



# The Nyadire Connection

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

Volume 41

[www.nyadire.org](http://www.nyadire.org)

April 2025

## Completion Of Clinics Program Celebrated At Chindenga Dedication



A major milestone has been achieved!

“After more than a decade of collective effort, and thanks to the incredible dedication and support of many TNC donors, we have completed our program to rebuild six rural health clinics in Zimbabwe,” says TNC Chairman **Ralph Duckworth**.

A delegation from the United Methodist Church, along with government and community officials, and TNC representatives witnessed the dedication of the Chindenga clinic on Feb. 22. The

ceremony was officiated by **Bishop Eben Kanukayi Nhiwatiwa**, shown in the photo, left, with District Superintendent **Heather Zisengwe** and Ralph.

(Continued on page 5)

## Home Of Hope Producing Eggs For Consumption, Sale

By **Scott Sanford**, Agriculture program leader

In 2024, TNC funded the completion of a chicken barn and grain storage building at Nyadire, and the purchase of 175 laying hens and feed. The goal was to provide the **Home of Hope Orphanage** with a source of high-protein eggs and some income from selling surplus eggs.

In February, I visited Nyadire to see the operation and to help build structures inside the barn, including nest boxes and roosting areas. Together, we hand-cut the plywood and boards, a sweaty job in the 80-plus-degree heat. The hens were moving in as we were putting the finishing touches on the nests. The boxes feature a roll-away design so after the hen is done laying an egg, it rolls under a ledge to keep it clean and protected until the eggs are collected.

(Continued on page 2)

# Home of Hope Producing Eggs...

(Continued from page 1)

The hens are currently laying about 105 eggs per day but we are hoping that will increase to about 140 eggs with better nest boxes and roosts. They are currently selling eggs for \$4 for a tray of 30 eggs; very cheap compared to U.S. prices. There has not been a major outbreak of Avian Influenza in Zimbabwe yet this year and we are hoping it stays away from the mission.



## Mission Teams Planning Trips To Nyadire In May, June

TNC has three mission teams planning trips to Nyadire in May and June, with many projects on tap.

**Kevin Riley**, leader of our **Engineers Without Borders** program, will be hosting a team of students from the EWB chapter at **Carnegie Mellon University**. The team plans to review the electric supply for Nyadire Hospital and consider alternatives and priorities.

In early June, **Mary Beth Zollars**, leader of our **Home of Hope** and **Scholarships** programs, will host folks from **Christ Church, Community Church, First Bethel, United Church of Walpole**, and the **Methodist Church of Finland**. Among many activities, they plan to tutor and interact with HOH students, visit **Home of Hope Outreach** schools, conduct **Eyeglasses** clinics, and work on repair projects at the mission.

Later in June, **Deborah Swineford**, leader of our **Hearing Innovation** program, will also host a team. They plan to conduct a Bible School program and take the children on a field trip.

If you would like to learn more about TNC's mission trips, please contact our program leader, **Molly Michael**, at [mollyalice.michael@gmail.com](mailto:mollyalice.michael@gmail.com)

## A View From Nyadire: Esnath Zimbira

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

With enduring faith and strength of character, **Esnath Zimbira** leads by loving example, as a beacon of light, hope and peace.

**Background:** Esnath, born on May 8, 1973 at the Nyadire Mission Hospital, was one of the youngest in a family of six, having two sisters and a twin brother, as well as her parents. Her early life was touched by both joy and sorrow. Sadly, her father passed away when Esnath was just three years old, and she moved away from her family to live under the care of her aunt (a hospital aide at Nyadire Hospital) from 1980 to 1995, where she attended Nyadire schools. After Esnath graduated, she enrolled at Nyadire College of Education, living for one year with the beloved **Reverend Julius Tsiga** and his wife, **Joyce**.

This was an exciting time in Esnath's life, as she also encountered a young man named **Oswald Zimbira**, a nurse at Nyadire Hospital; they fell in love and were married! The Zimbira family expanded to five, as they added three children: their first-born, **Trish**, in 1996; their second-born, **Michael Chikomborero**, in 2003; and their third-born **Trinity Grace**, in 2013. Trish recently (2024) completed her Master's degree in Early Childhood Development, Michael is a third-year medical student in Zambia, and Trinity is a grade 7 learner at Nyadire Primary School.

**Childhood Memory:** Esnath carries a poignant memory: the heartbreaking loss of her twin brother, who died by suicide at just 17 years old.

**To Nyadire and Back:** Nyadire Methodist Mission is where Esnath was born, lived for 15 years, and studied to become an educator, graduating in 1996. She then spent one year teaching Grade 4 in Masvingo District, before teaching at Manhembra for six years. Esnath's career came full circle when she was called to Nyadire in 2003 to teach grades 3, 2, and 1. She currently is a Grade 2 teacher with a class of 36 learners! In addition to classroom teaching, Esnath was appointed, in 2010, to be the Outreach Coordinator for the Nyadire Primary School (NPS), a voluntary position to which she has unconditionally devoted herself, alongside the daily demands of educating her busy and curious second-graders!

As a **Home of Hope Outreach** (HOHO) coordinator, Esnath currently works with 29 NPS students who are single or double orphans and receive sponsorships via TNC for school fees, uniforms and supplies, enabling the learners to attend school and dream BIG for their future! Esnath praised the value of the Outreach program: "I have passion [for this] because I grew up as an orphan. I understand their feelings, emotions, needs and wants, worries, and shortcomings." A few of her responsibilities include serving as a liaison between each student and caring adults (guardian, headmaster, Nyadire Program Leader **Lindarose**, and TNC Program Leader **Marie Hunt**); monitoring student attendance, grades, and effort; and distributing the highly anticipated annual backpacks with school supplies, mealie meal (during crisis conditions), and correspondence from sponsors. HOHO yields oodles of hope, joy, and gratitude -- on many sides of the globe! And Esnath honestly states, "It is enjoyable and uplifting. I feel loved, cared for, and accepted as I interact with other coordinators, learners, and the TNC group."

(Continued on page 4)

# A View From Nyadire...

(Continued from page 3)



*Left photo: Esnath with Mrs. Musandire of Manhema Primary School. Center photo: Esnath. Right photo: Esnath with Lindarose, Delight and TNC's Marie Hunt.*

**Challenges and Successes:** The greatest challenge was COVID, which required educators to think and act in innovative ways. Some students lost ground due to no access to E-learning. However, during this time, Esnath reports that HOHO was a success! Materials were made available for learning, mask-making, sanitization, and temperature-taking, which enabled much learning to proceed. “Our kids were confident about coming to school. The program provides big perks, providing a more level playing field.” Their [learners’] spirits are lifted because of the materials in the backpacks. In their Christian education, children are “morally educated” to be “acceptable citizens of society. They feel that other people care for them quite a lot; they have a sense of belonging.”

**Hopes and Dreams:** Esnath’s dreams are simply, yet profoundly spoken: “I hope one day my children will participate in this program (TNC) ... giving and sharing. I hope they will love God, participating in church activities. My last-born is involved in Daily Devotions (prayer group) -- praying, sharing the Gospel and charity work.”

**I Want People to Know About Zimbabwe:** Acknowledging hardships faced, Esnath expresses that “Zimbabwe is stressing us too much. However, we have tourism centers in Zimbabwe. Come and visit. You will enjoy it [Zimbabwe] quite a lot!”

**Motto:** “Seize any opportunity that comes.” Esnath has a beautiful heart and demonstrates such adoration for the learners. TNC members witnessed her empathy and positivity when working with students, as they happily deliberated over letters to their many loving sponsors, who eagerly await news from their Zimbabwean cherubs!

*Marjorie Dold is a TNC fan and a Zim Vim enthusiast. She has an amazing family, is a member of the United Church in Walpole, MA, and embraces the abiding faith and love of the Nyadire community.*

# Completion Of Clinics Program Celebrated...

(Continued from page 1)

“We called it a ‘moon shot’ because when we started, we had no idea if we could raise \$2 million to rebuild the clinics,” Ralph says. “Now, we can say Mission Accomplished!”

The vision to rebuild the clinics came into focus in 2013 when TNC representatives toured each facility, met with church and government health officials, and listened to stories from people in the local communities. They discovered the clinics were the first line of defense for thousands of villagers with diseases such as malaria, cholera and HIV; and that expectant mothers walked to the clinics from as far as 10 miles away to deliver.

“The clinics were in various states of disrepair,” says **Drew Harvey**, TNC’s chairman at the time. “They lacked electricity, running water and adequate space. The needs were great.”

In the past 10 years, local villagers handmade hundreds of thousands of bricks used in the projects, and local construction workers rebuilt the clinics on time and on budget. A health official in Zimbabwe previously cited many improvements in health care, including:

- With adequate staff housing, medical personnel at the clinics more than doubled
- With more space for delivery rooms, at-home births were reduced by half
- Clinics have adequate space to test and treat patients with malaria, and to ensure privacy and confidentiality for each patient
- More shelters for expectant mothers led to improved birth outcomes
- Additional housing for staff has enabled the clinics to accept more student nurses, expanding opportunities for education and jobs



# Chindenga Dedication Day

Feb. 22 was a joyous day at the **Chindenga** rural health clinic, as many people gathered to dedicate the new facility. The clinic was rebuilt with support from TNC donors and through the work of many local villagers and construction professionals. Shown here are photos from the dedication ceremony, along with before (bottom right) and after photos of the clinic. For complete coverage of the ceremony and a history of Chindenga, please visit this link on the TNC website, which shows a newsletter produced by **Ms. Kudzai Chingwe**, Zimbabwe East Annual Conference communicator:

[https://www.nyadire.org/uploads/4/7/6/4/4764398/mutoko\\_mudzi\\_district\\_-\\_chindenga\\_rural\\_health\\_centre\\_dedication\\_22\\_february\\_2025.pdf](https://www.nyadire.org/uploads/4/7/6/4/4764398/mutoko_mudzi_district_-_chindenga_rural_health_centre_dedication_22_february_2025.pdf)



# Leah Swineford Commissioned To Serve In Nyadire

Editor's Note: The following story is reprinted with permission from the Feb. 19 Western PA Conference E-News; photos courtesy of Leah Swineford. Leah's mother, Deborah Swineford, is the leader of TNC's Hearing Innovation program.

Leah Swineford, a member of Bakerstown United Methodist Church in Western Pennsylvania's Pittsburgh District, joined 22 other global missionaries and global mission fellows on January 26 in Jinga, Uganda, as they were commissioned in a blessing and sending forth into mission service.

"The Spirit was clearly at work within this community of newly commissioned missionaries," said Leah as she recalled her time in Uganda. "For me, though, the service held special significance. We as a group were asked to share a song at the beginning of the service. The song that was chosen was 'Here I am, Lord'. This hymn has always been one of my favorites and one that the Spirit has used more than once to convict me and call me."

Leah will be serving as teacher for Deaf and Hard of Hearing schoolchildren at **Nyadire Mission Center** in Zimbabwe (photo below), a ministry about which she is passionate.

"In high school I felt God leading me away from the expected path and straight into mission work," Leah explained about her journey towards missionary service. "My prayer was that He would give me a people to be in long term ministry with. Throughout two years in the mission field, I encountered Deaf individuals again and again. God had given me a people. Now, He has guided me to Zimbabwe to work with Deaf students."



In her new role, Leah will teach children to read and write using sign language and other related materials, empower learners through training in psychosocial and vocational skills, and advise and assist school administrators on all issues concerning these vulnerable learners.

She also will train local community members to use sign language, both those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and those who can hear; and counsel and provide career guidance to learners before they attain high school or tertiary education.

(Continued on page 8)

## Leah Swineford Commissioned...

(Continued from page 7)

“Many Deaf students get a later start to school, and do not have much if any language,” Swineford explains. “Ninety to ninety-five percent of Deaf children are born to hearing parents, which means unless the parents learn sign language the children do not have access to language until they start school. This program is working to provide these students with a basic academic education.”

Nyadire Mission Centre is a UM mission founded in 1923 in northeast rural Zimbabwe. It contains multiple programs: orphanage, teacher’s college, hospital and clinics, agriculture, primary and secondary schools. The resource unit for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, known as Hearing Innovation, is a small program within the primary school.

“From a young age I had a desire to serve the Lord,” Leah said about her call to mission. “I grew up in the church. My father is a pastor and my maternal grandfather is a pastor. I was surrounded by godly influence.”

Leah's father, Rev. Dennis Swineford, is a retired WPA Conference Superintendent and his ministry in the Western Pennsylvania Conference was an important part of Leah's faith development. “I have been extremely blessed to have been a part of each of the churches my dad was appointed to in my life,” Leah reflected. “The congregations have treated me and my family as family; surrounding us in love, support, and prayer.

“The Body of Christ here in Western PA has been my home and family. They have loved me, and God has used them to show me what it means to love others. I am loved and so I can love others.”

## Emergency Food Support Makes A Difference In Nyadire

Thanks to generous contributions from donors, TNC has provided money for emergency food support in Nyadire.

TNC Chairman **Ralph Duckworth** said: “Our support continues to make a difference by providing food to families with desperate needs. The Nyadire Social Committee administers and monitors the food distribution program.”

**Christ Church** of Bethel Park has contributed to this TNC initiative as part of its “Feed The Burgh” campaign, and friends in in Nyadire recognized this support during a recent mission trip.

TNC supporters can continue to donate to the food appeal through this PayPal link on the TNC website:

<https://www.nyadire.org/donate.html>

Please note that the donation is for “Nyadire Hunger Relief.” Or, you can send a check made out to “The Nyadire Connection” (put “Nyadire Hunger Relief” in the memo line) to:

*Christ Church, Attn – TNC Hunger Relief, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102*





# Program Highlights From TNC's March 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: Congratulations to...
  - **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; passed all exams; awaiting graduation; now hired at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare.
  - **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.
  - **Lorraine Kapembeza**: Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has finished all requirements and received her transcript. Graduation next June is next step!
- Home of Hope: Two more outdoor kitchens have been built; funds needed for appliances & silverware needed for last kitchen ... **Dutilh Preschool's** Hop-A-Thon is going to raise money again for the Home.
- Home of Hope Outreach: 22 schools are served ... Have applied for a grant from the Conaway-Munden Fund at **St. Paul's UMC**.
- Girl Empowerment Pad: Resupply requests received and purchasing plan in development. This will include a PUL order from China and Zimbabwe marketplace purchases.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: See pages 1, 5, 6.
- Hearing Innovation: Funds were sent to cover the cost of continuing sign language instruction for the HI teachers and staff ... Also see page 7.
- Agriculture: See page 1.
- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: We will fund replacement of a field borehole pump, expected to be fueled by solar power ... We are seeking a proposal to update the non-functioning hospital solar arrays with new batteries and inverters.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: See page 2.

## Triplets Born At Nyadire Hospital!

Triplets were born recently at the Nyadire Hospital! Mom **Gracious** (right) holds one of them, while nurses hold the other two. Their names are **Shalom** (girl), **Shamaine** (girl) and **Psychology** (boy). TNC is funding formula for the triplets for two years at \$100 per month. If you're interested in helping, contact **Tim Wesley** at [timwesley61@zoominternet.net](mailto:timwesley61@zoominternet.net)

