



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

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Join TNC For A Nyadire Mission Trip This Year

If you've been thinking about going on a mission trip but don't know how to take the first step, you're in luck: TNC is organizing mission trips to Nyadire, Zimbabwe this year, and you're welcome to join us.

One TNC team plans to travel in June or July, and a second team is planning a trip for later in the year. Trips usually last 10-14 days and include a wide variety of activities suitable for adults, teenagers and families. Since 2006, TNC has led more than 50 trips for more than 125 different travelers, many of whom have been on multiple trips.

Ralph Duckworth, TNC Chairman, has been to Zimbabwe several times and plans to lead one of the trips this year.

"In addition to seeing how TNC has helped to improve the quality of life in Nyadire, I like renewing friendships and relationships that have been built over the past decade," he says. "Just ask any TNC traveler, and we'll tell you it was a life-changing and rewarding experience."

Mary Beth Zollars, who leads several programs for TNC, including our sponsorship of orphans at the **Home of Hope**, has been on more than a dozen trips and she also plans to travel to Nyadire this year.

"We have something for everybody," she says. "We're looking for people who are interested in reading with children, tutoring math students, signing with Deaf students and offering speech therapy. We need people who can fix bikes, do electrical work and plumbing. The projects will be worthwhile and the people you meet will be amazing."



If you would like more information about TNC's trips, please contact our mission trip program leader, **Molly Michael**, at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com and she'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

"If you're thinking about a trip, just do it!" she says. "Life is too short to put things off. Pray about it every day. If you feel called to serve, trust in Jesus. He will lead the way."

Girl Empowerment Poised For Sustainability, Growth

TNC's **Girl Empowerment Pad** program continues to help girls in Nyadire attend school during their monthly cycles. Through the program, led by TNC's **Bonnie Lawson** in the U.S. and **Charity Horiro** in Nyadire, the girls sew their own reusable sanitary supplies.

When the program began, U.S. volunteers made pre-sewn, reusable cotton sanitary napkins, held sewing parties, and shipped unassembled materials for participating students to make their own pads and pad-making kits. In 2023, the program transitioned to purchasing materials in Zimbabwe through a newly appointed purchasing agent responsible for domestic procurement of supplies.



Shown here, **Annamore** and a team from **Nyadire Hospital** are preparing GEP kits for the waiting mothers. The expectant moms receive kits to sew reusable pads and educational materials to share with their children and village.

The Zimbabwean partners of the program, supported by **United Women in Faith** and other donors, now “own” 100% of the operational portion of the program. The program no longer incurs shipping costs or storage fees, and local procurement of supplies ensures that funding goes directly to support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

While the Nyadire team has successfully assumed control of operations, the transition to complete self-sufficiency is ongoing. Currently GEP funding comes from individuals and small grants. The program will continue to rely on these funding sources but is looking to diversify its support and empower the community to be self-sufficient.

To generate income to purchase GEP materials, **Nyamhara Primary School** has proposed a Girl Empowerment Garden. Offered by school leaders and families, the proposal reflects the value of the GEP program in the community. They will provide and manage a 1.25-acre plot for a pilot farming project whose proceeds will be funneled into the school's GEP program. This program is in the early stages, and investments will be required. The first step is to develop a basic agricultural educational program for the primary schools.

“I am excited about the next chapter and look forward to sharing our journey,” Bonnie says. “Nobody can do it alone; it takes different talents in various networks to make things happen.”

To make a donation, write a check to TNC with “GEP Program” in the memo line, and mail to:

Bonnie Lawson c/o Christ United Methodist Church
44 Highland Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Nyadire's 'Mr. Fix-It' Demonstrates A Heart For Service

In and around Nyadire, **Christopher Kuwana** has a reputation for fixing things.

"Nyadire is filled with equipment, vehicles, and systems that are typically old, heavily used, and urgently needed," says **Drew Harvey**, former TNC chairman. "Keeping the vehicles going and the water running takes a lot of technical understanding, attention, creativity, and patience and Christopher is always the first one called when things don't work. The **Home of Hope** has a truck nicknamed 'Lazarus' because Christopher has brought it back from the dead so many times! He's also just a good friend, always willing to help, and always with a smile."

We asked Christopher to tell us his story, and here are excerpts:

"I was born in the Mutasa District of Manicaland, Zimbabwe in 1971 and grew up in Mutare. After attending St. Annes High School in Mashonaland East for my A-level studies, I

enrolled at Mutare Polytechnical College doing Motor Mechanics under Automotive Engineering and graduated in 1998. I got a national certificate in automotive engineering and a class one certificate in practical, then worked for two motor vehicle shops in Harare before moving to the Nyadire Mission in 2005.

"I married **Elizabeth** in 2002 and we are blessed with three children. Our first born, **Tawana Blessing**, was born in 2003, and she is doing biomedical sciences at the University of Zimbabwe.

Our second born, **Tanatswa Brendon**, is doing his form 3 at Nyadire High School. Our third child, **Tatenda Brenna**, is doing her grade 5 at Nyadire Central Primary.

"Elizabeth was born in Harare but grew up in Mutasa. When we started living at Nyadire she worked for the Teachers College and later moved to Nyadire Hospital where she worked at the School of Nursing; in 2022 she started training as a primary care nurse.

"Since 2005 I have been the Maintenance department supervisor at Nyadire; we are responsible for vehicle maintenance services, repairs, and recoveries; welding; water supply and reticulation system maintenance and repairs; house maintenance; and new building projects. I also receive and train interns from government vocational training centers who need attachment to do motor mechanics practical. I have been the technical person on the ground for most TNC projects in the Mission. I am also involved in other Mission and church activities, including serving as the circuit lay leader at Nyadire church, as Board of Trustees chairperson at the District level, and as a member of the Nyadire Water and Social Committee."

In the photo at right, Christopher (second from left) and his team are shown with a tire swing they made for the **Home of Hope** kids.



TNC Leadership Profile: Tim Wesley

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: As leader of communications and promotions, my responsibilities include writing the newsletter, updating and monitoring our website and social media, and providing information to our network churches.

What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC role: I retired in 2019 after a 35-year career in corporate communications with several Pittsburgh companies. My career also included five years as a reporter, covering sports and business. My skills in

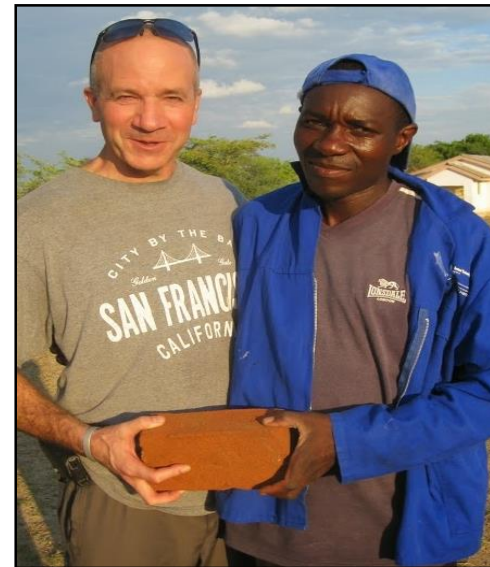
writing and story-telling have helped when it comes to promoting TNC. Thanks to our dedicated leaders in the U.S. and their counterparts in Zimbabwe, we have many compelling stories to tell, and it's a pleasure to highlight them through various communications channels.

How and why did you get involved with TNC: About 10 years ago, **Ralph Duckworth** and I were attending a men's Sunday school class at **Dutilh UM Church**, reading a book that detailed some of the difficult living conditions in Africa. It tugged at our heartstrings so we looked for a way to get involved, and eventually met **Drew Harvey**, then TNC's chairman. We agreed to co-lead a program to rebuild **Rural Health Clinics**. When I became communications director, Ralph became the sole leader of the program. We expect to complete the final clinic rebuild this year.

Why do you think TNC has been so successful: Our folks genuinely care for the people in Nyadire. They love the kids, and they love watching them grow up and become successful. We've developed lasting relationships with leaders in Nyadire who are dedicated to making the most with whatever resources they have. What started as a connection has led to a true partnership.

How many times have you been to Nyadire: Once, in 2013 as we were starting the Chikwizo clinic rebuild. Hama, the builder on all six clinics, gave me a homemade brick and it still sits on my desk.

What do you like best about TNC: If you want to become involved in mission work, either in the U.S. or internationally, there are unlimited ways to do it. So many ways, in fact, that you can be overwhelmed and not sure where to start. TNC has a successful track record and many opportunities to get involved, so you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You can make a huge difference with a relatively small investment of your time.



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A View From Nyadire: Crescencia Dangarembga

Editor's Note: During a 2023 VIM trip, TNC's Marjorie Dold interviewed some of our Nyadire friends; this story is based on one of those interviews.



"Don't worry, the Lord will provide."

Crescencia Dangarembga, February 2024

Crescencia is a kind, soft-spoken woman who has achieved her dreams through faith, dedication, and love. Meeting after work one afternoon, we watched the sun set as we talked on the porch at the guest house. As there was no electricity, we found ourselves sitting in the dark as the conversation continued. A few days later, Crescencia returned to the hospital to have her photo taken in the hospital garden.

Personal and Professional Background: Crescencia was the second-born child in a family of 12; she had seven brothers and two sisters. Her family, who lived in Mashonaland Central Province, were "influential citizens." Her uncle served as the former Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Crescencia studied at Hamanika Primary School before attending boarding school at MaryMount Roman Catholic Mission. It was

there that she encountered uniformed nurses and was very impressed.

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TNC Leadership Profile...

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How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: During my visit to Nyadire, I attended a couple of church services and was struck by how joyful the people were, even though they face very difficult living conditions compared to what we're used to. They have learned to use their resources wisely, to help each other and to have joy and faith. I hope that I have grown a little in those areas over the past 10 years.

Is there a Bible verse(s) that inspired you to become involved in TNC: No, but my favorite verse is Romans 8:28, which says God uses everything for good, for those called to His purpose. We see a lot of purpose and a lot of good in the TNC folks in the U.S. and in our friends in Nyadire.

What's your message to anyone who's considering getting involved in TNC or making a trip to Nyadire: We truly have something for everyone. Check out our website at www.nyadire.org or talk to any of our volunteers and I guarantee you'll find a mission that fits your skills and passions. Through our programs, we serve infants and college students. We provide basic health care. We work with engineers and farmers. If you take that first step, we'll have you running in no time!

A View From Nyadire...

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Crescencia trained at the Nyadire School of Nursing before beginning her career at the Nyadire Hospital as a junior nurse. At that time, she had ambition to “go up the ladder in the nursing profession.” Her next steps included training as a midwife at Bindura School of Midwifery and working on a maternity unit, before earning a Bachelor of Nursing Sciences degree from Africa University. Following the degree program, Crescencia returned to Nyadire, working as a mid-wife before accepting the position as Matron of Nyadire Hospital in 2018.

Significant Childhood Memory: As a child, Crescencia went to Catholic School. In addition to the nuns on campus, she would often see nurses and she absolutely LOVED the uniforms they wore. As a teenager, she decided to pursue a career as a nurse.

Work and Commitment to the Nyadire Mission: As Matron of the Mission Hospital, Crescencia’s duties include supervision, trainings, giving feedback and implementing programs. She has dealt with the challenge of COVID, as well as resource and economic hardships.

Successes: Crescencia began her professional track as a junior nurse and continued with schooling and employment opportunities before landing the position of Matron. As she enthusiastically exclaimed, “I did it!” Crescencia noted that much of her time as a student took place concurrently with raising her three daughters, and she credits her “very supportive husband” for helping her through this important chapter in their lives.

Challenges: Crescencia spoke about professional difficulties such as lack of necessary resources and financial instability, as well as the very real issues associated with the COVID outbreak, beginning in 2020. Because there is “very little money” in Zimbabwe, there have been times when medications and equipment have not been available. Indeed, medications have not been provided on occasion, due to a shortage of money and/or supplies. In addition, “transport vehicles are old, there is not enough fuel, and it is difficult to maintain the running of generators when the power is out.”

Hopes and Dreams: Ever the devoted Matron, Crescencia says, “My dream is to improve the situation in Zimbabwe; improve lives and be able to provide what patients need.”

What I Want People To Know About Zimbabwe: “Zimbabwe is a very beautiful country with very beautiful places such as Victoria Falls, Kariba, and Bvumba Mountains. It’s unfortunate that our economy is not good; people are suffering. We hope one day that it will turn around to the better.”

This proverb sustains her: “Don’t worry... the Lord will provide.”

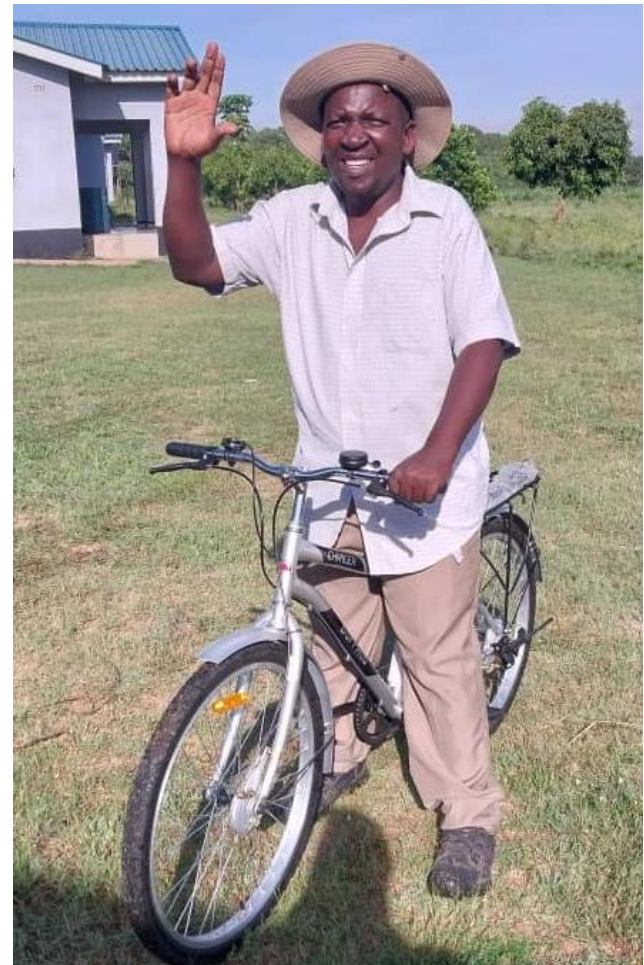


Kudakwashe Mbozvi, who grew up at the **Home of Hope**, and got his teaching diploma from **Nyadire Teachers College**, was invited to the Nyadire graduation as one of the pioneer students. He eventually started a school in Manicaland Chipinge, and was very happy to be at the graduation along with the top officials of higher and tertiary Ministers.

Program Highlights From TNC's February 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: Students finishing in June this year are:
 - **Tinashe Mapfumbidze**, Midland States University, Business Management.
 - **Lorraine Kapembeza**, Africa University, Accounting, has found attachment.
 - **Ruth Makoni**: HOHO O-Levels/A-Levels, Catholic University, Business Management and Information Technology.
 - **Takunda Pedzayi**: Midland States University, Human Resources Management.
 - **Raymond Chimbwanda**: HOHO O-levels/A-levels, University of Zimbabwe, Financial Economics and Trade, Real Estate.
 - **Nyasha Given Katema**: HOH O-levels/A-levels, Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. The school offers a variety of certificates and degrees, leading to careers from paralegal to lawyer. Nyasha will proceed from year to year, based on his interest, needs, and success.
 - **See a complete list of students in TNC's monthly minutes on our website.**
- Home of Hope: The Home has implemented Family Units as mandated by the Social Services Department, so the children are now mixed, and one mother lives in each unit ... **Dutilh Preschool** will donate its proceeds this year from the annual **Hop-A-Thon** on March 27-28 to the HOH for a variety of items: outfitting the kitchen of the second family unit, bookshelves for the library, and new backpacks for the kids ... A new Buffalo Bicycle was purchased per donation and provided to **FreeJohn**, the night guardsman, who walks a considerable distance to work.
- Home of Hope Outreach: We serve 22 schools through the Outreach program ... Funds for term 1 have been sent, and O-level exam results from 2023 are being collected.



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Program Highlights...

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- Agriculture: Crops at Nyadire were progressing well but a severe dry spell has threatened certain crop yields ... **Home of Hope** is harvesting tomatoes, which has been helped by the dry weather. People without irrigation do not have tomatoes so the market is better than normal ... **Nyadire Ag Department** has concern about the dry weather and has started transplants for the garden (tomatoes, onions, vegetables).

- Girl Empowerment Pad: See page 2.
- Eyeglasses: We continue to look 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 Natalie at nataliegeer32@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about this opportunity, or know someone else who might be interested ... The team in Zimbabwe is working on long-term storage and container solutions for the eyeglasses at the hospital.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: The total project budget for **Chindenga** is about \$350,000; the clinic is expected to be completed by mid-year and we plan to send a team to participate in the dedication later this year ... Through January, the local communities had delivered 170,000 farm bricks, 75 cubic meters of river sand, 65 cubic meters of stones, 250 cubic meters of gravel, and 185 cubic meters of pit sand to the project.



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Program Highlights...

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- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: The EWB/CMU team is focused on ways to keep **Nyadire Hospital** blood and medicines at required temperatures during extended power outages. A WhatsApp call between the team, **Gashi Chikonyora** and **Dr. Larry** provided a lot of information and support for this project. Refrigeration using special phase change materials looks to be the most promising solution at this point but options are still being explored. There are many formal steps in the EWB process required by National that hopefully can be completed in time to allow a team trip in May ... A successful WhatsApp call with **Christopher Kuwana** allowed for a quick discussion on many Nyadire infrastructure items including the water system, hospital solar electricity and sadsa biogas stove fabrication. See page 3 for a story about Christopher.
- Hearing Innovation: The Resource Unit for the Deaf at **Nyadire Primary** has 20 learners currently enrolled; 17 boarders and 3 day students. The program also supports 3 learners



in the secondary program at Emerald Hill in Harare and 5 in the vocational program at Danhiko, also in Harare ... In February the Deaf learners at Nyadire Primary had a day trip to the Dudley Hall program for the Deaf; last term Dudley Hall students visited Nyadire. The day ended with a trip to a Lion Park and Snake World. "It was a good day indeed," says **Simbarashe**, the upper level teacher ... We are anticipating that Simbarashe and **Evajoyce** (teacher for the lower level) will take sign language refresher

courses during break between terms, with funding coming from a **UM Foundation** Grant.

- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See page 1.

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