



Newsletter

The Nyadire Connection (TNC), based in Pittsburgh, PA, is a faith-based non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to support and sustain the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.



Sister Rut passed away unexpectedly in Nyadire on December 18, 2012.

This SPECIAL EDITION is a tribute to her Christian witness.

In her own words, "EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO BE HELD."

From the Bishop of the Nordic and Baltic United Methodist Church:

It is with deep grief the United Methodist Church in Finland and in Norway has received the message of missionary nurse Rut Lindgren's sudden death in her home in Nyadire. For more than 35 years she has lived in Nyadire, and even after her retirement she has continued to serve the community and the church.

Through her years of ministry Rut Lindgren has overseen the Extended Program on Immunization for the hospital, driving out to surrounding villages each day to provide immunizations and clinic-based care in hard-to-reach areas. On a weekly basis she would visit 24 villages.

Sister Lindgren had a deep love for the least of God's children. Being an orphan herself, Rut has adopted and raised many Zimbabwean children during her time in Nyadire. She has been quoted to say: "Every child needs to be held," and she continued to live accordingly. At the time of her death she was caring for 6 children, who lived with her in her home. Care for these children is of course an immediate concern.

In 1999 the life project of Rut Lindgren the orphanage "Home of Hope" in Nyadire was opened. Money for building the orphanage was raised in Finland, and it continues in cooperation with The Nyadire Connection. Today 25 + children are enjoying the fruits of Rut Lindgren's ministry as are numerous people who have been affected by her love and care.

Rut was a young girl of 16 when she experienced her call to ministry. She was looking at photos from foreign countries, when like once a Macedonian man spoke to the apostle Paul in a vision, she heard a voice saying to her "Come and help us." When Rut graduated from nursing school she was sent as a missionary of the Finland Swedish Annual Conference to Zimbabwe, and in 1981 she came to Nyadire United Methodist Hospital.

We give thanks to God for missionary Rut Lindgren loving and caring life and ministry in this world. Many people have seen Christ and been led to follow him through her testimony. Rut lived life to its fullest and she lived it well. In the midst of her life Jesus Christ called her home, the morning after she had given a Christmas party. She will be mourned and missed by many children, youth and adults.

In loving memory of missionary Rut Lindgren we sing with the angels "Glory to God in the highest".
Christian Alsted, Bishop of the Nordic and Baltic area

All donations to the Sister Rut Fund are for the support and education of her children and are tax deductible.

Check: The Nyadire Connection

Memo: Sister Rut Fund

Send to: CUMC

44 Highland Road

Bethel Park, PA 15102

A video in honor of Sister Rut – supplied by her friends and church family in Finland. Text is in Swedish, which only emphasizes the connections and people that Sister Rut touched all around the world.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=w8fv3zhVPS4)

[feature=player_embedded&v=w8fv3zhVPS4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=w8fv3zhVPS4)



From Mark LaRosa: Sister Rut was truly one of God's chosen Disciples. What I admired most about her was her unwavering commitment to follow through with God's mission. No doubt, she was "on the same page as God." She was absolutely clear about what God asked of her when it came to establishing the Home of Home and managing the Well Baby Clinics in the bush. No one would dare get in her way of the Well Baby check-ups and immunizations, including the maintenance staff, physician, or even the oxen and baboons that would cross in front of her SUV on the back roads. Even with her broken arm, she would stick her head out of the window and yell at the oxen to get out of the way...When the driver would slow down until the oxen would pass, she would insist the driver keep moving, "They'll get out the way, keep moving." She was bold enough to negotiate on the black market for even a small amount of petrol for the SVU and gutsy enough to purchase just enough fuel to carry us way into the bush and then back to Nyadire on fumes. She was not short on God's faith to see her through her daily mission.



Well Baby Clinic

The team of nurses on the Well Baby trips were well managed and trained by Sister Rut. This was essential to travel to three remote trees (outdoor health clinics), perform well-baby checks, provide immunizations to over 250 babies, and all in one day. Sister Rut cared deeply for the village Mothers and their babies and, in turn, they had the utmost respect for her. This could be seen in the way they greeted her with praiseful singing. The crowds were always orderly and deeply appreciative. It was as if they too knew "God and Sister Rut were on the same page"....I can only hope to have this much clarity about God's vision.

Janet Elders- "After visiting a rural clinic where a woman was in labor, Sister Rut stopped a truck & told him to go to the clinic & take the woman to the hospital since she had no room in the SUV for her. She always stopped to give someone a ride."

"When I was a small child, I daydreamed about Africa and what it belike to be a missionary there. Can you imagine how I felt when I was in Africa and met this person? We were the same age, and she had done so many things I had only dreamed about. Sister Rut asked me to accompany her on a run into the bush. We first stopped to visit at her fellow church member's farm. People came in and out and took whatever her friend had to give after harvesting. We continued down "roads" no wider than cowpaths to deliver clothing, blankets, food, cooking oil, etc. to a young woman she had raised. Grace was now the mother of a baby and HIV infected. Sister Rut questioned Grace about the baby, his progress and her own. It was evident that Sister Rut cared deeply for Grace however disappointed she was that she had not completed her schooling. She shared other stories of rural families some of whom she had known and helped over thirty years.. What a privilege to be with a friend who was God's spirit in action." Elsa Zollars

From Kathy Surma:

Sister Rut & I sat by the fire while on safari with Home of Hope children & staff. She shared many details of her life before & after her stay in Nyadire. I asked her how she could do all she did



from a vision, then seeing so much of the sad side side of humanity. Her reply, "YOU JUST DO IT!" I asked her if she would see some of the orphans she helped. She replied sometimes in Harare she hears "Sister Rut!" and she and the orphan who once lived in her home would talk. She had a good memory from her vision in Finland to finding children in dangerous situations, to the Home of Hope adolescents - she fed clothed, and loved them all. To me, she lived her vision - an example of true courage, a holy woman.

From Phil Himmler: I wrote to the children who were living with Sister Rut at the time of her death. I told them that living and dying are hard things to grasp - to think one's earthly life is ENDED and placed in the HEREAFTER is difficult. I wrote them that perhaps what we "did in the dash of our years " continues to live on THROUGH ANOTHER is a way to understand, May we all remember Sister Rut! We all certainly will not leave our homeland as she did, we can "care for the orphans and the poor" more deeply, more intentionally because we knew her.



Sister Rut and adopted son, Kuda

From Mary Beth Zollars: I know Sister Rut best through her children. ...and these are the children that need continued support. Lovely, charming, bright, and polite. That is the unanimous description of Sister Rut's children! Their letters are filled with Bible verses that guide their lives. **Kuda**, Sister Rut's adopted son, is a serious young man with a passion for learning. Now 18 years old, he is the "father" of the family, who finds himself wanting to carry on the life that his Mama had established, yearning to start his university studies, yet struggling to find a way to make anything possible. **Knowledge**, now 18, is entering her final year of high school, In one of her letters, she says that she doesn't know why she has been so fortunate to have a guardian like Sister Rut. She has great academic potential, is beautifully articulate, and has the dream of becoming a pediatrician. **Febbie** (or Phoebe), 17 years old, has a bright wit and quick smile. She and Knowledge have been great role models for the maturing girls at the Home of Hope. Several of the Home of Hope girls have had the chance to stay with Sister Rut from time to time. **Catherine** (16), **Chipo** (14), **Tsungirirai** (13), **Tinotenda** (13), and **Talent** (11) were most often with Sister Rut, giggling as they washed dishes together or studying in their crowded, but cozy room. Sister Rut, through her work, found children in need. Malnourished children, abandoned children, blind children.

Some would simply appear on her doorstep, like **Tawanda**, a five year old boy, who had the opportunity to flourish in the nurturing environment of Nyadire's pre-school. There is no complete list of children that have lived with or have been helped by Sister Rut, but some say the number that came to stay with her for their lifetime or until they were strong enough was around 140. Let us all be children of Sister Rut, allowing her spirit of love and service to flow through us, hold us close to God's love, and to guide our ways.



Tawanda, Chipo, Talent, Febbie, Catherine, Knowledge, Tino