

TNC Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2025

Administrative

- TNC will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, and we've been blessed to grow in both programs and donor support over the years. With that growth, has come increased complexity and additional requirements for accounting and financial recordkeeping services.
- To ensure continued growth and good stewardship of our resources, we have been seeking a partner to provide some of these services. After exploring several alternatives we decided to use the services of two Christ Church employees.
- Beginning this year, Abby LaBorde and Karyn Miller began providing accounting services to TNC; they are experienced financial professionals and were already familiar with many of our operations. TNC is paying about \$2,000 per month for these services.
- We believe this arrangement is the best solution to ensure TNC's sustainability as we strive to continue growing. Our leadership team and program leaders remain volunteers, and are now able to focus fully on programs and fundraising to continue supporting our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe.

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley, Christopher Kuwana, EWB CMU students, Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora
Infrastructure & related items

- Field bore holes- TNC is providing \$9,880 to fund the replacement pumps and solar system for the last two Mission boreholes without solar power. It is hoped that with these in operation, the entire Mission will have an adequate water supply. However, the Mission has still not funded the replacement of the High School borehole which has been promised. That could impact the water supply at the system periphery, like the Guesthouse.
- Hospital Power- Electrical contractor Lincoln recently expressed his concern about the safety of 60s vintage hospital wiring and metal conduit. He provided an estimate of \$45,000 to bring it up to code. Various funding sources must be further explored. Conaway-Munden grant from St. Paul's UMC of \$1,250 awarded to partially fund solar power for the hospital borehole. The balance of funding for this is being reviewed with Hospital leadership.

Hospital & HOH Vehicles

- TNC funded \$750 to replace the tires on the 2 door HOH truck. Future plan is to sell the two current vehicles and replace with one late model vehicle at an incremental cost of \$12-15,000. Funding is needed for this large expense.
- Sale of all "parked" vehicles at the Shop- no further update but will be reviewed during the trip in May.

EWB (Engineers Without Borders)

- The six-person travel team including myself, four CMU students and the Technical Mentor from Rochester NY depart May 7. CMU Senior Paul Kurkky led the pre-assessment report preparation and guidance through EWB National for their approval. With a May 11 Commencement he will not be able to join us. Thank you and best wishes Paul! The main focus of our trip will be understanding the total electricity needs and priorities at the Nyadire Hospital for potential future solar project(s). The need for Hospital rewiring noted above may now impact this project plan. There are many other projects and issues to follow up on while there. A special thanks to Molly Michael for the cultural awareness training and to both her and Mary Beth Zollars for all the trip guidance, suggestions and answering all my questions!
- TNC is funding long overdue improvements to the Guesthouse including flooring and bathroom plumbing. We might even have running water (hot?) while there in May! Christopher and his team have been very busy working on this and he noted that the plumbing was much worse than expected.

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

Farm Department – Esnath

- Garden Plots – Planted 1000 heads of Cabbage, 1000 heads of lettuce and 1000 broccoli
- Field crops - Maize crop only harvesting a few tons, but also harvesting Sugar beans that were planted after the dry spell
- Visited Hanwa Mission to see the Greenhouse operation

Home of Hope – Emmanuel

- Fencing has been installed around Fish Ponds to keep children out.
 - Selling fingerlings to others interested in starting fish ponds
- Field Crops – Harvesting Cow beans, Groundnuts, early planted maize
- Late planted short season maize (15 Feb 2025) maize is nearly mature, Planted 01Jan2025 is mature and in drydown phase, planted 01April 2025 – recently top dressed (planted in irrigated area).
- When our normal planting season failed, we planted short season maize varieties. It has paid dividends. Yields will be tracked to see how they compare.
- Citrus trees are ready to harvest.
- Egg production has dropped from 150 eggs per day to 90 eggs per day – possible need to add supplemental lighting
- Also have green vegetables and tomatoes doing well
- Plan on planting potatoes as maize is harvested
- Visited Hanwa Mission Greenhouse

Crop variety trials

- Casper Jembere – awaiting a proposal

Farm Department Poultry Barn

- Awaiting a proposal from Edwin Ngonyami (Irvines Rep and UMCZW Ag board member) Expecting draft in the next few days.

HOH Poultry-Grain Storage barn

- Permanent wiring for building so milling equipment can moved to grain storage building.
- Temporary wiring is laying on the ground and getting driven on – subject to damage.
- Quote 074 – Lincoln – Hillwise Electrical - \$3594

Other projects

- Following these projects but TNC not yet involved with. Waiting for the Poultry Business Plan to see if that is something that TNC wants to be involved with before starting a new project.
- **Greenhouse Project:** This would be used to grow high value crops such as tomatoes, English cucumbers, sweet peppers, cauliflower, broccoli, baby marrow (zucchini). Good market potential but need to produce large quantities (tons per shipment) for wholesale markets to be viable. Market is in Harare. This could be a potential project for HOH. Gross margin potential is \$20,000 for a 6-month pepper crops for a 20 m x 50 m greenhouse. For two 20 x 50 m greenhouses, the annual gross margin is estimated at \$60,000. Gross margin does not include labor and facility maintenance.
- **Irrigation Pivot:** The government is promoting the installation of center pivot irrigation to increase agricultural output. UMCZW has a quote for a 30 Ha (75 acre) pivot at a cost of \$188,000. They have the potential to get a fixed rate loan for 3-5 years. Project size is likely too small to pay for other equipment that would be needed to complete the project. Sent Morgan and Tatenda the proposal put together in 2017 that had two 50 Ha pivots and field machinery as a template for what is needed for a complete project.

Home of Hope, Home of Hope Outreach, Scholarships

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- Marie has developed outline of responsibilities for all involved in HOHO process.
- Marie has developed a tangible list of criteria for HOHO students going into secondary school and qualifying for O-level exams. It is a point system that rewards good attendance and effort.
- Received \$1,250 grant from Conaway-Munden fund at St. Paul's.

S.Y.STEM

Coding Club Star: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary

- They meet once a week.
- A proposed Coding Club **Workshop** is in the planning stages for June 9-11 for secondary school teachers that have received the pop-up classrooms.

HOH

- **May/June funds** are being prepared.
- **Fencing** around the **fishponds** has been completed.

- **Collaborative and Joined Hands for the Needy:** This is a group of former HOH children who are working together to provide support for others like them. They have been helping to support each other, when issues arise. They submitted a report for TNC Newsletter.
- **Dutilh Preschool's Hop-A-Thon** raised money again for the HOH. The funds will go towards outfitting the last kitchen.

SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

MB and Violet Mutasa accepted the BP-USC Rotary Grant for the scholarship students at the Annual Night of Giving, Wednesday, April 23rd.

Congratulations:

- **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; passed all exams; awaiting graduation

Professional Licenses:

- **Raymond Chimbwanda**, recent graduate in Real Estate, has applied to a variety of districts and is interested in getting his real estate license. We have offered him some funding to get his license to be repaid in part and includes community service.

Finished awaiting graduation:

- **Lorraine Kapembeza:** Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has finished all requirements and has received her transcript. Graduation next June is the next step!

Fourth Year students:

- **Tinashe Mapfumbidze**, (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; funding for his education ends in June 2025.
- **Rutendo Mupfawa**, University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 4.2 student; Her dissertation topic: creating a model of reducing the effects of exchange rate fluctuations on trade.
- **Blessing Mabii**, accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 4.2, working on dissertation.
- **Panashe Mafemera:** Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 4.2 student.

Third Year students:

- **Nyasha Given Katema:** Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. Finishing his attachment as a prosecutor; starting next-to-last term.
- **Praise Mashumba**, Midland States University, Human Resources Management (tuition only); 3.2 student, found attachment at Zimbabwe Space Agency!

Second Year:

- **Praise Josi:** (tuition only) Midland States University, Data Science, 2.2
- **Morejoy Madzika**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 2.2 (tuition only)

First Year:

- **Josphat Nyatoro (HOHO):** Nyadire College of Education, 1.2 (tuition only)

- **Precious Muripo** (HOH): Kushinga Phikelela College, electrical engineering, 1.2; attachment from August 2025-July 2026 will follow to complete program.
- **Tawanda Makope** (grew up in Sister Rut's home); Harare Institute of Technology, Computer Science, 1.1, will start in August 2025.

Graduate Students:

- **Tsungirai Makoni**, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters; last of 3 semesters.

TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Onias Chengai** (HOHO), Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, attachment

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Theresa Nyadembera**, attachment in 2025 pending last term's results and community service
- **Nyasha Alfabeti** (HOHO), building, started in 2024, will finish coursework in 2024

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- **Tinashe Katsuro**: agriculture at Africa University, 3.2. Current courses are: Project Appraisal and Evaluation, Pasture and Range management, Community Based Natural Resources Management, Management of Drainage Basins and Water Resources, and Ecotourism.
- **Delight Katsata**: BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe, 3.2 student. Doing attachment at Kutsaga Research.
- **Praise Tsaurai**, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 2.2 student. Current courses: Fluid Mechanics, Engineering Hydrology, Engineering Numerical Analysis and Modelling, Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer
- **Yvette Mutize**, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 3.2 student, doing attachment. (3-year program). Her diploma in agriculture covers five sections: agri-business, animal science, crop science, horticulture, and engineering. Her area of greatest interest is horticulture, followed by engineering.

Possible new candidates:

- **Joseph Visent**, Midland States University, Accounting (on hold)
- **Malvin Katsande**, Harare Institute of Technology, Forensic Accounting and Auditing (on hold)
- **Kudakwashe Nyamunda**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- **Jeremiah Nyabote**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- **Vimbai Kativhu**, AG, Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School (on hold)
- **Gamuchirai Chidsvondo**, AG (on hold)
- **Ashmore Chitsuro**, (HOHO), Nyadire College of Education, August intake
- **Mathilda Matirasa**, AG, Chibero Agricultural College, pre-college attachment
- **Abel Kubombo**, AG, (HOHO), Veterinary Medicine

Presentations:

- MB presented at Julia Circle (CUMC) Wednesday, April 16th, focus on HOH, but expanded to other programs, as well.
- MB prepared short slide presentation for ChristKids for Sunday, April 27th. MB will present to all three ChristKids classes on Sunday, May 11th. ChristKids is collecting baby blankets for the hospital.

Craft Sales:

- Spring Craft Fair at CUMC, Sat., April 26, 9:30-3.

VIM:

- MBZ leader of ZIM VIM June 2025, 1 June – 19 June, 12 participants.
- Activities include: Home of Hope work & play, HOH excursion, HOHO updates, Eyeglass Clinics at HOHO schools, Coding Club Workshop, Hospital Shadowing, Bible School for Primary, GEP Day, fix-it jobs (HOH chicken house: solar lights and nesting box, HOH rocket stoves, hospital equipment, hospital solar, hospital review, MUV's, mission signage, guidance on business plan, etc.

Hearing Innovation

Deborah Swineford

- Leah will arrive at Nyadire May 9, a few days ahead of the opening of Term 2 on May 13
- The HI program has 24 boarding learners and 4 day scholars currently enrolled.
- Simbarashe is still working on obtaining attachments for the 4 who completed their training at Danhiko Training Center.
- Travel arrangements for the HI team have been made.
- Communication with HI program staff at Nyadire continues regarding their goals for the mission team.
- Email sent to sponsors and supporters with partnership form attached for renewal of sponsorships -Collecting donations of school and hygiene supplies to take in June.
- Packing party not yet scheduled.

Communications

Tim Wesley

- April newsletter published
- TNC 20th anniversary, 2026
 - Debbie Little leading planning team ... will need others to join
 - Tentative date: April 2026; Christ Church to host
- TNC Social: June 28, 1-4 pm, hosted by Kevin and Linda Riley (details to come)
 - Please RSVP if attending

Next Zoom call meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 6:30 pm
(Note change from normal Monday meeting due to Memorial Day holiday)