

TNC Meeting Minutes

Nov. 25, 2024

Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

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

- Mission-wide WiFi using Starlink technology is being considered. Rev. Mukundu has approved for Tinashe Chiimba to begin discussions with the Nyadire department heads to understand their needs and commitment. Rev. Mukundu to inform the department heads of this inquiry which Tinashe will lead.
- Adding solar power to the two field bore holes will proceed but will require an advance to Lincoln, the contractor, to purchase the equipment. This has been approved. Christopher has obtained a quote and requested purchase through the central office of a bore hole pump as the Mission's commitment.
- 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. An update on the electricity situation at the hospital has been requested.
- Bill Retsch will update the hospital lab equipment repair vs. outside testing financials so this project can be presented to Dr. Larry and Gashi for consideration.
- Biogas contractor Lewis and Blessing identified a high efficiency outdoor wood stove fabricator in Harare. Quotes have been obtained and Christopher has been requested to inspect their construction and efficiency the next time he is in Harare. Trials at HOH and Christopher's home are suggested.

Vehicles

- The three TNC supported hospital vehicles are all operational. The HOH 2 door HiLux has been repaired with \$570 of TNC funding and is back on the road.
- When funding allows, consolidation of the two HOH vehicles for one late model 4 door HiLux should be pursued. Incremental TNC funding of \$12,000-\$15,000 USD is expected.

Engineers Without Borders

- The student team completed the Pre-Assessment Report and it was submitted along with the Community Application to EWB National. Their initial response was that they needed the full 4-8 weeks to review and also wanted the student chapter to pursue trip fundraising during the review process. That will delay the Nyadire trip to either the first week of March (Spring Break) or early May after the Spring term. CMU will match funding between now and the Dec. 3 Day of Giving to support the student trip to Nyadire. Contributions are most welcome and can be done through this link:

https://givenow.cmu.edu/schools/CarnegieMellonUniversity/giving-cmu-day-2024/pages/student-organizations/engineers_without_borders

Girl Empowerment

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro, Crescencia Dangarembga

Ongoing Program:

- Imported materials (PUL and Underwear) have been delivered to Nyadire. Distribution in progress.
- Inventory of supplies requested so we can develop a 2025 purchasing plan.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot:

- Borehole drilled on October 17. Water at 85 meters.
- Community agreements completed
- 1.5 km trench completed by villagers. ABI has received the wire transfer for the piping purchase and will return to complete the installation of tank and solar pump.
- 90 day maize has been planted in the girl garden (lime treated).

Communication and Fundraising:

- MLUMC UWF donated funds for water testing.

Looking Forward:

- Girl Garden project: Develop publication materials
- Inspired Women Funding Cycle: January 2025
- Follow up with Rotary Contact
- Update from BBF Board Meeting

Events:

- Pottery Sale: MLUMC Cookie and Craft Fair Dec 14

Agriculture

Scott Sanford

Current Situation

- They have reports receiving good rains but now experiencing a dry spell. The land is very dry like it never rained.
- Our farming preparations this season at Home of Hope and the Farm are as follows:
 - Nyadire Farm Department: The Farm had so far prepared and planted 6 hectares of Maize. 3 hectares were dry planted and this portion had a 90% germination. The other 3 hectares got planted when there was a small amount of rain that had fallen and this had about 80% germination. The farm is still planning to add 2 more hectares, one with beans and the other with finger millet.
 - Home of Hope: We had planted 4 hectares with maize. Germination was poor as moisture was not good enough. Seed is still in the soil and we believe if a little rain falls, germination could improve. We still plan to add 2 more hectares with maize if rains fall. We also need to plant 1 hectare of beans, 1 with sorghum and 1/2 hectare with groundnuts.

Crop inputs

- Home of Hope: Funding was provided for seed, fertilizer, herbicides for 6 hectares of maize.
 - Funds wired to ProSeed: \$4493.25
 - Bank fees deducted: \$64.29 (~1.4%)
 - Trucking: \$150
 - Amount spent on crop inputs: \$4428.96
- Emmanuel provided a quote for Lime. Suppliers are not stocking lime. They are ordering it after receiving payment. A funding request will be submitted this week.
- Farm Department: Funding was provided for herbicides for 6 ha of maize
 - Funding sent: \$750
 - Herbicides: \$624
 - Diesel fuel: \$124
- Have offered to fund \$2,582 for fertilizer for Millet and beans as a loan due to be repaid in 6 installments since crops will be used for poultry feed for broiler operation. I requested a quote from the supplier but Esnath hasn't provided one yet. Payments would be made to Home of Hope to offset TNC's support for HOH.

Crop variety trials

- Contacted Jembere Casper, Teachers college instructor, about doing some crop trials – He seemed interested
- Gave him a summary of what the Ag committee was interested in and requested a budget
- No response to date

Poultry-Grain Storage Barn

- Permanent wiring for building so milling equipment can move to grain storage building.
- Quote 074 – Lincoln – Hilwise Electrical - \$3,594
- Need a funding source
- No Action this month.

Home of Hope, Home of Hope Outreach, Scholarships

Mary Beth Zollars

HOHO – 22 schools in all

- Renewals continue to arrive with St. Paul's preparing for their annual renewal.

S.Y.STEM

Coding Club Star: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary

No updates.

HOH

- **Nov/Dec funds** have been sent.
- Little Tanaka has undergone two **medical tests**, which have determined that she has epilepsy. She has been prescribed two medications, which Emmanuel is trying to locate. Dr. Tanyanyiwa is hoping to assist.

- **Bright Mumanyi** (HOH); building; attachment with Nyakudanga builders at Chindenga Clinic, finished. Could not pass trade exams. Now training with Irvine at Domboshawa.
- New **sibling group** is adjusting nicely. Lindarose is tutoring the children to ready them for the new school year in January 2025.
- **Higher Life** has donated some inputs for crops.
- **Collaborative and Joined Hands for the Needy:** This is a group of former HOH children who are working together to provide support for others like them. Their next plan is to visit the HOH in December with Christmas gifts.
- Emma Bush (DUMC) is holding a fundraiser for the HOH for her senior project.

SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Congratulations:

- **Takunda Pedzayi** attended his graduation on 21 November, Midland States University, HR.
- **Last Chindoto**, sponsored by Pittsburgh District, carpentry, Tabudirira, 22 November graduation.



Last



Shelton

- **Shelton Chitewe** (HOH); Tabudirira Vocational Centre, agriculture; graduation 22 November.

Professional Licenses:

- **Stephen Chadamoyo**, recent graduate of physiotherapy, now has his license and is applying for jobs.
- **Raymond Chimbwanda**, recent graduate in Real Estate, has applied to a variety of districts and is interested in getting his real estate license. We have offered him some funding to get his license to be repaid in part and includes community service.

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, working on dissertation.
- **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

NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- **Theresa Nyadempera**, 2.2, doing excellent work. Doing community service with GEP, finishing last term, 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.
- **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
- **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**, Speciss, IT & Secretarial School, Harare (on hold)
- **Kudakwashe Nyamunda**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- **Jeremiah Nyabote**, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)

Presentations:

- November 24, 2024, 9am-10am, Faith & Justice Class, CUMC, invited MBZ to speak about the trip.
- MBZ will be doing a month-long Zimbabwe activity/learning class for ChristKids in January 2025.

Craft Sales:

- St. Paul's Mission Mall, Saturday, November 23. Tom Greway and Kevin Riley in charge.
- Possible Craft Sale at Mt. Lebanon UMC, December 14
- Spring Craft Fair at CUMC, Sat., April 26, 9:30-3.

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.
- Deborah is considering leading an H-I trip in June/July 2025.

Hearing Innovation

Deborah Swineford

- Sent through Remitly \$720 for continuing education sign language courses for Simbarashe, Evajoyce and Charity
- Contact made with persons from Lion's Club and Rotary about Nyadire and the HI program
- Discussion with pastor of First UMC, who also has connections with other UM churches in the district with Deaf ministries. Tentatively scheduled to speak after first of year.
- Will be sharing with Trinity UMC on December 1. They have pledged their December mission giving to the HI program.
- Learners taking exams; school term ends in 2 weeks.
- No updates in regard to attachments for 4 learners completing their programs at Danhiko vocational school.
- Sent Thanksgiving email to sponsors and supporters of HI.

- Established contact with the new contact person, Ida Haapalainen, and chairperson, Sonja Nygård, for the Zimbabwe partnership at Grankulla Methodist Church in Finland.

Communications

Tim Wesley

- December newsletter: Send stories/photos by Dec. 6
- New communications contacts
 - WPA Conference: Jeannie Schott
 - Baldwin UMC: Rachel Vigliotti
- Distribution lists: Will be updating and consolidating
- TNC Social: Planning Spring gathering
- TNC 20th anniversary, 2026
 - Debbie Little will lead planning team
- Brothers Brother Foundation
 - Discussion about potential grants, project funding

Next Zoom call meeting: Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30 pm