



The Nyadire Connection

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

VOLUME 29

www.nyadire.org

February 2022

TNC Anniversary Celebration Draws Full House At Dutilh

TNC celebrated its 15th anniversary in November 2021 at Dutilh UM Church in Cranberry Township.

The event included special guests from Nyadire by video, an auction to raise money for TNC's programs, and presentations by members of our new leadership team. We also honored and recognized long-time leaders **Drew Harvey**, chairman, and **Richard Dickey**, finance director, for their many years of service.



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Service Opportunities: Eyeglasses and VIM Trips

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

If you're looking for ways to use your gifts to serve others through international missions, we're looking for you! By coordinating our efforts with many local churches and our friends/partners in Zimbabwe, TNC can offer you a wide variety of opportunities to serve. Current opportunities include leadership positions with our **Faith Geer Memorial Eyeglasses** program and our **Volunteer-in-Mission** trip program.

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TNC Leadership Profile: Ralph Duckworth

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of profiles about TNC's Leadership Team, highlighting their roles and why they are involved in TNC.

Hometown: Born in Cleveland, Ohio and currently resides in Freedom, Pa.

TNC Role: I joined TNC in 2013 and helped initiate the **Rural Clinic Revitalization Program**, which continues to be my passion; I've led this program since 2013. In January 2022 I assumed the role of TNC Chairman and Director-Strategic Outreach.

What is your profession and how has that helped in your TNC

role: I am a (mostly) retired CPA and financial advisor. I believe that my professional work experience allowed me to develop organizational skills and an ability to think "outside of the box" to arrive at solutions to problems. In taxes and financial planning, no two clients or situations are exactly the same, so you have to be knowledgeable and creative to find a plan that will work for your client. The same is true for rebuilding the clinics, from raising monies to fund the projects, to coordinating efforts with UM Church officials halfway around the world in Zimbabwe, to developing ways to pay our contractors and suppliers in Zimbabwe.

How and why did you get involved with TNC: In 2012, the Men's Group at **Dutilh UMC** decided they wanted to start a program of drilling water wells in Africa, because water is a very scarce resource there. My wife, Jan, suggested that we get in contact with a co-worker of hers: **Chuck Billerbeck**, who was active in a group that was doing missionary work in Zimbabwe. He explained what TNC was and what some of their programs in Nyadire were accomplishing and suggested I get in touch with **Drew Harvey**, TNC's then-Chairman. Drew and I discussed various

ways that Dutilh could support the Methodist Mission in Nyadire. We knew that the six rural medical clinics affiliated with the hospital in Nyadire were in desperate need of repairs and improvements, including water wells. In April 2013, Drew, **Sara Dickey** and I went to Zimbabwe, visited all six clinics and were jarred to see just how primitive the clinics were: no running water, little or no electricity, inadequate facilities, lack of sleeping accommodations for the pregnant women who walked for miles to deliver their babies at the clinics. So the water well project morphed into a plan to rebuild all six clinics.



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TNC Leadership Profile: Ralph Duckworth...

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Why do you think TNC has been so successful: First, the dedication of the volunteers who lead our programs and those who travel on the trips; all are very passionate about their work and involvement. Second, TNC's philosophy that our relationship with the people of Nyadire is one of partnerships and friendships. It's not a situation where we are doing this or that for them or giving this or that to them; we work *with* them. For example, the local communities provide the bricks, sand, gravel and aggregate (usually carried in baskets balanced on top of their heads) for the clinics. They have a role to play and are part of the team. Third, the affiliation of TNC with the UM Church provides a strong faith-based framework for TNC's work. This relationship has allowed us to reach out to many churches for volunteers, fund raising, and other support. We have received strong support from individual churches as well as the Pittsburgh District.



What do you like best about TNC: Working with like-minded people who are all trying to make a difference in the world. I enjoy going to Zimbabwe and seeing how we have impacted the lives of thousands of people.

How many times have you been to Nyadire and what's your favorite part about the trip: Four times, and I hope to go again soon. In addition to seeing the changes that we have helped bring about in the quality of people's lives, I like renewing friendships and relationships there.

How has your involvement with TNC helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ: I have grown to be more thankful for how God has so abundantly blessed my family and me, and to realize that you can be joyful and thankful without having material possessions and great financial wealth. I am always humbled when I see some of the poorest people on the planet celebrate God as though they didn't have a care in the world. These folks are miles ahead of me in terms of their absolute faith in God.

What Bible verse(s) inspired you to become involved in TNC: Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" I do not believe that Jesus is talking about people who are somehow inferior or beneath the rest of us. I believe that he is commanding us to lift up our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate, who have less standing in the community, who are hungry, who need to be clothed, who are sick, who have less political power. We are to use our blessings to help those who have not had the advantages and privileges that we have benefited from.

What's your message to anyone who's considering a trip: Just do it! Come to a TNC meeting or reach out to us, and we'll tell you about our experiences and how rewarding they have been.

TNC Anniversary Celebration...

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If you'd like to watch a video recording of this exciting evening, click on this link:

<https://vimeo.com/645770150>

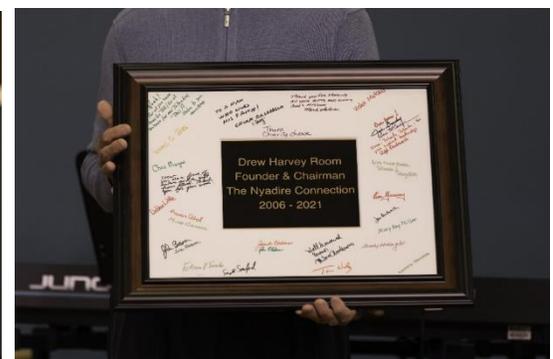
The pre-program videos and music begin at about the 7:30 mark on the recording and include the "Blessings Zimbabwe" song, along with clips showing our first trip to Nyadire in 2006. After the pre-program videos, you can view the following highlights at the approximate times posted below:



- 44:00 Formal program begins
- 46:00 Special video greeting from Drew Harvey
- 59:00 First trip memories – from Pittsburgh and Zimbabwe
- 1:22:00 Zimbabwe leaders discuss major TNC accomplishments
- 1:31:00 TNC's "Forward 15" strategy
- 1:45:00 Zimbabwe leaders discuss Nyadire future
- 1:53:00 Zimbabwe Bishop Nhiwatiwa speaks at clinic dedication
- 1:55:00 Presentation of gifts to Drew Harvey/Richard Dickey

We would like to thank Dutilh's **Tom Parkinson**, senior pastor, and **Jim Gascoine**, associate pastor, for hosting the event. Special thanks go to others at Dutilh for their help and support: **Susan Boddy** and her kitchen ministry; **Matt Cosgrove**, media coordinator; and **Jenny Monahan**, director of marketing and communications. In addition, we want to thank **Liz Lennox**, communications and social media coordinator for the Western PA Conference, for designing our program materials; and **Dave Hochendoner** for taking the photos of the event used in this newsletter (www.davehochendonerphotography.com).

We look forward to the next 15 years with excitement, energy and passion!



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TNC Anniversary Celebration...

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TNC Featured on “Meet in the Middle” Podcast

TNC and former Chairman **Drew Harvey** were featured recently on the “Meet in the Middle” podcast, hosted by **Rev. Paul Ritchey**, Greensburg (Pa.) District Superintendent.

During the conversation, Rev. Ritchey discussed TNC and the Zimbabwe Partnership with Drew and **Sandra Matoushaya**, the Western PA Conference Missional Engagement Coordinator. They talked about how TNC and the Zim Partnership developed, what’s been accomplished, and plans for the future.

To listen to the podcast, click on this link:

<https://meetinthemiddle.buzzsprout.com/1838961/9939814-maintaining-the-nyadire-andzimbabwe-connections>

Service Opportunities...

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Faith Geer Memorial Eyeglasses Program Leader

If you're interested in helping people with impaired vision to improve their eyesight, you might want to consider leading this program. In this position, you would: Communicate regularly with program partners in Zimbabwe (mainly through email, WhatsApp and Zoom) to monitor progress and determine support needs; report on program progress during TNC's monthly Zoom meetings; become trained through Mission Vision to conduct eye exams; facilitate collection of eyeglasses with Mission Vision, including placing bins in churches and community locations (e.g., ophthalmologist offices, schools); build a team to clean and prepare glasses for international use; share the program's story and needs with local churches; and secure program funding, with help from TNC network. Travel to Zimbabwe is optional.

Volunteer-in-Mission Program Leader

If you're interested in creating opportunities for people to build lasting relationships with our friends in Zimbabwe, you might want to consider leading this program. In this position, you would: Coordinate trip logistics with the local Nyadire Program Leader (including appropriate dates and trip size, accommodations, transportation, team projects), communicate trip announcements, solicit travelers and review trip applications, and plan pre-trip trainings (using VIM Team Training Manual). Occasional travel to Zimbabwe is strongly suggested so that you have an opportunity to build local relationships and can share your experiences with other potential travelers.

For more information...

If you'd like to hear more about these opportunities, please contact **Sandy McKnight**, TNC's Director-Administration and Programs, at 412-585-2361, or sandy_mcknight@hotmail.com

Zim VIM Trippers Hoping For Summer Travel

TNC is hoping to organize a **Volunteer-in-Mission** trip to Zimbabwe this summer.

We're looking for volunteers with a wide range of skills in the areas of education, ministry, agriculture, health, maintenance, and more. There are endless opportunities to engage in cross-cultural relationships, develop partnership programs, serve God and others, and grow spiritually.

If you are interested in joining this team or hope to learn more, contact **Molly Michael** at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com



Program Highlights From TNC's January Meeting

Each month, TNC leaders gather – we've been using Zoom calls for the past year or so – to review our programs and discuss future plans. Below are highlights from our recent meeting:

Health Area

- Eyeglasses: Four Zimbabwean technicians held successful clinics, serving 1,072 patients, in December at Nyadire, Dendera, Chikwizo and Nyahuku.
- Ocean Container Shipments: In coordination with **Brother's Brother Foundation**, we shipped a 40-foot container last year and the contents have been delivered to Nyadire, after a delay in receiving customs clearance. At this time, we do not plan to ship additional containers and will carry smaller items in the luggage of VIM teams.
- Girl Empowerment: The program continues at **Nyadire Waiting Mothers** shelter but Covid outbreaks are slowing activities.
- Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: We are awaiting cost estimates and



specifications for the **Chindenga Clinic** from the conference engineer in Harare. This is the final of six clinics to be renovated...In November, Zimbabwe **Bishop Eben K. Nhwatiwa** attended dedication ceremonies for clinics in **Mashambanhaka** and **Dindi**. TNC's **Ralph Duckworth** also attended.

- Hospital and Pharmacy: TNC has combined the Medical and Doctor Support and the Medicine and Drug Supply programs into this newly named program. **Mark LaRosa**, who previously led the health area for TNC, returns as the

program leader. Mark has an extensive background in hospital administration and has been to Nyadire several times. Current topics Mark will be reviewing with **Dr. Larry Tanyanyiwa** include the necessary repairs to the **School of Nursing** ceilings, the breakdown of the Nyadire mortuary, a chemistry analyzer machine that need service, and the replacement of batteries for the hospital solar panels.

Education and Relationships Area

- Engineers Without Borders/CMU: For the **biogas digester** project, the students submitted a 36-page report to the national EWB and are waiting for approval. Once this is approved, work with the contractor will proceed with implementation planned for summer 2022. **Christopher Kuwana** will be the contact at Nyadire for the installation. The EWB student chapter will completely fund the project.

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Program Highlights From TNC's January Meeting...

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- Hearing Innovation: The program needs more sponsors, especially because we are now trying to assist learners with secondary schooling...We are collecting items for a “boarding kit” to be carried over with a 2022 VIM team. Items would include essentials such as socks, underwear, toothbrushes, hand towels, and deodorant.
- Volunteer-in-Mission trips: We are in the early stages of organizing a June/July VIM team, so stay tuned for more details...The donation list of items to carry over include several hand-knitted caps donated by **Diane Morris**, and the “Dress A Girl” group will have dresses/britches available...If you are interested in leading or co-leading a future team, please advise program leader **Molly Michael** at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com. We will continue to monitor any COVID-related restrictions.
- Sister Rut Scholarships: We are revitalizing the scholarship crowd-funding campaign to generate interest and obtain more funding, and exploring a grant through the **Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair - Bethel Park**...See complete updates on the students in our January meeting minutes.

Orphans Area

- Home of Hope: **Christ Kids** (CUMC Sunday School & Youth) collected \$500 for the orphanage, and **CUMC Outreach** contributed another \$500. HOH Director **Emmanuel Chiimba** and TNC's **Mary Beth Zollars**, our program leader, will be discussing how to invest the funds.
- Home of Hope Outreach: **St. Paul's UMC** finished its renewal with 108 orphans sponsored. Many thanks to **Tom Greway**.



If You Have Newsletter Story/Photo Ideas...

In our newsletter, TNC strives to highlight a variety of our programs, and the efforts of our network churches and other supporters. If you have story/photo ideas that you would like us to consider for publication, please submit them to **Tim Wesley**, at timwesley61@zoominternet.net