. Taking 1st semester exams in February.

17. 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.
- b) To start soon at Tabudirira Vocational Centre: Funds for uniforms and supplies have been sent in preparation for the school's re-opening.
 - (1) Angeline Mujuru (Campion's sister) (HOHO): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021
 - (2) Lorraine Chipembere (Fradreck's daughter) (HOHO): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021
 - (3) Tinotenda Kadyautumbe (HOH): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Hotel and Catering, beginning in February 2021

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

18. On hold:

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

C. Hearing Innovation (Molly Michael & Tendayi Mushapaidze)

1. Restructure parts of the HI Program
 - a) TNC will pay for 75% of the student's school/boarding costs. Parents/Nyadire are responsible for the remaining 25%
 - b) Fees will be sent prior to each educational term 3x per year in RTGS
2. Volunteer needed to support Molly Micael with the HI Program or the Education Area in general.
3. Simbabarashe is putting together a formal request so that TNC may partially support him with his Master's Degree.
4. Avonworth Project for this Spring:
 - a) Facilitate via WhatsApp between Sarah Flowers, Scott Tuffiash, and Charity Horiro
 - b) Goal: direct communication with Nyadire to learn about life there, politics, and the economy. It seems like this will be taking place towards the 3rd/4th quarter, so we have time for planning.
 - c) Scott wishes to bring his Journalism students into the mix with the hopes of facilitating international interviewing and reporting. Sarah and Molly are coordinating for more letters from Avonworth students.

D. VIM Trips - Molly Michael & Rev Mukundu

1. Depending on COVID restrictions, Molly plans to lead a team to Nyadire around July 20th - August 10th. Trip will not be heavily advertised and

we will proceed cautiously. If interested in joining, please let Molly know and we will start to team up virtually.

2. Molly will conduct trainings for any new volunteers. There is a lot of ground work to do!
3. Roles & Responsibilities can be delegated across 2-4 people!
 - a) Scheduling/Paperwork/Logistics
 - b) Project Planning
 - c) Spiritual Leading/Team Development
 - d) Team Trainings/Preparation
4. TNC is on Instagram @thenyadireconnection
5. Molly has the book and DVD - "The End of the Spear ". Let her know if you would like to borrow.

IV. Orphans - (MB Zollars & Emmanuel Chiimba)

A. Overall:

1. Only O-level (Form 4) and A-level (Form 6) are attending classes (secondary and high schools). The grade 7 students finished writing their exams in December and the primary schools have not re-opened.

B. HOHO - Marie Hunt & E. Chiimba

1. During lockdown: ON HOLD: work on the roof at Manhamba 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. Funds for Term 1 - 2021 for exam classes only were sent.
4. A request for books for the New Curriculum has been set aside for now. The need for books will be evaluated (in respect to other priorities) by the Outreach Committee when the schools have resumed a more normal schedule. Sandy McKnight summarized the former O-level book pro-

gram. Inquiries need to be made into what contributions UNICEF is making into book distribution.

5. Outreach Committee for HOHO Schools
 - a) Chairperson: Noreen Chitengu (Manhamba 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. Sponsors received a personal email update on their child.
2. Emmanuel asked us to consider Lindarose for support for graduate work. He feels that she has great commitment and energy for the Home of Hope. After much discussion, the Scholarship Committee has agreed to a work/study program. (See Scholarship.)
3. Four new children arrived at the Home of Hope for safekeeping, but were soon returned to a family caregiver.



D. Other

1. Sister Rut's children are well, some of whom will be helped with the TNC Hunger Relief Package. "Lady", Sister Rut's dog and very special to the children, recently passed away.

V. Fund Development (Debbie Little)

- A. As described above, the Cash for Clinics webinar was very successful and exceeded the fundraising target. The webinar video can be viewed at:

https://dentons.zoom.us/rec/share/nK7r6D_8G-7AEJw1xVK8PKvxEML3_Ria-O2fkcuP7OgCIVYT7340TPOE_eZiXevdg.xUvUpvnj9tSPVKq9

- B. Several possibilities for future Webinars were discussed and something may later be scheduled. Possibly a virtual tour of the completed Mashambanhaka Clinic? The Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management now offers a class on conducting successful webinars.

VI. Promotion / Communication - (Tim Wesley)

- A. Completed follow-up communications from Dec. 2 Clinics fundraiser
- B. Published January newsletter - next issue will be April.
- C. New feature for next issue: program leader profiles
- D. Website - Send updates to Tim
- E. Seeking story ideas to pitch to local media
- F. Vicki Brown , news editor for the UM News, and a long time supporter of TNC retired on Jan 22. Julie Dwyer will be taking over many of her duties including editor for Africa stories.

VII. Finance - (Richard Dickey)

- A. As of 12/31/2020, TNC had \$184,927 in restricted funds and \$66,607 in unrestricted. Preliminary, not final, results for 01/23/2021 has \$203,371 in restricted accounts and \$36,230 in unrestricted. The significant increase in restricted funds is from donations to the Clinic Rebuild Program.
- B. The Hunger Relief Fund has \$19,106 which is just adequate to fund full food distributions for March and April. The Finnish UMC is expected to send \$3000 to add to this total. Also, Mt Lebanon UMC will be sending \$300 which was recently raised via their cookie sale.
- C. Nyadire set up a foreign currency account with Bank CBZ to receive hunger relief funds. An initial transfer was successful, but 2 following attempts to transfer failed as Bank CBZ rejects the transfers. Unless resolved, we continue to send via World Remit.
- D. MB Zollars sends frequent World Remit transfers to students in the Scholarship program and is then reimbursed by TNC.
- E. Fund transfers to company Halsted and consultant L. Garikayi being prepared for phase 2.3 of Mashambanhaka rebuild
- F. Funds recently transferred
 1. Jan 22 - approval of \$2140 as reimbursement to MB Zollars for payment of HOHO and scholarship expenses
 2. Jan 19 - \$2250 to E Chiimba via World Remit for Hunger
 3. Jan 15 - \$7200 for HOH Jan/Feb budget
 4. Jan 14 - \$4000 to L.Bandira and \$4000 to C. Kuwana vial World Remit for Hunger
 5. Jan 13 - \$1655 to Lorraine Kapembeza for Africa U fees
 6. Jan 12 - \$3000 sent do company PCD for Nyadire 1st quarter drugs
 7. Jan 7 - \$975 to Dr Larry. However funds were returned because of some problem at the receiving bank, CBZ. Funds then sent via World Remit on Jan 26.

8. Jan 4 - \$950 sent to new HOH account for additional Jan food purchase. Returned due to a bank problem and later sent via World Remit
9. Dec 28 - \$8200 transferred to the new Hunger Account for Jan food distribution. Receipt confirmed with a \$30 banking fee withheld
10. Dec 18 - \$200 sent as a trial to the new account established for food purchase. Receipt confirmed
11. Dec 14 - \$6200 to Hamadziripi Nyakudanga for completion of Interim Payment Certificate No 5 of the Mashambanhaka Rebuild

VIII. TNC Organization / Miscellaneous - (Drew Harvey)

A. HUNGER CRISIS

1. The COVID crisis and countrywide lockdown contributes to the ongoing food shortages. Recent rains have crops looking good and all are hopeful that upcoming harvest will alleviate hunger concerns. Working with the Nyadire Social Committee, TNC has now sent \$80,000 for food distribution from June 2020 thru Feb 2021 (9 months)
2. The price of the "minimum food bundle" of mealie meal, cooking oil, sugar, and beans has increased causing Nyadire to initially drop beans from the food distribution. The number of families receiving food also increased from 410 to 420. We sent an additional \$950 to allow beans to remain in the Jan distribution.
3. Considering the price increases, TNC sent \$9300 for the February food distribution. Currently we have \$19,106 remaining in the Hunger Relief account which allows us to fully fund distributions for March and April.
4. A "Foreign Currency Account" was set up to receive funds by wire transfer for food purchases. However, problems soon occurred and we are again using World Remit to transfer funds. The COVID Lockdown makes it difficult for people to travel to Harare to withdraw funds and purchase food, but somehow the committee will "make it work".

5. The Nyadire Social Committee has been advised that the program will end with the April distribution.

- B. Scott Sanford provided information to E. Chiimba on grain storage bags that can prevent insect infestation of stored grains. Scott also provided info on various types of grain storage in plastic barrels.

- C. Christmas Connection - Nyadire Christmas cards for 2020 are stored with JM Simmons at CUMC. Hopefully a team can travel in July or August that can deliver the cards to Nyadire.

- D. Sandy McKnight is working with Barb Greway to provide the annual Lenten Calendar for St Paul's UMC. As church attendance is now limited, the calendar will be distributed electronically in 7 weekly segments. The topic this year is the Rebuild of Rural Health Clinics. The calendar will be used at St Pauls' but also made available to all TNC Network Churches.

- E. When the COVID lockdown situation eases and necessary people are available, TNC plans to discuss opportunities to move Nyadire toward self sustainability. Agricultural development and implementation of mission wide Solar Power would be major contributors.

- F. Highlights of 2020 as provided by Charlie Moore for the Baltimore/Washington ZIM VIM team, enabled by \$116,533 of donations:
 1. Completion of a 3rd high school classroom building
 2. Completion of a new parsonage for Pastor Future Sibanda
 3. Installation of 4 solar power units in Hanwa
 4. Installation of a solar power pump for the Dindi clinic well.
 5. Restoration of a 2nd well for Hanwa Mission
 6. Provision of COVID relief food supplies at Hanwa and Dindi
 7. Certification of Hanwa school as a testing site
 8. Continued financial support for a Murewa Mission high school student

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 5, 2021 - COVID countrywide lockdown initiated
- Jan 25 - TNC meeting
- Feb 13 - D. Ziegler presents eyeglass program to CUMC UMW
- Feb 22 - TNC meeting
- Jul 20 - Aug 10 - Possible VIM trip to Nyadire led by Molly Michael
- Aug 2021 - installation of BioGas Digester at Nyadire Primary.