



# The Nyadire Connection

Founded in 2006 and based in Pittsburgh, TNC is a faith-based, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe

## November Mission Trip Serves As Early Christmas Present

November's mission trip to Zimbabwe served as an early Christmas present to TNC and to our friends in Nyadire. We shared many smiles and accomplished much during the visit.

Says **Ralph Duckworth**, TNC's chairman and team leader: "We were told time and time again how much the people of Nyadire appreciate our efforts and the programs TNC has established. TNC's reputation for our work at Nyadire has spread beyond the Mission's borders and has even reached into government

circles. The people of Nyadire remain optimistic. There is nothing like seeing how joyous people are during church services on Sunday, with all of the singing and clapping. We are grateful to everyone for welcoming the team and providing such wonderful hospitality."

**Rev V.L. Mukundu**, Nyadire Mission Station Executive Chairperson, writes: "I hope you all had a safe journey back to the United States. On behalf of Nyadire Mission I would like to thank you for visiting us and giving us all the necessary support in our various departments. We continue to pray for the success and continuation of our partnership. Please send my sincere gratitude to all TNC partners and may the good Lord continue to watch over you gracefully."

The photo above shows TNC's team of **Ralph, Jim Gourley, Robb Montgomery, Scott Sanford, Sue McCann, Mary Beth Zollars, Marjorie Dold** and **Deborah Swineford**, along with **Savie** and **Grace** from Nyadire. "We truly feel that Savie and Grace were essential members of our team, as they kept us nourished, laundered, and supported in our work," Marjorie says.

We will be planning trips for 2024, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in traveling to Nyadire, please have them contact our Volunteer-in-Mission program leader **Molly Michael** at [mollyalice.michael@gmail.com](mailto:mollyalice.michael@gmail.com)

See more stories and photos from the trip throughout this issue of the newsletter!





# Home of Hope Receives Books From Massachusetts Church

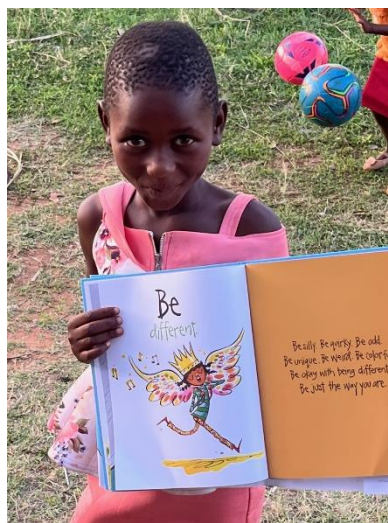
*“Books are the mirrors of the soul” – Virginia Woolf, famous English author*



TNC’s November mission team hand-delivered new books to the children at the **Home of Hope Orphanage** in Nyadire. Donated with funds collected by the **United Church in Walpole (UCW)**, Massachusetts, these beautifully illustrated hard-cover picture books were quickly put to good use by the kids.

“The books include themes of unity, acceptance and fun, as well as African proverbs,” says **Marjorie Dold**, a member of UCW who led the project. “The children were excited about the books, the experience of reading in English, and the personal messages and drawings by the children, adults and friends of UCW.”

Marjorie also took the children aside for storytelling. Pockets and library cards were attached to the books for signing out, and **Tinashe Chiimba** will provide a quote for shelves.





# Chindenga Clinic Scheduled For Completion In 2024

During the November mission trip, the TNC team visited the **Chindenga Rural Health Clinic**, which TNC is rebuilding. Chindenga is the last of the six clinics affiliated with the Nyadire Mission Hospital to be rebuilt, and it should be completed in the first half of next year. The rebuilt clinic will bring much improved health care, including running water and flush toilets, to thousands of people in the area around Chindenga.

Below, **Ralph Duckworth**, TNC chairman, presents medical supplies to **Cleopatra**, the head



nurse at Chindenga. These supplies were donated by various TNC supporters, and carried over to Nyadire by the mission team.

Medical supplies are in short supply in Zimbabwe, and are greatly appreciated by the nursing staffs at the clinics and the Nyadire Hospital when we are able to present medicines, bandages, blood pressure cuffs, and many other types of supplies. Tatenda to all those TNC supporters who donated these items.

## TNC Building Relationships With Hearing Innovation Students

**Deborah Swineford**, leader of TNC's **Hearing Innovation** program, returned from the November trip with this heart-warming sentiment: "With each trip the relationships grow deeper and the children become more precious."

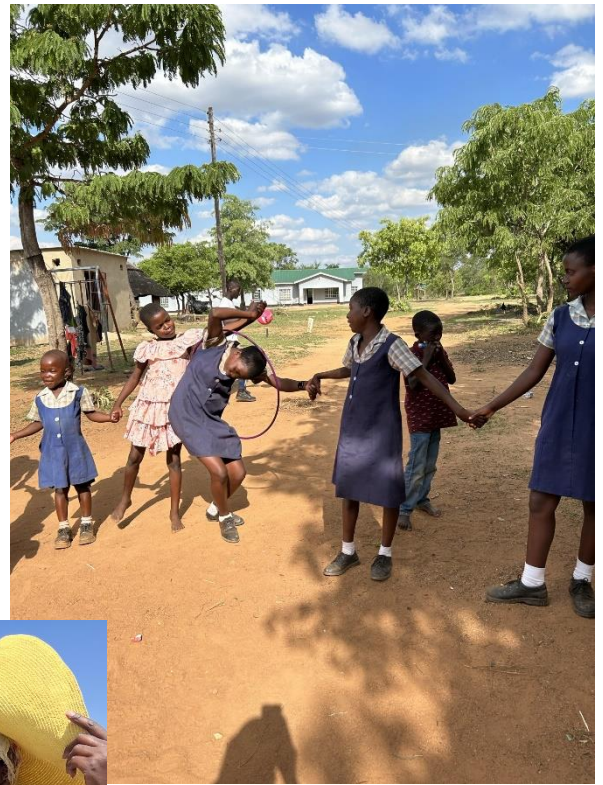
Highlights from the trip include: electrical outlets, fluorescent lights and whiteboards were installed in the classrooms; all learners received new satchels and bedsheets; students enjoyed watching their beans grow from the Science lesson, playing games and learning a new song which they did in church; an outing to the **Home of Hope** orphanage was a success; sponsor mail and gifts, and donations of educational materials were unpacked, including posters, pencils, paper, composition books, dry erase markers, workbooks and slates.

Students also received a pocket folder with a book, donated by Deborah's book club, a puzzle, and some coloring sheets to coincide with the Bible lessons.





# A Few More Photos From November's Trip...





# TNC Leadership Profile: Kevin Riley

**Editor's Note:** This is another in a series of profiles about TNC's Leadership Team, highlighting their roles and why they are involved in TNC.

**TNC Role:** Program leader for **Engineers Without Borders (EWB)**, working with the student chapter at **Carnegie Mellon University**. (Photo with Nyadire shop supervisor **Christopher Kuwana**.)

**What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role:** I was an engineer in project design and construction for PPG Industries and later had roles in sourcing/contracts and people management. Problem solving and people skills are helpful in lots of areas both with the CMU students and the basic issues at the Nyadire Mission.



**How and why did you get involved with TNC:** Being involved with the VIM (Volunteers-in-Mission) group at **St. Paul's UMC**, I've been exposed to the lives of people in need here in the U.S. I wanted to see how that compared to countries like Zimbabwe that have been plagued with super-high inflation and a struggling government. Other than a child educational sponsorship, I wasn't involved with TNC until I took a Nyadire trip in 2022. That gave me the first-hand look and an adventure to boot! The trip really put things in perspective.



**Why do you think TNC has been so successful:**

Because we have a core group of dedicated and passionate people that have established strong relationships with equally dedicated and passionate leaders at Nyadire with a common goal of improving the lives of the current and next generation.

**How many times have you been to Nyadire:**

Only once so far, as part of the first post-Covid team to travel there in June 2022. I kid my team members that I was the Sherpa for the five women who made up the rest of

that team. Depending on our future relationship with the CMU student EWB chapter, I will likely return sometime in 2024.

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**What do you like best about TNC:** The organization has a definite structure, but you often are working independently or in small groups. While each program area has objectives and you're involved to advance those objectives, they are not the hard schedules and metrics of the corporate world that I dealt with for 35 years. Too many charitable organizations focus on the symptoms of the people they are trying to help and not the core problem. TNC tries to do both.



**How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ:**

Some might say, "God helps those that help themselves." But really, God – through us – helps those that cannot help themselves. Here in the U.S., we have opportunities, so there is a better chance of "helping yourself." That is much, much tougher in Zimbabwe. There, I have truly found Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you have done for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done for me." Many TNC members will tell you what our friends in Nyadire, particularly the children, tell them: "You give us hope."

**Is there a Bible verse(s) that inspired you to become involved in TNC:** There was no Bible verse that inspired me to become involved in TNC. However, through TNC and its involvement with the Nyadire Mission, I have witnessed the Bible in action and inspiration.

**What's your message to anyone who's considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire:** TNC has many ways to help our friends that are 8,000 miles away. There are programs for the unborn at the medical clinics right through primary, secondary and post-high school education. All funds are carefully disbursed and 100% utilized in those programs without administrative or fundraising expenses. The impact is over 10-fold what it would be in the U.S. So, start by helping from here, but I hope you "take the leap" someday and travel to Nyadire in the future. There, you will not only see first-hand the current and future impact YOU can make, but you can also create new and lasting friendships.





## Home of Hope Enjoys Early Christmas Party



Thanks to **Lincoln Nyamusara**, Christmas came early to the **Home of Hope** at Nyadire.

An electrician in Zimbabwe, Lincoln has frequently volunteered his time and talents to Nyadire and TNC. He has become a good friend of **Emmanuel Chiimba** and has supported a number of projects.

Recently, he hosted a Christmas party for the

children at the HOH orphanage and wrote: “We decided as a family to host a Christmas party for the Home of Hope Nyadire Mission ... Learn to share the little things God has given you. Remember the underprivileged children and the elderly this festive season. Home of Hope, you will continue to shine in our hearts as Nyamusara Family.”

At Nyadire, Lincoln has hooked up water pumps, diagnosed electrical problems at the hospital, done electrical work at the HOH, helped with solar, and a variety of other electrical tasks.

“Lincoln is an inspiring and special guy,” says **Drew Harvey**, former TNC chairman.

## Church Leaders From Zimbabwe Visit Pittsburgh

In October, several United Methodist church leaders from Zimbabwe visited Pittsburgh as part of the Zimbabwe Partnership Initiative’s Reverse Immersion program.

Among other visitors, TNC welcomed **Rev. Alan Gurupira**, assistant to **Bishop Nhwatiwa**, and **Dr. Rosemary Nyarugwe**, head of the **Nyadire College of Education**. While here, our guests stayed with host families arranged by TNC, visited local churches and toured the city of Pittsburgh.

During one stop, the group visited **Brother’s Brother Foundation**, a local organization that has partnered with TNC to deliver containers of goods to Nyadire. Shown here, left to right, are: TNC’s **Kevin Riley**, **Liam Carstens** of BBF, **Rev. Gurupira**, **Dr. Nyarugwe** and TNC’s **Ralph Duckworth**.



## A View From Nyadire: Charity Horiro

**Editor’s Note:** During the November VIM trip, TNC’s Marjorie Dold interviewed some of our Nyadire friends; this is the first of a series of stories based on those interviews.



**Charity Horiro**, Deputy Headmaster at Nyadire Primary School, is a woman of faith, a strong yet humble leader, a champion for learners, a respectful listener, one who embodies grace and love – in short, a gem. Charity, “the love of humanity,” is her essence.

### **Personal and Professional**

**Background:** Born in Maroi in 1973, Charity grew up as the daughter of two teachers, and one of six siblings. Education has been a source of fulfillment for Charity, and after successful completion of all O-level exams, she was provided the opportunity to attend a multi-racial boarding school, which “helped me meet others and build diverse relationships, which prepared me well for my career.” In 1997, Charity married

**Maxwell**, now a lecturer at Nyadire College of Education. Together they have two sons and one daughter: **McManaman**, who hopes to train as a nurse, and **Kundai** and **Ropafadzo**, who both attend Nyadire Secondary School.

Charity received a diploma in education in 2000, before teaching at Chikwizo, Chatiza, and Nyamakosi. In 2010, she obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Educational Management at Zimbabwe Open University. After applying to Nyadire Primary School in 2013, Charity was promoted to Deputy Headmaster and moved her family to the Nyadire Mission.

**Significant Childhood Memory:** When she was in sixth grade, Charity’s older brother died after an illness. She says the casket in the home, and her first family funeral, “affected me for a long time.”

**Serving Nyadire Primary School and the Community:** Aside from the many responsibilities of Deputy Headmaster, Charity assumed leadership of the **Girl Empowerment Pad** Program for Nyadire in 2016, distributing materials and coordinating the adult volunteers at seven primary schools in the district. The GEP program in Zimbabwe has flourished under the thoughtful training and continued care of both Charity and TNC’s **Bonnie Lawson** of Pittsburgh. Charity also serves her faith community as chairperson for various committees within the United Methodist Church, holds the position of Assistant Finance Chairperson for the Mutoko Mudzi district, and participates as a long-term lay leader of Sunday Services.

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# A View From Nyadire...

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**Successes in Life:** After 18 months of study at Zimbabwe Open University, Charity graduated on Dec. 8 with a Masters of Education degree in Educational Management (photo on previous page). Additionally, Charity has had a “banner year” at Nyadire Primary, which received “The Secretary’s Bell,” a distinction awarded by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education of Zimbabwe. Some TNC partnership programs, developed to promote attendance and engagement for students, were noted as areas of distinction, including the Covid response and funds for GEP, as well as pop-up coding club classrooms.

**Challenges Faced:** Although Charity gives thanks for the many blessings in her life and the lives of those in the Nyadire community, there have been extreme challenges along the way, including the delay of school programs during the height of the Covid pandemic, as well as economic difficulties throughout Zimbabwe. When considering the future rural home that she and her husband are building, Charity says, “It takes us long to do things, such as solar panels and water connections ... We just take our time.”

**Hopes and Dreams:** For Zimbabwe ... “It is my prayer that the people that were sent away (the white farmers) will come back ... I pray that someday we can say goodbye to the economic crisis ... It is my prayer that God will erase all this and we will go back to the Zimbabwe we know ... I pray that we have peace.”

For Nyadire Primary School ... “I hope that one day, this school can turn into an elite private school with elite hostels, a small elite school that would attract the learners.”

For herself ... Charity hopes to one day pursue studies privately, up to a Ph.D., but is not “financially stable yet ... I hope I can build a retirement home, where I can embark on self-sustaining projects (i.e. gardening, if there is water), raise broilers (chickens to sell for meat), sell eggs, and if I have money I would start my own school ... I also have a dream of helping those in need, the less privileged to pursue God’s work, maybe in church ... To be a grandma, if God blesses me with grandchildren ... And I would love to travel.”

**What I Want People To Know About Zimbabwe:** “Zimbabwe is a good country, with very few geographical hazards. Zimbabwe is amazing. Zimbabweans are hard workers and embrace others, despite differences. Zimbabweans are eager to learn. Given opportunity, they will fly!”

**Favorite Bible Verse:** James 1:2 ... “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”

To sum it all up, Charity is a Believer. An Advocate. An Inspiration. A Leader. A Shamwari.

**About Marjorie Dold:** Marjorie is a self-professed TNC fan and a Zim Vim enthusiast. A college roommate of **Mary Beth Zollars** (a long-time TNC leader), Marjorie has an amazing family, is a member of the **United Church in Walpole** (Massachusetts) and embraces the abiding faith and love of the Nyadire community.





# Program Highlights From TNC's November Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather by Zoom to review programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

- Sister Rut Scholarships: During the November mission trip, a scholarship meeting (photo at right) was held at the UMC West Conference Head Office with 17 students attending. **Rev. Alan Gurupira, Rev. Austern Chepiri, Dr. Ronald Nyabareka, and Chenhayi Kumuterera** from the Head Office were present and assisted with the interviews. **Emmanuel and Tinashe Chiimba** from Nyadire assisted with the financial questions. **Lincoln Nyamusara** arranged the catered lunch and assisted with the interviews. TNC's



**Scott Sanford** interviewed the Agriculture students, while **Deborah Swineford, Ralph Duckworth, Jim Gourley, and Sue McCann** led stations for interviews. **Marjorie Dold** took photos of the individual students and recorded videos of each student giving a short thanks to TNC ... See our monthly minutes for a list of students and their progress.



- Home of Hope: **Charity Shumba**, a dental therapist now at Murewa, visited the HOH for dental checks for the children, producing many smiles (photo at left). Exams were conducted free of charge; she was paid for transportation, extractions, and fillings. We are very grateful for Mrs. Shumba's efforts ... Bicycle parts were purchased for Buffalo Bikes, and TNC's **Robb Montgomery** assisted with repairs. A Buffalo Bike is being donated to the HOH for **FreeJohn**, the night guardsman, who walks a considerable distance to work ... During the mission trip, the team attended a barbeque party at the HOH for the children living there and learners from the mission's **Hearing Impaired school for the Deaf**.

- Home of Hope Outreach: **Marie Hunt** and her team of Sponsor Coordinators organized all the letters to the children in the Outreach Program. The November ZIM-VIM Team delivered letters to 8 schools in person, **Lindarose** and **Tinashe** delivered to 4 more and arranged for the delivery of letters to the remaining schools. Lindarose collected all the letters from the Outreach children and the Team has delivered them back to Marie. At each school, 2 children were selected for Marie's more in-depth interview papers.

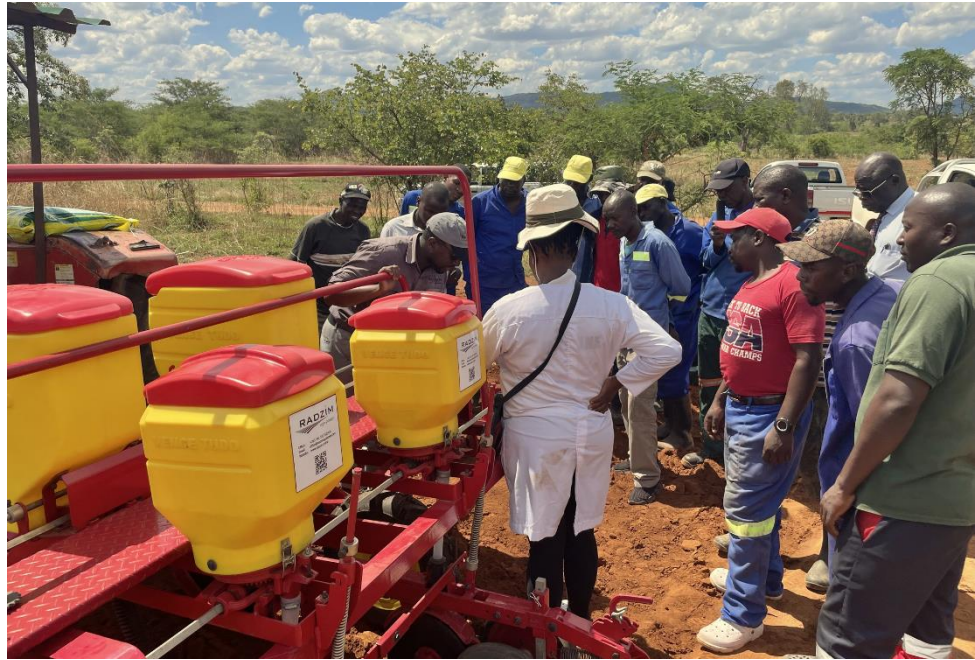
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# Program Highlights...

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- Hospital Support: Along with our partners at the **Nyadire Hospital**, we are exploring ways that TNC can help to support maintenance of critical hospital vehicles. We have drafted a Vehicle Maintenance Commitment and are reviewing it with Nyadire leadership.
- Agriculture: Program leader **Scott Sanford** and TNC's agriculture team have worked closely with **Emmanuel Chiimba, Esnath Arichara, Christopher Kuwana** and the central office to increase agriculture production at the **Home of Hope** and the **Nyadire Farm**. These two departments have developed a sharing agreement for the operation and sustainable maintenance of needed equipment. As a first step, the Massey



Ferguson tractor will be repaired and a new four-row planter and fertilizer spreader just arrived at Nyadire. This equipment should enable optimum and consistent planting and fertilizing. The equipment was delivered during the November mission trip.

- Girl Empowerment Pad: **Elina Nyabote, Home of Hope** administrative assistant, is leading the GEP program for the orphanage ... Partial shipment of imported supplies has been received. We are waiting to deliver the full shipment to Nyadire so we don't duplicate transportation costs. **Knowledge** is following up on missing items, which have been delayed due to an apparent issue with train transportation.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: **Sue McCann, Jim Gourley** and **Ralph Duckworth** visited **Chindenga**, where they had an update meeting with **Rev. Austern Chepiri** and **Livingstone Garikayi** from the Conference Center; **Rev. Godwell Dzika**, the Chindenga Station Chair; **Rev. Lancelot Mukundu**, the Nyadire Station Chair; the Head Nurse at Chindenga, and two representatives from the local communities. A tour of the project site was taken after the meeting. The project is proceeding nicely and should be completed by mid-2024. To date, the local communities have delivered 160,000 farm bricks, 75 cubic meters of river sand, 65 cubic meters of stones, 250 cubic meters of gravel, and 175 cubic meters of pit sand to the project. See story and photos on page 3.

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## Program Highlights...

(Continued from page 11)

- Eyeglasses: We are looking for a new program leader in the U.S. No travel to Zimbabwe is necessary, and training and support by **Natalie Geer**, the current program leader, and others will be provided. Contact **Sandy McKnight** at [sandy\\_mcknight@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy_mcknight@hotmail.com) if you would like to learn more about this opportunity, or know someone else who might be interested.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: During the November trip, **Ralph Duckworth** visited the **Nyadire Primary School** to review the biogas digester project (photo at right), which provides fuel to cook meals ... The CMU EWB student chapter will make a decision about whether to continue to partner with Nyadire by the end of their school term. They have been asked to partner with CMU Rwanda where they are being offered travel and project financial support.
- Hearing Innovation: See page 3.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See photos and read about our November trip throughout the newsletter.



## If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, we strive to highlight a variety of our programs and the efforts of our network churches and other supporters.

If you have story/photo ideas that you would like us to consider for publication, please submit them to **Tim Wesley**, at [timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:timwesley61@zoominternet.net)