



# MARCH 2011

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## The Nyadire Connection

For several years, Pittsburgh area churches have supported the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe in a variety of ways. After eighteen United Methodists traveled to Nyadire in July/August 2006, they formed The Nyadire Connection (TNC) which seeks to organize and facilitate ongoing support for Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe. This newsletter helps to keep informed those interested in Nyadire. Please email the [Kimberly Greway](mailto:Kimberly.Greway@nyadire.org) with the emails of those who wish to receive

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## WPA Cabinet takes a trip to Zimbabwe

The United Methodist Church is responding with Christ-like compassion to a worldwide effort to end malaria deaths in Africa. This ministry, called IMAGINE NO MALARIA, is an extraordinary effort to raise \$75 million to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. This comprehensive approach to beating malaria will engage the passion of 11.5 million Methodists worldwide who, together with their partners, will empower an entire continent to achieve a sustainable victory over malaria through prevention, education, communication, and treatment. Progress is being made as child deaths have decreased from one every 30 seconds to one each 45 seconds.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton and a team of thirteen District Superintendents and staff of the Western PA United Methodist Conference visited the United Methodist Mission at Nyadire in early December on their first stop in making IMAGINE NO MALARIA a reality in rural Zimbabwe. Five thousand nets were distributed in the area, with many thousands more to come in the near future.



Bishop Bickerton and his team

Bishop Bickerton's team participated in a demonstration of how the nets will be distributed and the follow up needed to insure proper use. Each team member

was matched with a counterpart in Zimbabwe with whom they lived and shadowed for three days. The group also attended both the East and West Annual Conference meetings of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area and visited several clinics, hospitals, schools and churches across Zimbabwe.

"What an amazing experience this trip to Zimbabwe has been for me and for our entire team," said Kane District Superintendent Thomas Q. Strandburg. "I have been inspired by the Zimbabwean church's dedication to making disciples of Jesus Christ, to planting new churches and to strengthening the partnership between lay and clergy leaders in aspects of ministry."

"A few months ago a mother and a pastor from Western Pennsylvania prayed over the life of a five-year old girl struggling to survive in the Nyadire United Methodist Hospital. Today, she is healthy, jabbering to me in 'Shona' and playing with the ribbons on her tattered yellow dress. Livonia has been made well. God answers the prayers of patients all over the world-prayers for health, children no matter where they are born. And this week, Livonia's family received a bed net. Thanks be to God." commented Laura Meengs, Field Coordinator, "Imagine No Malaria" Campaign

Western PA Zimbabwe Coordinator Sandra Matoushaya and Livonia



## Sponsorship and Donation

### Sponsorships:

Home of Hope - To sponsor a child at he Home of Hope, contact Mary Beth Zollars at [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com)

Home of Hope Outreach - To provide an educational sponsorship for a child in the Nyadire region contact Mary Beth Zollars at [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com)

Pastor Sponsorship - To sponsor a Methodist pastor in the Nyadire region (Mutoko Mudzi district) contact Becky Marshall at [rebeccamarshall3@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccamarshall3@gmail.com)

Volunteer in Mission Trip Application  
<http://www.nyadire.org/pages/Application2009.pdf>  
 Complete and send to Kimberly Greway. [info@nyadire.org](mailto:info@nyadire.org)

### Donations:

Your donations to **The Nyadire Connection** are tax deductible and will help greatly in bringing needed services and help to Nyadire.

Click on the button on the right to make a donation through PayPal. If you don't have a PayPal account, you may use a credit card. All electronic donations are made through a secure server.



## Imagining with the Home of Hope Outreach Program

Many of you reading this newsletter are sponsors for the Outreach Program, formally known as the Home of Hope Outreach Program. This is the school sponsorship program for orphans living in and around Nyadire, who are NOT living in the orphanage, but rather with extended family or on their own.



In July 2010, both Volunteer In Mission Teams assisted in updating the lists at the 10 different schools, as well as the Hearing Impaired Program at Nyadire.

**Imagine** a pick up truck loaded with 10-12 people - a mixture of Nyadire folk and VIM team members bouncing along the dirt roads, turning onto wide dirt paths, finally locating the school.

**Imagine** this team tumbling out with cameras, white boards, dry-erase markers, and big wide-eyes.



**Imagine** hundreds of children scurrying to the assembly area, listening to their headmaster welcome the visitors.

**Imagine** those children waiting for hours, waiting for their name to found on the list or for the chance that their name might be added.

**Imagine** that all 500 of them have a chance to continue their education to the fullest

extent possible. That depends on each and every one of us to **reach out** and support them for only \$60 and a backpack per year for as long as they are able to stay in school.



## Home of Hope Outreach Garage Sale

Fifteen more orphans in rural schools neighboring the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire will be able to attend school for a year as a result of a successful garage sale netting around \$1,000. Organized and hosted by TNC supporter, Marilyn Gilman, the sale was made possible by many donors of goods and items and happy buyers who found bargains and an opportunity to know about the Home of Hope Outreach (HOHO) program. HOHO hopes to be able to pay the school fees of 500 rural orphans for a year. For more information on how to help, contact Mary Beth Zollars, mbzollars@aol.com.

## Seeds of Hope

About 3000 packets of seeds were carried back to Zimbabwe by Joyce and Julius Tsigia in time for planting season in Nyadire. TNC member Jim Howell organized the collection of seeds, the major contribution coming from the Burpee Company. Several churches, Rollier's and Miller's Hardware, and Parkside Dollar Store also donated seeds that were carried over earlier this fall. Rev. Memory Chikoksi-Zivira, the station chair of the Nyadire Mission will develop a plan for distribution of seeds throughout the mission.



With the new fence constructed by the August Mission Team, the Home of Hope will be able to plant a greatly expanded garden, providing much food for the children. The vegetables will also be sold to generate revenue.

## March Mission Team

Please pray for the March Mission Team as they travel to the UM Nyadire Mission in Zimbabwe Feb. 28 – March 13. The team, consisting of Drew Harvey, Mark LaRosa, his daughter, Jackie, and Mary Beth Zollars, will assist with the distribution and set up of the contents of the container sent from Pittsburgh in December. Fourteen hospital beds will replace outgrown beds at the Home of Hope.

The team also hopes to work on strategic plans/budgeting for the Home of Hope Orphanage, including the repairs of the building. All are looking forward to distributing backpacks, also in the container, to the Outreach children in neighboring villages. One of the team's best responsibilities is playing mail carrier, delivering letters to the Home of Hope Orphanage and also the Outreach children and collecting letters to bring back to their sponsors.

## Dr. Larry Tanyanyiwa Joins Staff at Nyadire Hospital

Dr. Larry Tanyanyiwa, 28, has accepted the position as Nyadire Hospital for at least two years and is busy doing the usual doctor rounds, caring and procedures, including C sections and other minor surgeries.

Born in Zimbabwe, Zaka District, he attended Primary School in Gweru and High School at Dadaya HS at Zvishavane at a Church of Christ Mission. Dr. Tanyanyiwa attended Medical School at the University of Zimbabwe, 2002-2007 followed by an Internship at Parirenyatwa's Central Hospital in Harare. He was looking for an assignment at a mission hospital and aspires to be a public health general practitioner in the future.



Dr. Tanyanyiwa

## Nyadire Chaplain and Matron visit Western PA

Relationships matter.

Most people bring home a souvenir when they travel. Imagine bringing back a defibrillator to your hospital when you return to Zimbabwe from the U.S. some 8,000 miles away.

Rev. Julius Tsiga, chaplain to the Nyadire Hospital in Zimbabwe, and his wife, Joyce, matron of the same hospital had this experience at the conclusion of their trip to the U.S. in November. After visiting their sons in VA, IN, and TN, the Tsigas came to Pittsburgh to connect with friends of the Nyadire Connection (TNC.)



The Tsigas visited with many TNC folks, spoke in many churches, went sightseeing, and visited organizations that regularly send hospital supplies and equipment to Zimbabwe. One of these was Tri-Community South Emergency Services (EMS) who has made other contributions to the Nyadire Hospital. On this trip, the Tsigas received an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) from Tri-Community EMS director, Nora Helfrich and supervisor, John Bower. John's wife, Sue Bower, an emergency room nurse at Jefferson Regional Hospital, is a member of The Nyadire Connection. She was on the original trip in 2006 and has returned to Nyadire twice. Sue made this observation, "It's amazing to see a functioning hospital using the most basic equipment. We are very spoiled in this country with all that we have. To acquire an AED, plus extra supplies will make a huge difference in the lives of those on the mission."

John Bower took the Tsigas on a tour of the ambulance service's base and their vehicles. The Tsigas noted that patients arrive to the hospital at Nyadire in anything from a wheelbarrow to an oxcart. The Nyadire Hospital also has a vehicle called an ambulance that is used to transfer patients to a larger hospital if necessary. The vehicle is one of the few vehicles on the mission. When exploring one of the Tri-Community ambulances, Joyce exclaimed, "I want this one!"

Representing their mission, Joyce and Julius Tsiga, expressed their gratitude for the help of Tri-Community Services and The Nyadire

Connection in making their medical needs come true.



### Container Shipment

An ocean going container left Pittsburgh late February bound for Zimbabwe thanks to Brothers' Brother, who is paying the shipping costs and waving fees.

The non-profit organization has offered to send two containers in an effort to expand its work to Africa. Brothers' Brother is looking at Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Liberia as possible countries.

The contents of the container now in transit will be shared between three hospitals that routinely receive supplies and equipment. One-half of the current container will be filled with 15,000 birthing kits. Assembled and donated by different Methodist churches, each kit contains items that will allow women in remote areas to give birth with some amount of sanitation. And each kit is in a one gallon Zip Lock plastic bag! Julie Warren, a delivery room nurse, heads this project whose goal is reducing infant mortality. Julie will travel to Zimbabwe this summer and direct the distribution of the kits and also train people in their use.

Also in the container are two Mission Utility Vehicles (MUV.) They were donated by Lee Miller in Johnstown, PA. His company has been making these vehicles for work in missions in developing countries for twenty years. The MUVs are three-wheeled, rugged and have single cylinder engines.



Lee Miller

The vehicles have beds on the back for hauling and also have a water pump and a generator to provide electricity.

Donated medical supplies and many boxes of handmade blankets from groups as close as Mt. Lebanon UMC Hearts and Hands and as far as upstate NY were also sent.

A group of volunteers filled backpacks with school supplies in a BIG BACKPACK PACK UP for the Home of Hope Outreach School Sponsorship Program on Friday, Feb. 18, in time for the backpacks to be included in the container shipment. Donated medical supplies and many boxes of handmade blankets from groups as close as Mt. Lebanon Hearts and Hands and as far upstate NY will also be sent.

The container sent in December is now in Harare and will soon be Nyadire. Among the contents are two operating tables, three surgical lights, and one autoclave. These items were purchased jointly by General Board of Global Ministries and The Nyadire Connection from Chosen in Erie, PA. Chosen is an organization that refurbishes medical equipment. These medical items are significant as they will be set up as an emergency operating theatre at Nyadire Hospital. Fourteen hospital beds will replace outgrown beds at the Home of Hope.

**An Order of Medications and Pharmaceuticals** has been placed and will soon be delivered to Nyadire Hospital.

### Did you Know ?

Christ UM youth group designed a banner to help people visualize how many people die from malaria each year. Statistics came from WHO. Red is Africa, purple is Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Pacific island nations), yellow is Latin America, and green is Asia. Each fingerprint represents 100 people.



## TNC and INM February Focus at Christ Church

Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park dedicated the month of February to Africa, with a particular focus on Imagine No Malaria and The Nyadire Connection. The hope was to raise significant funds and to provide an in-depth educational opportunity. Speakers, events, concerts and programs were organized throughout the month.

Highlights of the February Program Included:

**February 2 - *The Nyadire Connection (TNC) / Imagine No Malaria (INM) Overview*** – Rev. Kimberly Greway

**February 5 and 6 - Bishop Thomas Bickerton to Preach**

**February 6 - *Why All This Talk about Zimbabwe?*** - Drew Harvey

**February 9 - *What Effective Help and Ministry Looks Like*** – Bob Lewis

**February 12 and 13 - Rev. Eric Park to Preach -**

**February 13 - *Today's Africa and How It Got That Way*** - Dr. Macrina Lelei, University of Pittsburgh professor

**February 16 - *A Day in the Life (contrasting a day in Nyadire, Zimbabwe with a day in Pittsburgh)*** – Annamore Matambanadzo and Mark LaRosa

**February 19 - *ZIM JAM Concert*** - Dinner and a concert with Eric & Tara Park

**February 19 and 20 - *Rev. R. Duane Thompson to Preach***

**February 20 - *Imagine No Malaria*** - Shannon Trilli (UMCOR) and Sara Dickey

**February 23 - *What is God Asking? (discussion of the gap between the impoverished & the wealthy)*** - Dr. Brian Bauknight

**February 27 - *Mission: What is the Priority & How Do Christians Respond?*** - Daniel Aleshire

## CD Sales to eliminate Malaria and further the work of TNC



The setting - a hospital in the village of Ankaase in Ghana, West Africa.

The characters - a young United Methodist pastor from western PA; a mother and her small child both being treated for malaria.

The action - a prayer, mother's tears.

The ending - there is none. The story continues.

Eric Park, now the District Superintendent of the Washington, PA United Methodist District, wrote the song, "Poorer than These," after that incident in Ghana. "That experience was transformational. I was confronted with my own poverty – a spiritual poverty in which I'm enslaved by my own gluttony for the things I want, but don't really need."

"Poorer than These" is the first song on the CD, 'Glutton's Graffiti,' that Eric and his wife, Tara, have recently released. Nine of the ten songs on the CD were written by Eric and are based on Eric and Tara's life experiences – Eric's love for Tara, his desire to play as he handles serious work issues, his father's Alzheimer's. Their melodic pop/rock style and lyrics reach listeners where they are. "Music has become my primary way of dealing cathartically and interpretively with the circumstances of my life," explained Eric.

All proceeds from their CD sales will go to support life-saving ministry in African countries, half going to the *Imagine No Malaria (www.ImagineNoMalaria.org)*, a global initiative of The United Methodist Church to eliminate death and suffering from malaria by 2015. The other half will go to *The Nyadire Connection (www.nyadire.org)*, a group of volunteers in western PA that supports the hospital, nursing school, orphanage, and education programs at the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in rural Zimbabwe. Eric, along with Western PA United Methodist Bishop Thomas Bickerton and his Cabinet, had an opportunity to visit Nyadire and other parts of Zimbabwe last December. Commenting on *INM* efforts to eradicate malaria, Eric said, "I don't think first of dollars and bed nets as important as they are. I think of that mother and child... and the realization that millions of our African brothers and sisters are suffering with a disease that is perfectly preventable and treatable." For more information on the CD, visit [www.gluttonsgraffiti.com](http://www.gluttonsgraffiti.com).

Zim Jam 2011 offered an opportunity for the local community to hear Eric and Tara Park and their songs from their CD in an event that will benefit Imagine No Malaria and The Nyadire Connection. And the really good news is that Zim Jam 2011 dinner, concert, special sales, and sales from the Parks' CD netted \$9,710 to be split between TNC and the INM campaign.

Great thanks to Mark LaRosa who chaired the event and the many, many people who helped to make the evening such a success.

THE NYADIRE CONNECTION AND  
IMAGINE NO MALARIA PRESENTS

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC PROVIDED BY  
TARA & ERIC PARK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011  
6:00PM DINNER,  
8:00PM CONCERT

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DINNER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER,  
CONCERT IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

<p><b>DINNER &amp; CONCERT TICKETS \$15 each</b></p> <p>OR purchase a table ticket by contacting Eric Park</p> <p><b>CONCERT TICKETS \$10 each</b></p> <p>Tickets available in the CHURCH OFFICE until 10:00AM</p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE at the BAPT</b> 1000 15th Street, Suite 100 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (412) 341-2222</p>	<p><b>Bring Your Friends Along US For a Buffet Dinner First \$1000</b></p> <p>and purchase your own tickets</p> <p>Concert tickets of \$1000</p> <p>Eric &amp; Tara will be available to sign autographs and take photos with you at the church</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE at the BAPT</p>
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