



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/hopeforthehopeless.levisonmlambya/>

The mission of The William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation is to bring hope to the people of Malawi through the sharing of God's Word by having a Bible in every home. Alongside spreading God's Word, the Foundation will bring hope through practical acts of charity.

We are happy to announce that the Foundation was registered in Malawi on September 1, 2017 and now has charitable status. We thank Levison for his untiring work.

The constitution of the Foundation, its trustees and Certificate are all in place. The next stage is to have the redesigned logo approved and permission given to use the Malawian flag, and when the website goes online The William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation can be taken across the world. From little seeds, mighty trees grow.

So far, people have donated £350 to provide 204 new Bibles and 38 used Bibles, one box of six soft toys, 204 exercise books and 266 pencils and various bits and pieces of stationery and school equipment. Six soft blankets, 2 pack of printing paper, 50 evangelistic tracts. A well-wisher donated a printer.

People involved

Levison Mlambya Co-ordinator and Founder
William Stewart – Co-founder
Mary Young – Media Co-ordinator
James Durning – Co-ordinator: Scotland

Bibles

One of the Bibles which someone donated was new and still in its wrapper. Levison gave this to the Registrar General, who said, 'Today I have seen salvation, salvation has come to my office. God really sees our problems. I was a lost sheep but now I am found. May the good Lord forgive me and protect me as I serve the nation.'

A few days later, Levison wrote to say that the Registrar General sleeps with the Bible beside her pillow and she had requested that if possible, the Foundation should arrange for some Bibles to be given to her members of staff as many are lost sheep as she used to be. I promised to share with them some Bibles.

25/06/2017 Levison says, 'Just this morning, I was called by one of the village heads, who is one of the beneficiaries of the Foundation relief for his village; he thanked me once again and the

Foundation for the gifts. I told him of our plans to build an orphanage centre under The William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation in memory of Margaret Stewart and their daughter Jean.

‘This orphan centre will also be acting as a resource centre where people especially the orphans and elderly can go and read Bibles, Gospel books, and learn many things, like vocational skills, tailoring, farming, tin making and carpentry and joinery. Counselling will also be taking place at the resource centre. The chief was so happy and promised me that once we are ready he is ready to offer us enough land to build our structures. He promised to give us the land that is close to the power line for easy power installation.’

FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT AND STORY

The mission of The William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation is to bring hope to those in Malawi who are living in despair and hopelessness; in particular the elderly and the orphans of the country, many of whom have nothing.

Children are now required to go to school and yet if they can't afford to buy their uniforms, they are unable. If they can't afford to buy a pencil, they can't go.

Many of the elderly, themselves living in huts with no real facilities, are trying to look after grandchildren who have been orphaned.

People need to feel that they haven't been forgotten about; that they haven't been abandoned. The gift of a Bible tells them that somebody cares and where there was despair, there is now hope. A little gift of soap or salt reinforces that.

The foundations of the Foundation are being built, block by block, so that the work which Levison Mlambya is doing can be extended.

Here is a photo of Levison giving a Bible to Carol, who was experiencing depression



STORY

The William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation began as a result of the friendship between Levison Mlambya, a teacher in Malawi, and William Stewart, a teacher in England. Levison took a waived-fee distance learning counselling course through the Institute of Counselling in Glasgow, and William was assigned as his tutor. After Levison finished his course and gained his Certificate in Counselling in 2015, the two remained friends. One day, Levison was telling William about the very poor conditions in which many Malawians live and asked William if there were any place in the UK which would be able to send out second-hand Bibles.

William sent 16 new Bibles to Levison and the first block of the Foundation was built. Several other folk then sent Bibles, or contributed, for further deliveries. A consignment of soap and salt was also enabled.

Levison carrying Bibles on outreach

Out went Levison, on outreach – sometimes on foot, with his rucksack on his back, in the most inaccessible places. Sometimes on a (almost child's) bicycle, on hire in his locale. Occasionally by car if the load was too great and he could find someone with a vehicle.

Levison has a vision and a little of that vision has already been achieved, as can be seen from the photos; the smiles on the faces of the orphans; and the handclasp from the elderly grandmothers and grandfathers.

Joy where there was despair; hope where there was hopelessness. The rays of the rising sun, depicting hope and freedom on the country's flag, are



being spread to those who are still in darkness.

Postscript: After this was written, a well-wisher donated money specifically for Levison to purchase a proper sized bicycle, which he now has and which will enable him to go to outreach in much more comfort.

07/07/2017 Levison says, 'Just 10 minutes ago a man came to my house. He came just to beg if I can share with him a gift of Bible. I have given him one Bible, and upon giving him, he cried, shed tears as he openly said he has never dreamt of having a Bible. He has in prison for two years due to armed robbery and defilement.'

Gathering of village chiefs



08/07/2017

Levison says, 'William, in August as many youths will be free as the schools will close this month end, I am proposing to mobilise our members so that we start making some bricks for the construction of the orphanage centre.'

23/07/2017

Levison says, 'As I was coming from my outreach today, I came across these small boys. They were digging mice. They sell a mouse at MK50 or MK80 [5 or 8 pence] each. Some people eat mice as relish. I met one of the boys who received a gift of Bible from you and he was really happy that the Bible has really change his life style. He told me that due to the

circumstances he was going through, he wanted to commit suicide, but the Bible has given him hope and strength. He also narrated that he shares the Bible with other members of his family and it has brought joy to them.'

29/08/2017 Levison says, 'Chatting with orphans, they said they really need exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers, school bags, school uniform, Bibles (those in senior primary school section), soap, flip-flops, school fees, umbrella and food. I remember six orphaned girls saying they go to school on empty stomachs and they do not even have a plastic paper or an umbrella to use when raining.'



THE CASE FOR PENCILS

Mary put boxes in two villages local to her. Two parcels have been sent to Malawi and another two will go out next week. When people realise the plight of the Malawian people, they are very generous



Children in Malawi, whose families can't afford a pencil, or a notebook, get booted out of school. Some of them brave itchy and painful bushes to catch mice to sell (for food); they can then return to school until the next time their pencil wears down. Some kids break a pencil in half, to share with a friend.

There are many orphans in Malawi. They know that without an education they are facing a life of grinding poverty. Girls will be forced either into an early marriage or into prostitution.

A charity, the William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation, has been set up. It's based in Malawi and the Foundation is now registered and has charitable status and is currently awaiting the approval to use the flag of Malawi in the logo. Once the logo is approved and the website up and running, we can then appeal for donations, meanwhile we have permission to appeal for donations of material goods.

The plight of people who are feeling hopeless (hence the title of the charity) isn't limited to children and orphans. Many elderly folk are living in poverty, in

mud huts with no facilities; some grannies are trying to bring up orphaned kids; they feel that they are the forgotten.

Man receiving salt



We have so much, and they have so little. We think nothing of going and buying washing capsules; they are grateful for a small bar of soap donated by the charity. We go and buy salt without it even registering; the smile on the face of an elderly man who has been given a small packet of salt is stunning but so sad.

However, we can't do everything; can't provide all that these folk need. So I'm starting off with the kids and with stationery. If you haven't got anything to write with, or on, you can't do very much at all. So please pop a pencil, notebook, rubber, ruler or a plastic pencil case into the box.

On 25 September, there will be a party for the orphans and other children in Chitipa, Northern Malawi, which is where Levison, the Co-ordinator and founder, is based. It is in honour of the 90th birthday of the UK co-founder, the man they call the 'Father', William Stewart (who is my Dad). There will be quizzes and games for the kids and a giving out of donated materials. There will be an estimated 200 orphans and around 4000 kids, so it's a huge push to collect stationery and get it out to Malawi in time for the event. When charitable status is accorded, the website will be launched. Until then, for those who are on Facebook, this is the link:

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Mary Young