

TNC Meeting Minutes

Oct. 28, 2024

Rural Clinics -- Chindenga

Ralph Duckworth and Rev. Austern Chepiri

- The total project budget is \$350,680 with \$30,000 being funded by GBGM.
- Phase 3.4 was recently added as a result of ZESA's decision to bring electric service to the area. Phase 3.4 will cover connection fees, meters and other equipment for all of the buildings at the clinic. This is an unbudgeted cost of \$15,517; however, it appears that we have sufficient funds to cover these costs.
- The new projected cost of the Project is \$366,197
- Payments totaling \$3,516 were made during the month as Phase 3.4 got underway. To date, we have made payments of \$310,927 for the project.
- Work during the month included repairing cracked walls and ceilings, painting both internal and external walls, addressing building apron issues, and completing the 2nd phase of electrical and plumbing works for existing structures. Substantial progress was achieved in rewiring electrical cables and installing armored electrical cables and steel supports from the meter board to facilitate easy connection to overhead lines by ZESA. The electrical connection fees were requested by ZESA, leading to the payment of the fees. Additionally, the procurement of electrical prepaid meters has been done, and we are now awaiting ZESA to proceed with the final electrical connection and the installation of electrical prepaid meters for the 10 no. houses.
- To date, the local communities have delivered 190,000 farm bricks, 100 cubic meters of river sand, 80 cubic meters of stones, 260 cubic meters of gravel, and 120 cubic meters of pitsand to the project.
- Phase 3.4 is 75% completed.
- Work planned for November: Final electrical connections and electricity prepaid meters installations by ZESA.
- The dedication ceremony for the clinic has been scheduled for February 22, 2025. I plan on attending.
- Monthly Financial Activity:
 - Balance beginning of the month \$34,574.15
 - Contributions for the month \$ 1,324.00
 - Disbursements for the month \$ 3,516.00
 - Balance end of the month \$32,382.15

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

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

- An outline of requirements from TNC's perspective for a Starlink inquiry and related infrastructure for a Mission wide WiFi was prepared and submitted by Ralph Duckworth to Rev. Mukundu. He quickly expressed his support and will discuss with all department

heads. Robb Montgomery will be the TNC coordinator with Tinashe Chiimba if this progresses.

- Field bore hole pump replacement and solar power addition: Update requested.
- Hospital Power Backup: A proposal to update all hospital solar arrays with new batteries and inverters (~\$20,000 or two ~\$10,000 phases) had been provided with a suggestion for the hospital to pursue Conference or other non-TNC funding. No update but will remain on the report.

Hospital Vehicles

- ACA front leaf spring has been replaced with no TNC funding requested. It is back in service.

EWB (Engineers Without Borders)

- A new student coordinator to the Nyadire community has been selected so all three leadership roles are now filled. The student team has been working on the Pre-Assessment Report with the goal to complete by the end of October. It will then be submitted, along with the Community Application, to EWB National for review and approval. Pending this progress, the student pre-assessment trip is still planned for a late December departure.

HOH Vehicles

- The main HOH vehicle has been out of service due to a broken leaf spring. Christopher has prepared an estimate of \$570 to fix that, some transmission problems along with fluid and filter changes. Tire replacement of \$800-\$900 is expected next year pending progress on vehicle replacement. Several offers to buy Lazarus have been made but not accepted, partially due to needing it until the 2 door Hilux is repaired.

Girl Empowerment

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro, Crescencia Dangarembga

Ongoing Program

- Orientation meeting scheduled for new school leaders on going.
- GEP School team meeting for goal development to be scheduled.
- Imported materials arrived in Beira. Distribution date to be determined.
- Final Update to GBGM Wash grant in progress.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot

- Borehole drilled on October 17th. Water at 85 meters. Waiting on engineering report to finalize equipment selection.

Communication and Fundraising

- Conaway-Munden Grant Funded!
- Grant for GEP Supplies from Brother's Brother received.

Looking Forward

- Girl Garden project: Next steps

- Inspired Women Funding Cycle: January 2025
- Follow up with Rotary Contact
- Discuss with TNC Team: Update from BBF Board Meeting

Events

- Pottery Sale: Nov. 2, 2024, Christ UMC
- Pottery Sale: MLUMC Cookie and Craft Fair Dec 14

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

Home of Hope

- Emmanuel reports that rain has not fallen yet in Nyadire although in most parts of the country it has fallen. It is still very very hot in Nyadire.

Nyadire Farm Department

- Esnath has been selling broilers and used to proceeds to pay for maize seed and fertilizer and some diesel fuel so they could plough fields for the upcoming planting season. She indicated that the poultry barn was full of broilers.

Crop inputs

- Both HOH and the Farm Department have requested some support for this coming planting season.
- Planting intentions
 - HOH: 6 ha - Maize, 2 Ha - sugar beans, ½ Ha – Cowpeas, 1 Ha – sorghum.
 - Farm Department: 7 Ha – Pearl Millet, 2 Ha – sugar beans, 6 Ha – Maize

Crop Input Requests

- Home Of Hope requested inputs to cover 6 Ha of Maize. This includes seed, fertilizer, herbicides and lime which will total \$5601. This has been approved, \$5545 will come from restricted funds and the remainder from unrestricted funds.
- Farm Department has purchased some seed and fertilizer, although the fertilizer is not the formula recommend for maize. They are requesting funds for herbicides and fuel for ploughing and planting for a total of \$1245. I have indicated that TNC would not fund this until they did soil testing for the fields to be used. I have personally funded the soil tests so Esnath gets an Agronomist's recommendations for the fertilizers to be used with the different crops. I'm hoping this analysis will influence Esnath to purchase the proper mix of fertilizers in the future. Once the soil test analysis is received, we will re-evaluate her request with possible recommended changes.
- The Ag committee met on October 10 to discuss the current situation and input requests. We are going to try to work on a 5-year plan with both HOH and the Farm Department so we can do some planning and fund raising to work towards Agricultural operations being sustainable and able to support programs at the mission.

Home of Hope, Home of Hope Outreach, Scholarships

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- Mealie meal was distributed for each child in the Outreach Program.

S.Y.STEM

- Coding Club Star: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary
- Mr. Milonde from Manhamba Secondary has expressed appreciation for the coding program on the flash drive and for the finches. He has already implemented the program.

HOH

- **Nov/Dec funds** are being prepared.
- Funds for further **medical examination** of little Tanaka have been sent.
- New sibling group has arrived: Jesman, Mary, Janet, and Simbarashe.



SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 26, to discuss funding. Discussion surrounded:

- Possible grant proposals
- Funding needs for 2024
- Estimated funding for 2025
- Projected graduates and new candidates
- List of past graduates and job successes

Stephen Chadamoyo, recent graduate of physiotherapy, is applying for his license.

Raymond Chimbwanda, recent graduate in Real Estate, has applied to a variety of districts and is interested in getting his real estate license.

Finished awaiting graduation:

- **Lorraine Kapembeza**: Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has finished all requirements and has received her transcript. Graduation next June is the next step!

Fourth Year students:

- **Tinashe Mapfumbidze**, (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; He is taking a full load this semester (Sept. – Dec. 2024) and will finish his dissertation.
- **Rutendo Mupfawa**, University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 4.1 student; finished attachment at a small accounting firm. Her dissertation topic: creating a model of reducing the effects of exchange rate fluctuations on trade.
- **Blessing Mabii**, accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 4.1, finished attachment.
- **Panashe Mafemera**: Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 4.1 student.

Third Year students:

- **Nyasha Given Katema**: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. Doing his attachment as a prosecutor!!!
- **Praise Mashumba**, Midland States University, Human Resources Management (tuition only); 3.1 student, found attachment at Zimbabwe Space Agency!

Second Year:

- **Praise Josi**: (tuition only) Midland States University, Data Science, 2.1
- **Morejoy Madzika**, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 2.1 (tuition only)

First Year:

- **Josphat Nyatoro** (HOHO): Nyadire College of Education, 1.1
- **Precious Muripo** (HOH): Kushinga Philekela College, electrical engineering, 1.1

Medical Student (5-year program):

- **Campion Mujuru** University of Zimbabwe; medicine; 5.2 student

Graduate Students:

- **Tsungirai Makoni**, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters 1.2

TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Onias Chengai** (HOHO), Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, 1.3

Finishing in 2024:

- **Last Chindoto**, sponsored by Pittsburgh District, carpentry, attachment in January in Mutoko at Katonha factory (make beds and wardrobes); new development: now attending Tabudirira for trade exams.
- **Bright Mumanyi** (HOH); building; attachment with Nyakudanga builders at Chindenga Clinic, finishing in August.

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- Theresa Nyademvera, 2.2, doing excellent work. Doing community service with GEP, will do last term starting in September, then exams, then attachment in 2025.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- **Tinashe Katsuro**: agriculture at Africa University, 3.1. Current courses are: Project Appraisal and Evaluation, Pasture and Range management, Community Based Natural Resources Management, Management of Drainage Basins and Water Resources, and Ecotourism. (See photo at right, showing Tinashe with one of his mentors, Larry Kies.)
- **Delight Katsata**: BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe, 3.1 student. Doing attachment at Kutsaga Research.
- **Praise Tsaurai**, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 2.1 student. Current courses: Fluid Mechanics, Engineering Hydrology, Engineering Numerical Analysis and Modelling, Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer
- **Shelton Chitewe** (HOH); Tabudirira Vocational Centre, agriculture; doing attachment at the Home of Hope, finishing in August 2024; new development: now attending Tabudirira for trade exams.
- **Yvette Mutize**, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 3.1 student, doing 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.



Possible new candidates:

- **Joseph Visent**, Midland States University, Accounting (on hold)
- **Vimbai Kativhu**, AG, Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School (on hold)
- **Malvin Katsande**, Business Studies, Midland States University (on hold)
- **Kudakwashe Nyamunda**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- **Jeremiah Nyabote**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)

Presentations:

- September 24, 2024, 7pm, Beth Burke, Vice President of UWF of Trinity UMC, invited MBZ to speak regarding TNC.
- November 24, 2024, 9am-10am, Faith & Justice Class, CUMC, has invited MBZ to speak about the trip.

- Thank you to all who have helped to sell tickets for the BP-USC Breakfast Rotary, Saturday, October 26, BBQ-Chicken Dinner, to raise funds for the Sister Rut Scholarship Program.

Craft Sales:

- CUMC Craft Fair, November 2, 9-3. MB and Karen will man the booth.
- St. Paul's Mission Mall, November 23. Tom Greway and Kevin Riley in charge.

VIM

Molly Michael/Mary Beth Zollars

- MBZ is willing to lead a team next summer (June-ish) 2025.
- Emmanuel welcomes the idea of a team coming during the school holidays, as well
- Molly/MB have been in contact with Deborah Swineford regarding a 2025 team trip centered around the HI Program. They will work together to ensure her team progresses with regards to preparation and trainings.
- Is anyone else interested in leading a future TNC VIM Team? If so, please let Molly know. She does have a list of interested individuals.
- Once we establish team leaders, Molly would like to circulate an announcement calling for volunteers.
- Soon, Molly will be "out of commission" until after the holidays!

Hearing Innovation

Deborah Swineford

- Two HI learners represented Nyadire at a district quiz event and took 2nd place
- Funds sent for Clayton's materials to complete final woodworking project, \$115
- Simbarashe working on finding attachments for 4 learners completing their vocational training at Danhiko
- Have been in communication with Tracy Maguze, Nyadire Primary Headmistress, in regards to some administrative changes at Danhiko and materials purchasing requirements
- Received registration invoice from Simbarashe for December holiday continuing ed. Sign Language courses for Charity, Evajoice, and Simbarashe.
- Gave presentation at our United Women in Faith group on Wednesday, October 16th. One new sponsor added. Voted to give their December mission offering to the HI program.
- Made contact through a Zoom session with 2 Deaf men, (one a professor at Gallaudet University and the other in Zambia) who have connections with UM Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and both are interested in possibly joining team to Nyadire next year.
- Contacted director of Adult Ministries and Director of Missions at First UMC here in Lakeland (they have a Deaf Ministry) about supporting HI program and making contact with the local Deaf community. Waiting on response.
- Also waiting on response from St. Andrews UMC about possible presentation and partnership. Billy Deters, a Deaf member, is interested in joining team to Zimbabwe next year.

- Received photos from Simbarashe of learners using educational materials and of new bookshelves installed thanks to UM Foundation grant.

Communications

Tim Wesley

- TNC newsletter
 - September issue published and distributed
 - December issue upcoming
- New communications contacts
 - WPA Conference: Jeannie Schott, new comms leader; Sandra Matoushaya leaving to join local Red Cross
 - Mt. Lebanon UMC: Cheryl Sorice
 - Baldwin UMC: Determining new contact
- Distribution lists
 - Should we consolidate and streamline?
 - Master email list (468 people who subscribed from our website)
 - Monthly minutes (150 people; most likely a subset of master list)
 - Meeting notices (leadership team, including program leaders)
 - Network churches (communications leader from each)
 - UMC communications (Daily Digest editor, WPA Conference leader, Zim Partnership leader)
- TNC Social
 - Spring gathering?
- Network churches
 - Christ Church mission/outreach plan
 - St. Paul's Mission Mall in November
- TNC 20th anniversary, 2026
- Monthly meeting minutes
 - Send to me by noon on Friday before the meeting
- Disbursement of funds requests
 - Allow 48 hours for review; please follow up if you don't receive a copy

Next Zoom call meeting: Monday, Nov. 25, 6:30 pm