

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

Foundation website – <http://www.williamstewartfoundation.org/>

Foundation page – <https://www.facebook.com/hopeforthehopeless.levisonmlambya/>

William Stewart's email address – willstew@uwclub.net



FOUNDATION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all your goodness to us. For all your blessings, for your care and for all the support we receive from you and from other people, through money and gifts which will replace hopelessness with hope and darkness with light Amen.

As we enter another year, we look back with amazement and gratitude on 2017 for the work everyone has put into the Foundation. From March to December 2017, twenty-three parcels were sent to Malawi. These were mostly Bibles and Christian books, but also stationery, exercise books, pens and pencils, school equipment, soft toys, sweets and blankets for orphans, and knitting wool and needles for orphans to be taught to knit. William says, 'At times my office looked like a dispatch centre.' In addition, other people have sent their own parcels of clothing and toys and packets of seeds.



Over the past few months, we have realised that it is probably more cost-effective to donate money so that Levison – as the man on the ground – can spend on what is most needed.

For example, someone sent a donation to enable Levison to buy maize and soya seeds and fertilizer for the Foundation garden.

William was invited to speak about the Foundation at a local church fellowship whose members donated £100. At the Christmas Eve carol service at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church, where William attends, half of the collection – £105.14 – was donated to the Foundation. This brought the total donated during 2017 to almost £950. What an amazing amount in such a short space of time. A great big ‘thank you’ to everyone.



Levison also bought two footballs for the orphan children to play football and netball



In the September newsletter, we told the story of Carol to whom Levison gave a Bible. Carol is now engaged and is planning to marry this year. She asked for another Bible to give to her husband.



Levison took some of the orphan children on a picnic. All this has only been made possible by people's generous giving.

Over the past year, the group of supporters has grown and we thank everyone for what they do for the Foundation. Some people apologise that they can only donate a small amount, but many tiny drops make a mighty ocean. Most of all is the prayer support and the good wishes we receive by phone calls, emails and on Facebook.

We would like to thank two people in particular. Graham Irwin who designed and maintains the website, for his encouragement and advice, and John Gunzburg for his donation of several of his books to raise funds for the Foundation.

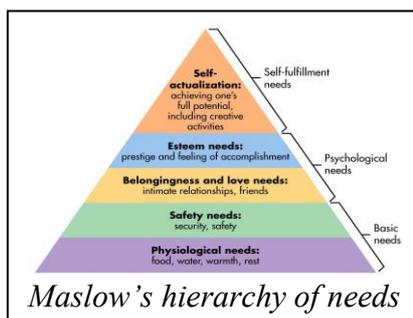


We also welcome Sarah Black who takes on the role of Fundraising Team Coordinator. Sarah has already suggested several ideas and we look forward to seeing some of them developed throughout this year.

Dear Foundation Friends,

I am delighted to have joined the Foundation as Fundraising Team Coordinator (even though that job title sounds rather daunting). My background and work is in social care, early years education and special needs.

I believe that every child should be supported to achieve and be the best they can be. If the children of Malawi do not have their basic needs met, then how can they achieve their full potential?



I have lots of ideas for raising funds to support Levison in his work, as do others in the team. I would love to hear from you if you would like to support the Foundation by raising money for us or ideas that we can use. We are hoping, in the near future, to be able to provide resources for a sewing class, in addition to the knitting class that is already having great success. Levison would like to keep some chickens and other animals as well as the crops that are already growing. We will start fundraising for these soon. We also hope to be able to start giving presentations to schools and groups to raise awareness (and hopefully donations) and have more people supporting Levison in his work with the most vulnerable young and older people.

I look forward to being able to bring you more updates, Sarah.

I can be contacted through the contact form on the website; just mark the message for my attention.

The Founder's Report

2017 has been a year of success. Just in a few months, the Foundation has done great things to the helpless and hopeless in Malawi. Many people from all walks of life contributed to the success story. Through financial and material donations from well-wishers in UK, Spain and Australia, the Foundation has been able to achieve some of its objectives. Through these donations, the following have been achieved some are still in progress:

1. **Registration.** The Foundation was registered as a Malawian charity on September 1, 2017.
2. **Bibles.** Over 320 English Bibles were donated by different well-wishers in UK and over 300 English Bibles were distributed to schools, orphans and the elderly in different parts of Malawi especially in the northern region. And 32 Tumbuka Bibles were bought and distributed in Malawi at the total cost of MK185, 600.00 (about £196).
3. **A knitting project** that started in 2017 growing. Two volunteer women teach the orphans how to knit baby suits. Lessons will continue this year. Once the knitted materials are finished, they will be sold or given to babies who have lost their mother. The project will equip kids with skills that will help them to be self-reliant in future.
4. **Reach Out and Touch.** Relief items like sugar, soap, small blankets and clothes have been distributed to many elderly and orphans in Ibuluma area in Chitipa. Some of these materials were bought in Malawi and some were donated by well-wishers in UK and Spain. It was really touching to see an old man and woman, a girl and boy shedding tears in disbelief upon receiving a gift from the Foundation. For the reach out and touch outreach, Levison relies on the bicycle which was donated to the Foundation



Levison working in the Foundation Garden

5. **Farming project.** The Foundation tackles all parts of human development – spiritual, mental, physical and social. With part of the logo – *Bringing hope to Malawi through good deeds and God's word* – the Foundation has embarked on a farming project. (See photo above.) Almost two acres of maize and three quarters an acre of soybeans have been established. The foundation is aiming at feeding the orphaned and elderly who suffer from malnutrition and some children even go to school without eating any food. It was sad when the Foundation found seven kids from different villages lying down and failing to go to school because of hunger. The hunger situation is pathetic as most of these kids live with their grandparents who are not energetic to go to work in a garden. Apart from feeding the helpless and hopeless, the Foundation also expects the orphans

to learn some farming skills. £220 was donated towards this project. According to the expected budget, over MK316, 000 will be required and so far, almost MK206, 000 has been realised. It is our sincere hope that more donations will come in for the project. The project is expected to benefit over 300 kids and 50 elderly people. Soon after the rainy season, the foundation is also planning to embark on irrigation farming where maize will be grown and sold while fresh. This will help the foundation to find

some money as the fresh maize is at high demand in the dry season. A project proposal will soon be put on our website.

6. **Orphanage/Resource Centre project.** The orphanage will be constructed in Ibuluma Village in Chitipa-Malawi and we expect it to benefit more than 300-orphaned children and 50 elderly people. The orphanage will also act as a resource centre where different people will be able to read religious, academic and other books, learn different skills like, knitting, carpentry, tin making, farming, baking, sports, computing, tailoring, painting, part-time academic lessons to school-going learners, HIV/AIDS awareness and many other skills so as to make them self-reliant in the near future. Counselling sessions will also be available to any member of the society. The land has already been provided and boundary demarcations have been done. We have contacted different contactors who are interested to do the work. Once funds are available, the contractor to develop the land will be identified and given a go ahead. A project proposal will be put on our website to give our supporters a full cost for the construction. So far, we are appealing for donations towards the orphanage construction. We thank all people who have donated different materials to be used at the orphanage.
7. **Faith with Action project.** This project will benefit all orphaned children in Chitipa and other districts in Malawi whether they are at school or not. These children and other helpless and people without hope will be offered counselling, given learning materials, sanitary materials for girls, HIV/AIDS awareness and other relief items such as soap and clothes. Paper work is underway to introduce Bible clubs in schools and teachers and other education authorities will be involved. We may start with children in Chitipa district which is one of the biggest and mountainous districts in Malawi hence more resources will be needed for the project to be a success. A project proposal will also be uploaded on the website and to all interested parties. We are appealing for more and more donations towards this project.



With all good wishes for 2018