

TNC Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2026

20th Anniversary Event Planning

Debbie Little, committee leader

- Event date: Sunday, May 3, 2026
- Location: Christ Church in Bethel Park
- Event: Dinner for about 150 people, buffet style
- Program: Discuss TNC's ongoing strategic goals and celebrate achievements over past 20 years
- Fundraising: We will sell tickets and have a silent auction. We will need everyone to donate auction items (new, not used items), and we can sell crafts.
- Tickets on sale now at this link:
 - [The Nyadire Connection's 20th Anniversary Event Tickets, Sunday, May 3 from 5 pm to 7 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley, Christopher Kuwana, EWB CMU students, Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora

- Field bore hole pumps conversion to solar has been completed by Tom's Electrical from Mutoko. TNC provided a \$2300 advance payment and we await the final bill. The Mission is funding 10% of the cost.
No further update.
- Main Mission borehole replacement- Funding through GBGM secured. A third proposal as required by the Conference was obtained.
- Hospital items –
 1. Hospital wiring- Tom's Electrical completed the electrical work they found deficient including a few safety issues but many bulbs, receptacles and fans that needed replaced at a cost of \$1,720 that TNC funded. Scope additions including upgrading the lab electrical system (\$1,066), laundry, mortuary and security lighting repairs (\$860) and a new service for the Maternity Ward (\$TBD) are being considered. With no short circuits and not wanting to disturb the fragile ceiling system, no further above ceiling conduit and wiring inspection is being pursued.
 2. The outdated and nonfunctional fire protection system has been replaced via a Conaway Munden Grant of \$2,000 of the \$2,800 cost. The Hospital to fund \$360 of the cost via three additional \$120 per month payments added to the hematology reagents loan. Water supply lines to the three fire hose stations are being completed by a plumber with no TNC funding requested.
 3. The leaking elevated water storage tank was drained and lined with funding by TNC. A quote for \$770 to prep and repaint the steel tank structure was provided. The same company provided a quote to repair the leaking Chapel roof with a membrane coating and wood repair for \$2,315 while a quote to repair the ceiling has not yet been obtained. A Conaway Munden grant will be pursued for this work.
- HOH vehicles- Emmanuel stated that Rev. Mukundu can approve the sale of "Lazarus" and Emmanuel has been asked to pursue that option. It was suggested to use those funds to make any needed repairs to the two-door truck and retain remaining funds for a future

replacement when TNC has the funds to cover the balance. Rev. Mukundu was asked to support this request but no update from Emmanuel. The 2 door is operational at this time.

- Biogas sadza stove- The Shop completed this but awaiting pictures and feedback from the Primary School. No update.
- EWB (Engineers Without Borders)- Weekly meetings have focused on consolidating and formalizing the data obtained during the Nyadire visit this past May. The assessment report (a key step) was to be submitted to EWB National in March. The students have discussed a return trip to Nyadire sometime between late '26 to mid '27.
- A multiphase scope of work to convert the HOH to solar power was prepared and reviewed by Emmanuel Chiimba. As requested, Tom's Electrical provided a four-phase quote (Dorms 1, 2, 3 and offices) of \$2,232 per phase. Electric stoves and grinding mill were not included and would stay on grid power. This is budgetary and for future consideration only

Faith Geer Memorial Eyeglasses

Kathy Belcastro

- Gave Ralph Duckworth 6 packed boxes of 60-65 pairs of labeled eyeglasses, 40 fleece cases, 20 soft cases, 300 readers, and 60 pairs of sunglasses to take with him to Nyadire. He was going to take as much as his luggage would allow.
- Been in touch with Jonathan, the trained ophthalmologist coordinating the clinic in Nyadire. He has been sending pictures of his patients and is so enthusiastic about his work. He sent the prescriptions that are most needed. We will try adjust the way eyeglasses are packed according to the needs of the clinic.
- Elfenwild Lyon's Club are scheduled come to St. Paul's, April 23, to hear about our mission and see how the lensmeter operates.

Mary Beth Zollar's Report for HOH/HOHO/Scholarship

HOHO – 27 schools in all

- O-level exam fees have been sent.
- Lindarose and Tinashe did a great job traveling to the Outreach schools to verify the candidates. Their collaboration with the teachers and Outreach representatives provided us with all the information necessary to grant the fees.

S.Y.STEM

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

- They meet once a week.
- A request has been made for funds to invest in a program from a company in Harare.
- Feedback was for some practical kits for STEM learning.

HOH

- TNC is seeking new baby blankets and hats for children at the Home of Hope. If you would like to make or purchase these items, please send them to Mary Beth Zollars, who's leading a mission team later this year and will carry them over. Send your blankets and hats to Mary Beth by May 15 to 3248 Comanche Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Or, you can deliver the blankets to these TNC folks at our network churches:

- Dutilh - Tracy Eckstam
- First Bethel - Stephanie Altstadt
- Mt. Lebanon - Louanne Baily
- St. Paul's - Tom Greway
- Christ Church - Bernice Heisey
- **NEW ADDITION TO THE HOH! Precious Kunashe Mushingi**, arrived 18 March at 2 weeks and 2 days old. She was abandoned, but the mother was found and is currently in jail. The hospital has trained the staff in her care. Pray for all involved!
- **Emmanuel Chiimba** requested maize meal for the children until the current fields have been harvested.
- **The Dedication of the HOH** was held on 25 November 2025. No photos have been provided. I have reached out for photos, but have received none. Finland was not informed.
- **Genius** was not able to stay on at the HOH for medical reasons. **Lisa Kuyeri**, a former volunteer, has been hired as the new “mommy”.
- **Hop for Hope** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th, and Thursday, March 26th at Dutilh Preschool, 11:30 a.m. for 20 minutes. Carol Butler will present. Thank you!
- Ralph and Scott will inquire about the **ceiling** situation and the **vehicle** situation.
- A donation of **3 buffalo bikes** has been made from generous donors for the 3 daddies.

SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

MB wrote the **Rotary grant** for 2026. The Scholarship Program has been awarded **\$5,000**. The Annual Night of Giving is April 23rd, 5:30-7:30 at Serra Bella.

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.
- **Rutendo Mupfawa**, recent graduate in accounting, has been granted a partial loan to cover her classwork to gain her Charter Accountant Status.

Community Service: Students are completing their required 10 hours of Community Service prior to the upcoming semester. Work includes tutoring, weeding, cleaning, assisting in clinics, and pastoring. A shout-out to **Morejoy Madziko**, who has initiated a **health-based seminar** for the Nyadire-area schools as her community service!

Last Year students:

- **Nyasha Given Katema**: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. Still one exam to go.
- **Praise Mashumba**, Midland States University, Human Resources Management, 4.2
- **Precious Muripo (HOH)**: Kushinga Phikelela College, electrical engineering, 2.2; attachment at work in Marondera.

Third Year:

- **Praise Josi**: (tuition only) Midland States University, Data Science, 3.2
- **Morejoy Madziko**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 3.2

Second Year:

- **Josphat Nyatoro (HOHO)**: Nyadire College of Education, 2.2 Attachment (tuition only)

First Year:

- **Malvin Katsande**, Harare Institute of Technology, Forensic Accounting and Auditing, 1.2
- **Tawanda Makope** (grew up in Sister Rut's home); Harare Institute of Technology, Computer Science, 1.2
- **Makanaka Matadi**, Kushinga Phikelela College, Tailoring, 1.2
- **Jeremiah Nyabote**, Nyadire College of Education (partial scholarship), 1.1
- **Kudakwashe Nyamunda**, Nyadire College of Education (partial scholarship), 1.1
- **Primrose Chimbwanda**, Nyadire College of Education (partial scholarship), 1.1
- **Admire Chikuwira**, Nyadire College of Education, 1.1
- **Annoint Gumbutsa**, Tabudirira Vocational Centre, hospitality and tourism, 1.1

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP: now in a WhatsApp Group with Scott Sanford

- **Tinashe Katsuro**: agriculture at Africa University, 4.2, attachment at Antelope Park!
- **Delight Katsata**: BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe, 4.2 student. Finished attachment at Kutsaga Research.
- **Praise Tsaurai**, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 3.2 student; (five-year program)
- **Yvette Mutize**, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 3.2 student, finished 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.
- **Abel Kugombo**, AG, (HOHO), University of Zimbabwe, Honours Degree in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems, 1.2 student
- **Matilda Matirasa Chimbwanda**, AG, Chibero Agricultural College, finished pre-college attachment, 3-year program, 1.2 student

Other items:

Presentations:

- Christ in the Community (Christ Church) will have an eyeglass-washing activity, Saturday, May 2nd.
- Christ Youth (Christ Church) will do a service activity to support the HOHO orphans. They will pack school supplies and write encouraging letters.

Craft Sales:

Craft Fair at Christ Church, Sat., April 11. Volunteers needed.

VIM:

MB's VIM Team will depart 17 June (arriving Harare 19 June) and depart Victoria Falls 7 July (arriving USA 8 July). Donations needed from all churches, groups, etc.!

Next meeting: Monday, April 27, 6:30 pm