



The Nyadire Connection

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.

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www.nyadire.org

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Dendera Clinic Construction Moving Forward

Members of Christ UMC in Bethel Park are GIVING HOPE to our friends in Zimbabwe by funding the renovation of Dendera, the third of six rural health clinic projects that TNC is supporting. The Dendera project is currently set to be completed in the spring.

Before beginning this ambitious program, TNC asked the Zimbabwe Methodist Health Board to

establish a standard of care model for rural clinics. Chikwizo was the first clinic to be refurbished, and it was dedicated in July 2014. Nyahuku Clinic had to be torn down and rebuilt. Dedication of Nyahuku took place recently – November 2016. This clinic also provided housing for two nurses and two nurses' aides. After these clinics were



completed, TNC required an assessment by the Health Board before moving on to Dendera to assess whether the clinics made a difference in the health of the people they served. The report contained statistics of patient count and interviews, diseases, etc. – all of which confirmed improvement in the health of the communities.

Construction at Dendera began in late September 2016 with Hama, as he is called, as the contractor. Hama, who also worked on Chikwizo and Nyahuku, selects his crew from the area, and they camp on the site and have their own cook. The Dendera Community is responsible for making all the bricks and for the security of the site. The dominant work is brickwork - digging the foundation (by hand) and laying brick for walls. Rev. Austern Chepiri, Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Projects Coordinator, wrote: "We are grateful for the support of the Dendera Clinic that is witnessing the hand of God especially during the economic challenges we are facing ... There is no more relevant Christmas gift to the Dendera community than this life changing facility."

Recent Mission Trips Focused On Health Care, Relationships

TNC sponsored mission trips to Zimbabwe in November 2016 and January 2017, with both trips focused on health care and building relationships.



In January, a team of five, including Mark LaRosa and his son Tony (shown at left), Sandy McKnight and two professors from Grove City College (Andrew Markley and Mike Bright) made the trip. The primary purpose of the visit was to introduce Grove City to Nyadire. The trip was very successful and identified many opportunities for ongoing service work and program connections between GCC, TNC, Nyadire, and Africa University. TNC is discussing extended term summer mission trips with several students.

The two GCC professors offered some of their impressions as “first-time visitors”:

- The Zimbabwe people were incredibly hospitable and very dedicated to education.
- Leadership at Nyadire is impressive and capable, and the trip exceeded expectations.
- TNC has an excellent reputation at Nyadire and the model works exceptionally well.
- There is much synergy and future opportunity for GCC, TNC, and Nyadire.
- All is firmly grounded in prayer and the Lord is working strongly at Nyadire.

Shown at right are: Station Chair, Rev. Lancelot Mukundu, (left) Rev. Forbes Matonga, Andrew Markley and Mike Bright with Rosemary Nyarugwe (seated), principal of Nyadire Teachers College.



In November 2016, Ralph Duckworth and Don Ziegler of Dutilh UMC visited Nyadire. Among their many activities, Ralph attended the dedication of the Nyahuku clinic, where he saw many grateful mothers with their newborn babies; and Don conducted vision testing clinics and provided eyeglasses to about 900 patients.

TNC Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary With “Best People”

Anyone listening to the conversations at The Nyadire Connection’s 10th Anniversary Celebration in September 2016 would have heard this phrase over and over: “You meet the best people doing work like this.”

And the list of “best people” could look like this:

- Those you meet on a mission trip (folks in Nyadire and those on mission teams.)
- Rev. Julius and wife, Joyce, who welcomed the first mission trip in 2006 and many more afterwards. They wanted to attend the 10th anniversary party and DID!
- Members of other churches, organizations, and businesses who support TNC.



- Those who sponsor orphans and provide for their care at the Home of Hope and those who make school a reality for those orphans who attend rural schools near Nyadire. Ditto for paying for O-Level textbooks and exams.
- Those who work alongside – packing backpacks, collecting hospital supplies/items, selling crafts a/o candy or tickets to the Rotary Chicken Dinner, golf outing, etc., doing presentations.
- The CUMC staff and custodial personnel, who provide space, support in a

hundred different ways.

- Other partnerships (Brothers’ Brother, Global Links, Engineers Without Borders, several local rotary clubs, Computer Reach, various schools & groups).
- Folks who call and ask if TNC can use whatever - discarded reading programs, textbooks, choir robes, pastors’ study materials, children’s books, toothbrushes and toothpaste, office supplies, early childhood resources/materials.
- Those individuals who provide storage and packing boxes for container shipments.
- The leadership of Drew Harvey whose passion and vision has made the relationship between people and programs 8,400 miles apart a “GO” for both parties.
- And many thanks to Sue and John Bower for organizing this celebration and for Chef Gary for a delicious meal.

Students Grateful For “O” Level Book Program



Thanks to the many who support the “O” LEVEL BOOK PROGRAM, 102 Accounting Books were distributed to rural schools to help Home of Hope Outreach students to prepare for their “O” Level exams. Students are grateful to have these books available as they more than likely had to share one book prior to the inception of this program. Home of Hope administrator, Emmanuel Chiimba, supervised the distribution and “made it clear that the books belong to the schools

and not individuals,” stated Sandy McKnight, program head and a member of the January Mission Team. Sandy was able to photograph students arriving (above) for the service project - weeding the newly planted Home of Hope garden. “The concept of sharing the responsibility of providing books is one that meshes well with their culture,” noted Sandy. “One group came without a teacher, and we were impressed with how well they worked without supervision.” Contributions to the program are always welcome. Send to CUMC, 66 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102. Memo – “O – Level Books.”

Sandy McKnight, a member of the January Mission Team, shared this photo of the Home of Hope children, some of whom were at the HOH when the first mission team visited Nyadire in July 2007: L-R: Winnet, Little Tino, Kelvin, Big Tino, Tananswa (green shirt), Tanaka (blue/black), Perseverance (back, white shirt), Beauty (center, red shirt), Dorcas and Dorothy, twins, front, Nyasha (boy, yellow shirt, back), Nyasha (girl skirt, front), Tatenda (dress, front right), Bright and (far right with red dress).



New Home of Hope Construction Progressing



The January Mission Team reported on the construction of the new **HOME OF HOPE**, financed by the Finland government. (You may recall Finland built the original HOME OF HOPE.) Plans are for two buildings for housing, each with two identical wings. Each wing has a kitchen and living space plus showers, a bathtub, and 2 toilets, and 5 bedrooms – one bedroom for 2 mothers and 4 bedrooms for children. The next housing unit may be started soon as bricks are available.

St. Andrew's UMC in Mississippi has provided an underground borehole with a small solar panel to pump water to the existing water tank. Since the panel has proven to be inadequate, hope for 3 solar panels are needed. Initial plans for the OLD HOH are rental to students of the Teachers' College with the future possibility of use for student training in practical subjects such as agriculture for HOH and Hearing Impaired Children.



A new ambulance is in place at Nyadire Hospital after a long wait in customs (Oct. – Jan.) Thanks to Jon Lovland in Finland, who had great memories of the Nyadire Mission, the ambulance became a reality.

Baldwin UMC Sponsors Hearing Impaired Program

In 1994, the Hearing Impaired Resource Unit was introduced to the Nyadire Primary School with the help of the community, church, and Ministry of Education. It serves as a special education school for children in the Mashonaland East Province. Students not only learn and perfect Zimbabwean Sign Language, but they also learn life skills such as art and crafts, market gardening, welding, fashion and fabrics, and carpentry. The opportunity to receive an education gives students an identity and voice, teaches self-reliance, provides meaningful purpose, and most importantly encourages friendship, value, and goals.

The Hearing Impaired program gives these children – who otherwise may be “beggars, vagrants, or farm laborers,” according to a teacher in the program – the opportunity to learn, build self-esteem, and become a contributing part the community. The program also takes a stand against a negative social attitude toward anyone with a special need. And it gives the children the opportunity to receive academic and vocational training and the privilege to attend school.



Unfortunately, there is a fee to attend school, and uniforms are mandatory along with boarding fees since the students travel from a long distance to attend this specialized program. Through TNC, Baldwin UMC offers two ways you can help: Make an annual donation of \$125 for school fees & pack a backpack of school supplies (or donate \$150 which includes the backpack); or donate \$20 per month towards fees for room and board. Either way, you can also become a pen-pal with the student you sponsor.

For more information on how to support a student with a hearing impairment contact Molly Michael at 412-805-6481 or Mollyalice.michael@gmail.com

Jimmy V. Sponsors Distribution Of 900 Bibles

TNC's most recent container shipment included boxes of new Bibles purchased by Jimmy VanderSchoor, a long-time TNC friend and supporter who lives in Nyadire.

In February, those 900 Bibles were distributed at church primarily to the college students, some other students, and also to any adult that wanted one.

This is the second time Jimmy has purchased and awarded Bibles, and we're grateful for his support!

Jimmy also reported that the next container has arrived, filled with furnishings for Dendera and the other Health Clinics.



Let's Not Forget the Passion

By Phil Himmler

(Composed in 2006 while on a flight returning from a mission trip to Zimbabwe)

Let's not forget the passion that we felt in Zimbabwe
There, we saw unbridled love in the people we saw each day
In poverty, their joy glowed a golden sheen which inspired a hope,
A dream clearly seen.

Let's keep the dream alive as the hope within us grows
To see their lives improve as God's grace through us bestows.
There is within potential to make this dream come true
If we pray to our God, then pursue.

Random Act Of Kindness Reaches Nyadire Children

Diane Welty and husband, Jack, are long-time supporters of TNC, packing backpacks, sorting letters, sponsoring children. Diane has made several mission trips to Nyadire and her story about a random act of kindness appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:

“Recently my husband and I were buying school supplies to fill backpacks for school children in Zimbabwe. A lady behind us in the checkout line asked about our filled cart. After we explained about the orphan school sponsorship program we were supporting, she handed me \$30, saying she wished it could be more. After our purchases had been rung up, totaling \$82, the woman insisted she would cover the total with her credit card. When I tried to at least return her original \$30, she told me to buy something else with it. We’ve heard about things like this happening to other people, but we never expected it to happen to us. What a blessing. God is good.”

Interested In Going On A Mission Trip To Zimbabwe?

In 2017, teams through The Nyadire Connection (www.nyadire.org) will be traveling to The Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe, Africa to serve God and help others. We are looking for volunteers with a wide range of skills such as reading with a child, participating in a pastor’s workshop, assisting with maintenance, Bible School, or helping at the hospital. There are endless opportunities to fit with the skills of the team members and projects are adjusted to the current needs of the mission.

If you are interested, please contact Molly Michael at mollyalice.michael@gmail.com for more information.

SAVE THE DATES: May 19-20

The Nyadire Connection Home of Hope Rummage Sale

Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Dr., Bethel Park

Donations accepted from 10 am to 6 pm, May 17 and 18 in B113

(No clothes, large furniture or large appliances please)

\$5 Early Bird Shopping Night: May 19, 5-7 pm

Sale: May 20, 8 am-2 pm

Baked goods available

Volunteers needed to price and set up the sale, assist during the sale, donate baked goods, assist with clean up. Please contact Diane White, 412-257-1696