

TNC Meeting Minutes - Oct. 26, 2020

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; 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 - Monday, Nov 30 - again via ZOOM

TNC Meeting Minutes

Oct 26, 2020 - remote meeting via ZOOM

I. General

- A. COVID cases and deaths in Zimbabwe were 7812 cases and 227 deaths a month ago at our last TNC meeting. Cases have increased to 8269 and deaths to 236.
- B. Food shortages continue throughout Zimbabwe. In July, USAID committed \$60.55M toward the World Food Program's "Lean Season Food Assistance" which will feed nearly one million people during the peak season from Jan to April, 2021. On Oct 21, an additional \$130M was announced for two new food security programs, named "Takunda" (We have overcome) and "Amali-ma Loko" (people coming together on a common goal).
- C. Schools are opening in phases. Phase 1 which was for exam classes began Sept 28. Phase 2 for grades 6, forms 3 & 5 began Oct 25. All levels begin in the 3rd phase on November 9.

II. Health -

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

- 1. No shipments to Zimbabwe are currently planned.
- 2. BBF is discussing the possible shipment of 6 containers to the Democratic Republic of the Congo which would be sponsored by the UMC General Board of Global Ministries. Global Health has a program to rebuild health clinics and BBF may be able to provide furnishings and other items. One possibility is provision of vinyl to cover hospital mattresses as Nyadire did in 2015.
- 3. Perhaps, TNC and UMC Global Health could share sponsorship of a container to Zimbabwe in 2021.

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

1. Several bags of eyeglasses are now at CUMC and at D. Little's home which will eventually go to Mission Vision for cleaning and organizing.
2. Additional eyeglass clinics await the opportunity to travel to Zimbabwe.

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

1. Nyadire Based Activities
 - a) Communications with Crescencia, Annamore and Charity continue. All speak highly of the food program. Charity reported that the teachers that were not in the classroom yet, were making masks.
2. Pittsburgh Based Activities
 - a) Nine electric sewing machines and three manual machines (converted by Phil Jones of BBF) are packed with sewing supplies and are ready for shipment. More manual machines are in preparation.
 - b) Masterkit supplies have been relocated from MLUMC storage to Surma storage. We will use this space to prepare more masterkits for shipments. The goal is to consume inventory first before any additional purchases.
 - c) Conference call with the Mission team from Paradise UMC. Provided an update on the TNC projects. Asked this group to continue making GEP kits minus the soap. We will receive donated soap from BBF or purchase locally.

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

1. TNC transferred \$3000 on Oct 1 direct to company PCD for the purchase of medicines to be used at Nyadire in Oct/Nov/Dec 2020. Nyadire then placed their order and collected 412 items on Oct 11. Receipt provided.

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

1. Mashambanhaka Clinic

- a) Phase 1 work at Mashambanhaka is now complete at a cost of about \$115000. As expressed by Rev Austern Chepiri - "We would like to express our deep gratitude for your generous support. The community of Mashambanhaka Clinic appreciates this more than you will ever know and Mashambanhaka Clinic will never be the same after this upgrade. The community is now appreciating more especially seeing the completion of Phase 1 of the projects with state of the art New OPD / Maternity Building, MCH Waiting Area and the new Duplex Two Bedroomed House"
- b) TNC has received a \$25000 grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pa and an additional \$25000 to be awarded as a Challenge Grant if we are able to raise a matching \$25000 by year end.
- c) A "Virtual Fundraising Event" webinar is scheduled for Dec 2 as the primary effort to raise \$25K and therefore receive the additional \$25K matching grant. <https://dentons.zoom.us/j/93323866570?pwd=TmY2T29lYkwrnNCQ1ZDajVxd3c1QT09> Rev A. Chepiri will be sending several videos of clients, staff, and leaders at Mashambanhaka that will express the importance of this clinic. D. Little, Rev T. Parkinson, D. Harvey, and R. Duckworth will also be part of the program. Matt Cosgrove of Dutilh UMC will edit all videos and support the 1 hour program. This will be heavily promoted as we hope that several hundred people will log in to participate.
- d) Ralph Duckworth presented the Mashambanhaka Fundraising event via ZOOM to the Pittsburgh District Conference on Sunday, Oct 25.
- e) Considering the initial \$25K grant and available TNC funds, Phase 2.1 and 2.2 totaling \$50000 has been approved. This work will complete

the Duplex House, will construct much of the new Quadruple House, complete the Mother's Waiting House, provide the new Waste Management Pits and the elevated Water Storage Tanks.

- f) The Clinic account will be reviewed and if funds are available now, we will advise Rev Chepiri that additional work can be initiated.
- g) The cost estimate of Phase 2, which completes the project, is \$158,987. Work has been approved and \$50,000 is available and will be sent for initial work on Phase 2. Therefore, \$108,987 remains to be raised, of which we hope to raise \$25K with the webinar and therefore receive the \$25K challenge grant. If that is successful, \$58,597 will still be required to complete the Mashambanhaka rebuild.

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

- 1. Joyce Sihwa, a Zimbabwean living in London, is communicating with Crescencia Dangarembga to best utilize funds left by her mother for Nyadire hospital. Plans are that 3 fetal heart monitors will be purchased and shipped to Nyadire

III. Education and VIM Trips (Molly Michaels)

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

- 1. A specification has been developed for a Biogas Digester sized for the maximum amount of waste available at Nyadire. The unit should be as flexible as possible so that it starts with the limited amount of cow waste now available, but be able to expand as the waste supply may increase.
- 2. A Request for Proposal to supply the "turn-key" unit has been sent to a number of Zimbabwe providers. In parallel to the contractors proposal,

the students will also complete a design as if they were also building and installing the unit.

3. Schedule for completion of the BioGas Primary School Cooking System is Aug 2021.
4. Zoom meeting held with EWB Nationals on Sept 29 to review the program. Nationals confirmed that, considering the COVID travel restrictions, implementation of the project could go ahead even if a student team is not able to be onsite.

B. Sister Rut Scholarships (Molly Michael)

1. New students have been added to the WhatsApp group: Sister Rut Scholarship.
2. The Rotary's Annual Chicken Dinner will NOT be held this year.
3. Graduation at Nyadire Teachers College will be postponed for Kudakwashe Mbozvi and Progress Mutandwa. Graduation fees were sent.
4. Beauty (HOH/Tabudirira) has begun her attachment at Mutoko Luxury Lodges (hospitality).
5. Winnet (HOH/Tabudirira) is doing her attachment with a seamstress in Mutoko. The Scholarship Program provided her with the necessary machinery and notions. Very nice story on Winnet in the UMNews - <http://e.umc.org/Y0kqv1Tsu00lt010rXJ01Q1>
6. Godknows (HOH/Tabudirira) has returned to his village after completing his attachment in hospitality/cooking at Nyadire Teachers College. Several potential employers were unsuccessful in reaching him due to phone network issues. We hope that the next opportunity will come his way soon.
7. Tinashe Mapfumbidze(MSU) is staying in Gweru, doing work online, exams will be in October with new classes beginning shortly thereafter.
8. Tsungirai Makoni's attachment in Harare has resumed.

9. Champion Mujuru (University of Zimbabwe) has completed his exams from the last semester and the beginning of next semester will be announced soon.
10. Lovemore Mbozvi's program of Mining Engineering is totally online.
11. Bernard Madyauta should be starting back soon at the University of Great Zimbabwe.
12. Fungai Chigumbura has returned to campus, but is doing studies online.
13. Maryleen Dandira (Nyadire Teachers College) has returned to her teaching practice at Nyamhara Primary.
14. Lorraine Kapembeza: Africa University, Accounting; enjoying her online studies.
15. Ruth Makoni: HOHO/O-Levels/A-Levels: Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology; started classes online.
16. Takunda Pedzai: Midland States University, Human Resources Management; attended orientation in person, now doing studies remotely.
17. Raymond Chimbwanda: HOHO/O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe- has successfully enrolled and has begun his studies in Financial Economics and Trade.
18. Stephen Chadamoyo: O-levels/A-Levels: University of Zimbabwe, Pharmacology (tuition only) - has successfully enrolled and has begun his studies in Physiotherapy.
19. On Hold
 - a) Panashe Mafemera: O-levels/A-levels: University of Zimbabwe, Sociology, Market Research Analyst (tuition only) - waiting for next semester
 - b) Angeline Mujuru (Champion's sister): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Agriculture
 - c) Lorraine Chipembere (Fradreck's daughter): O-levels: Tabudirira Vocational Centre, Agriculture

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. M. Michael will maintain leadership of this program, though a volunteer (or two) is needed to organize and keep up to date with all sponsorships/renewals
 3. Request received from Tendayi to install a borehole and irrigate property as a way of earning funds for Hearing Innovation.
 4. Avonworth Project
 - 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 plenty of 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 I are coordinating for more letters from Avonworth students.

D. VIM Trips - Molly Michael & Rev Mukundu

1. M. Michael will wait to start advertising for future teams until late October/early November
 - a) Biggest factors will be opening borders and quarantine time in-country - currently 14 days upon arrival
2. Is anyone interested in leading a team in 2021/2022?
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 and many from Nyadire are participating.

IV. Orphans - (MB Zollars & Emmanuel Chiimba)

A. Overall:

1. ZIM Partnership has sent thermometers to all districts in Zimbabwe.
2. Emmanuel is supposed to be on leave, but issues have forced him back to the Mission.
3. Several blackouts and network interruptions have occurred.
4. Dr. Nyabareka has been very helpful with some medical issues with Winnet and Tsungie. We praise his commitment to these young ladies.

B. HOHO - Marie Hunt & E. Chiimba

1. During lockdown: ON HOLD: work on the roof at Manhamba Primary School.
2. During lockdown: ON HOLD: pricing, purchasing, and distributing of the backpacks and school supplies in Zimbabwe.
3. Funds for 3rd term have been sent.
4. Phase 2 funds have been sent to the Outreach Committee for the making of more handwashing stations and for the purchase of mobile blackboards, chalk, gloves, hand sanitizer, and school stationery. An additional \$600 was sent to include Nyamuzuwe High School (UM mission school near Mutoko) to purchase fabric for masks. Accounting for the first phase has been transparent.
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. November/December funds have been sent.
2. The United Methodist Church of Finland has contacted us regarding some funds to go to a playground.
3. Water ran out at the Home of Hope, so TNC sent \$4000 to drill 92 meters to reach a small amount of water, enough for the house.
4. HOH Rummage Sale will not be able to be scheduled at CUMC in 2020. Scheduling for 2021 is on hold.

D. Other

1. Sister Rut's children are well, some of whom will be helped with the TNC Hunger Relief Package.

V. Fund Development (Debbie Little)

- A. A "Virtual Fund Raiser" event to raise \$25,000 for the Mashambanhaka Clinic rebuild is scheduled for Dec 2. The objective is to raise these funds in order to receive matching funds of \$25000 from a challenge grant by the UM Foundation. Event will use videos from Zimbabweans at Nyadire, Mashambanhaka, and Harare. Matt Cosgrove of Dutilh UMC will edit/coordinate the videos and provide technical support.

VI. Promotion / Communication - (Tim Wesley)

- A. Wrote and published October newsletter; next issue in January
<https://nyadire.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=965ed551b322d5670acc5f944&id=f221e00d70&e=9545c4d789>

- B. Wrote and submitted TNC update for UM Conference annual report
- C. Promoting Dec. 2 fundraiser for clinics
- D. Website - Send updates to Tim

VII. Finance - (Richard Dickey)

- A. As of 09/30/2020, TNC had \$111,347 in restricted funds and \$55,742 in unrestricted. Preliminary, not final, results for 10/20/2020 has \$109,178 in restricted accounts and \$67,897 in unrestricted.
- B. Funds recently transferred
 - 1. In Process:
 - a) \$7,100 from the HOH account for the HOH budget for Nov and Dec.
 - b) \$250 from the Scholarship Fund
 - c) \$3,650 from the HOHO account for payment of Term 3 school fees.
 - 2. Oct 22 - \$4,669.99 reimbursement to be paid to D Harvey for funds sent via World Remit for purchase of Phase 2 HOHO school supplies
 - 3. Oct 21 - \$6,149.97 reimbursement to be paid to MB Zollars for funds sent via World Remit to the Nyadire Social Committee for purchase of HOHO school supplies
 - 4. Oct 21 - \$2,997.90 to Livingstone Garikayi for Mashambanhaka
 - 5. Oct 20 - \$15,905.24 to company Halsted for purchase of materials to be used at Mashambanhaka
 - 6. Oct 20 - \$3,047 to contractor Hamadziripi Chonzi for construction work at Mashambanhaka
 - 7. Oct 20 - \$1,273.58 to company J Mann & C. for purchase of material for use at Mashambanhaka
 - 8. Oct 20 - \$2,920 to Livingstone Garikayi for Mashambanhaka services
 - 9. Oct 18 - \$3,518 reimbursement to D Harvey for funds sent via World Remit to M. Rensburg & E. Chiimba for drilling of a new borehole at the HOH.

10. Oct 13 - \$7000 sent via World Remit by D. Harvey for purchase of food to be distributed at Nyadire in Nov. D. Harvey previously reimbursed for this amount.
11. Oct 13 - \$16069.69 to company Halsted for purchase of materials to be used at Mashambanhaka
12. Oct 02 - \$3000 to company PCD for purchase of medicines to be used during 4th quarter at Nyadire Hospital
13. Sept 28 - \$975 for 4th quarter doctor stipend

Total for these transfers is \$78,527.

- C. \$6,059.40 was received from the conference Zimbabwe Partnership for use on rebuild of Mashambanhaka rebuild. This is the District Project. These funds can be counted toward the \$25000 challenge grant.
- D. Hunger - Response to the Sept appeal has been inspiring and incredibly generous. Funds are still arriving, but we currently have about \$60000 against our goal of \$45000.
- E. Funding Priorities:
 - a) Additional ongoing food support at \$7300/month
 - b) Use HOHO funds to equip schools for reopening
 - c) Support to resolve water shortages at Nyadire
 - d) Continue rebuild of Mashambanhaka Health Clinic

VIII. [TNC Organization / Miscellaneous - \(Drew Harvey\)](#)

A. **HUNGER CRISIS**

1. Food shortages and hunger throughout Zimbabwe, including Nyadire, continue as a major concern. Working with the Nyadire Social Committee, TNC has sent \$45,300 and food has been distributed for June, July, August, September, and Oct. Continued food assistance is now a "minimum food bundle" of mealie meal, cooking oil, sugar, and beans which helps provide food for a family of five for one month. Cost for each bundle is \$18 and distribution is for 407 families including those who live

or work at Nyadire, the pastors of Mutoko-Mudzi district, the staff of the 6 rural health clinics, and a few selected individuals.

2. For the Nov food purchase, we were advised that cost of Mealie-Meal has "shot up", resulting in the food bundle increasing in cost from \$18 to approximately \$20. TNC sent an additional \$810 to cover this increase.
3. TNC sent out a funding appeal letter on Sept 9 explaining the Nyadire Food Situation and asking for donations to allow us to continue monthly food distributions for 6 months - November thru April, 2021. \$7300 will be distributed each month and the November amount was sent on Oct 13. During Sept and Oct., we received \$59000.
4. Liberty UMC held a Rummage sale on Oct 9 with proceeds dedicated to the Hunger Program. First Bethel UMC presented the appeal to the congregation and received significant support. Stone Church (UMC) in Meadville is sending donations. Many others made amazing contributions.
5. The hunger situation was in the UM Newsletter, featuring TNC <http://e.umc.org/l7Xlb000r2tu1Q0kj0s0G1J>.

B. Nyadire Water Situation

1. The long standing drought has created major water shortages throughout the country. The current HOH solar borehole ran dry in early October, leaving the HOH without water for irrigation or household purposes. Several of the boreholes throughout the mission have also run dry, or have greatly reduced flow. The Nyadire River is at historic lows with water only pooled at the dam. Reports are that many boreholes in Harare and other cities have also run dry
2. TNC has been working to support a second solar powered borehole for irrigation of crops at the HOH. However, when the first borehole dried up, we sent funds and rushed to drill this new well. A water location ser-

vice recommended the spot, and a 92 meter deep borehole was drilled on Oct 19. However water production is very low and adequate only for household consumption. TNC awaits the quote to connect the new borehole to ZESA and complete the installation.

3. Current crops at the HOH may be lost without water, and the concern is that aquifer under the HOH property may not be capable of supporting irrigated agriculture.
 4. As several of the mission boreholes are now dry or with low production, many locations on the mission do not have water.
 5. The long term plan was to eventually refurbish the system which draws water from the Nyadire river and pumps to an elevated reservoir. Water would then flow via gravity to irrigate cropland below. However, considering the low water level now in the river, this may not be feasible.
 6. TNC wants to help, but must first clarify the best option.
- C. Ralph Duckworth presented TNC and the Mashambanhaka Fundraising Program to the UMC Pittsburgh District meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, Oct 25. Tim Wesley provided a written TNC report for inclusion in the conference report.
- D. The CUMC Alternative Giving Mart will not be held this year. Instead an email will be sent in mid November to the 3 organizations that have been past recipients, which includes TNC, asking if they will again make a donation.
- E. Jim Howell placed a TNC announcement emphasizing the Hunger Program in the booklet which is distributed at the annual Rotary conference.
- F. Christmas Connection - Christmas cards are now complete and stored with JM Simmons at CUMC. We will transport to Nyadire at the first opportunity. D Harvey has TNC cards that will be sent to US based supporters.

IX Recent and Upcoming Events

- Mar 1 - Construction begins on rebuild of Mashambanhaka
- early March- Both containers arrive at Nyadire
- Mar 30 -Ongoing COVID19 Lockdown initiated throughout Zimbabwe.
- May 21 - 29 - Hunger Relief funding appeal and Nyadire food distribution
- June thru Oct - Food bundles distributed to 407 Nyadire families
- Sept 90 - Appeal letter sent out asking for donations to Hunger
- Mid Sept - Phase 1 of Mashambanhaka Clinic complete
- Sept 23 - items purchased enabling HOHO schools to safely reopen
- Sept 28 - TNC meeting via ZOOM
- Sept 28 - TNC receives \$25000 grant & \$25000 challenge grant for Mashambanhaka Clinic for UM Foundation of Western Pa
- Oct 9 - Liberty UMC Rummage Sale - proceeds to TNC Hunger
- Oct 19 - 92 meter borehole drilled at the HOH
- Oct 25 - UMC Pgh District Conference
- Oct 26 - Schools scheduled to reopen in Zimbabwe in phases
- Oct 26 - TNC meeting
- Nov thru April, 2021 - Monthly food distribution at Nyadire
- Nov 30 - TNC Meeting via ZOOM
- December 2 - Virtual Fund Raising Event for Mashambanhaka Clinic
- Dec 31 - Deadline to raise funds to obtain \$25K matching grant