



# 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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## Hearing-Impaired Children Take Trip of a Lifetime

By Elsa Zollars

For the Hearing-Impaired children and their teachers in Nyadire, a recent visit to the Great Zimbabwe Monument was truly the trip of a lifetime.



Pretend you are one of the 32 people involved with the Hearing Impaired (HI) Program. You are sitting with 6 or 7 others across the seats of the primary school bus on your way to the Great Zimbabwe, a monument built between 1,100 and 1,450 in the region of the Bantu/Shona people.

The TNC Mission Team, which included leader **Molly Michael**, **Mary Beth Zollars**, **Marjorie Dold**, **Ruth Sabo**, and **Ida**, the two HI teachers (**Evajoyce** and **Simbarashe**), headmaster **Tendai Mushapaidze**, and the bus driver also visited the Henry Murray School

for the Deaf, which offers a complete program from ECD (Early Childhood Development) to Vocational Training on the way. **Continued on page 2...**

## Mission Trip Information Meetings Set For Nov. 5 and 7

Want to experience Africa through the UM Church? TNC will be traveling to the Nyadire UM Mission again in 2020 to boost our friends and support the complex. Activities include Bible School, Sports Camp, building projects at the Home of Hope Orphanage (laundry tubs, playground, bookshelves, etc.), teaching basic computer skills and vocational skills with the Hearing-Impaired. Two informational meetings will be held: Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7-8:15 pm, at St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park, and Thursday, Nov. 7, 7-9:15 pm, at Christ UMC in Bethel Park. Contact **Mary Beth Zollars** with questions. [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com) or 412-498-2281.

## Hearing-Impaired Children, continued...

Continued from page 1...

First stop – The Great Zimbabwe in Masvingo Province where the group stayed in hostels.

While Evajoyce took the children for a hike before breakfast, Molly’s team was invaded by baboons and monkeys who attempted to steal the food. The adults stood guard and waved the animals away by shaking branches at them.

The group was divided into fours and given different colored bracelets for identification. At the monument, they followed ancient climbing steps (originally made without mortar) on stairways with openings through the walls. The group was able to visit a re-created Shona village with a band and performing native dancers. Some of the HI children joined the dancing since they had experience in competitive dancing back at Nyadire.

A trip to the Mutiviku Dam and Reservoir and learning about how water is regulated was another educational moment. And it was great fun to drive in the bus across the top of the dam. The children enjoyed playing games at night – “passing the hula hoop”, “monkey in the middle”, checkers and coloring.

The following day found the children in the other side of the park, viewing animals such as hippos, and a white rhinoceros. Soon they learned the signs for the animals.

Upon their return to Nyadire, the church announced the HI trip and expressed gratitude for the experience, and great applause followed.



Many thanks go to **Baldwin Community United Methodist Church** which sponsored \$1,000 for this memorable outing.

## A Special Thanks for a Special Trip

By Molly Michael

On behalf of TNC, the HI students & teachers, the Nyadire headmaster, and the community of the Nyadire Mission, I would like to thank the Outreach Team at **Baldwin Community United Methodist Church** for sponsoring our trip to Great Zimbabwe, a joyful memory we will cherish forever. During church, when it was announced that we would be going, the congregation went wild with celebration. You made this opportunity possible, for the students most often left out, forgotten, and left behind. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Our journey started at 3 a.m. under a brisk, freezing, starry night sky. We loaded 24 students, 8 adults, 1 bus driver, and a lot of stuff into a very old, recently fixed, 19-seater school bus. The adventure had begun! It was a miracle the plans came together in the first place, considering the economic situation. Our trip was the “talk of the town” and the whole mission was enthusiastically praying for our safety. For the duration of the bus ride, I continuously looked back to check on the kids, only to find them

eagerly alert and attentive. Not a minute passed when the kids weren’t looking out the window to absorb the experience of traveling. They took advantage of every minute gratefully, even when my team was tired and restless, noticing small inconveniences. For example, waiting in line to get fuel for over an hour, walking half a mile to climb a mountain to swipe a card to make a payment, ignoring a growling stomach because we had to skip lunch, or using a reserve full fuel tank for a seat. Not one child complained; they were all smiles and curiosity.

I was concerned it would be difficult to build a deeper relationship with each student because of the communication barrier, but with patience and creativity we were actually able to interact much more efficiently than I thought. The kids were patient enough to teach us signs so we could talk about shared experiences. It allowed me to tap into my other senses and pay closer attention to the details within my environment. They also performed some detailed, comical, and intense re-enactments of scenarios using their signing and acting skills. They are amazing story tellers and truly enjoyed each moment of the adventure.

At our lodge one of the employees was deaf and was conversing with the students. It was a great opportunity for them to meet someone else who was deaf and to know that it is possible to be a contributing part of society. Unfortunately, many with disabilities in Zimbabwe are outcast. We also ran into an art vendor who could sign and carried on a conversation with the students. Once again, thanks for enabling a memorable experience for these students!

## Backpacks Journey From Mt. Lebanon to Nyadire

**200 Backpacks packed by Mt. Lebanon UMC:** At the conclusion of VBS 2019, Mt. Lebanon congregants gathered to pack backpacks for the **Home of Hope Outreach** Program. The main theme was “Life is Wild” (with African Safari Theme). The children learned:



When life is unfair.... GOD IS GOOD!  
When life is scary.... GOD IS GOOD!  
When life changes.... GOD IS GOOD!  
When life is sad.... GOD IS GOOD!  
When life is good.... GOD IS GOOD!



## Sister Rut Scholarships Providing Support

TNC has launched the **Sister Rut Scholarship** Program to support former Home of Hope Outreach children who are now attending college and university programs. Nothing in Zimbabwe ensures a job upon graduation, but this program will certainly give them the chance! Please pray for diligence and resilience as they face the rigor of their respective programs. Each student, as an act of “paying it forward” for this gift of education, must give 10 hours of community service each semester. For more information or to support the program, please contact **Mary Beth Zollars** (412-498-2281 or [mbzollars@aol.com](mailto:mbzollars@aol.com)).



**Maryleen Dandira**  
Second term at Nyadire Teachers College; Primary School Teacher\*



**Campion Mujuru**  
First semester at University of Zimbabwe; Medicine



**Madyauta**  
First semester at Great Zimbabwe University; Urban Planning and Development

**Panashe Bernard**



**Fungai Chigumbira**  
First semester at Midland States University; Human Resources Management

## Dutilh UMC Preschool Donates Money For Bicycles



Thanks to the preschool at **Dutilh UM Church**, children at Nyadire can be seen riding now all over the Mission! The preschool, headed by **Dianna Barnett**, donated \$1,200 to the Home of Hope for bicycles. Every spring, the preschool hosts a Hop-a-Thon around Easter time. This year they called it “Hop for Hope”. Seven Buffalo Bikes were purchased from World Bicycle Relief in Harare. The bikes are very sturdy and are built for the rough terrain of rural Africa. The older children were assigned the bicycles and were given the bike lock keys on lanyards.

Each child found stickers and such from their sponsors and made their own customized “license plates”. The distance to the school is over a mile. This gift is allowing them to get to school on time, get home for lunch and back again in time for the afternoon lessons. The July VIM team carried a small disassembled bike in their suitcases so that the little ones could learn how to ride.



## Home of Hope Benefits from Drip Irrigation

Maintaining a consistent flow of water is a constant challenge at Nyadire. The June VIM team offered a solution, helping to set up drip irrigation in the fields at the Home of Hope. **Scott Sanford, Keith Bucca, John Sperry, and Pete Eckstam** worked with **Emmanuel Chiimba**, his staff, and the Nyadire workshop guys, headed by **Christopher Kuwana**. What a difference it had made in just a few weeks, with potato plants flourishing by the end of July (below right photo).



In addition, buckets by the outdoor spigot (above left photo) are used for washing laundry.

# Photo Highlights From June VIM Trip



# Photo Highlights From July VIM Trip



## Let's Not Forget The Passion

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.

Let's celebrate our love for God in every day  
by remembering the people met, our friends in Zimbabwe.  
Let's not forget the passion. We felt inward pain.  
God, we pray you will send us again.

*Haur-Himmler*

(Composed in 2006 on a flight returning from Zimbabwe)

Remember, as they say in Zimbabwe,  
"God is good all the time; all the time, God is good."