

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

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

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

William Stewart's email address – [willstew@uwclub.net](mailto:willstew@uwclub.net)

This month we celebrate the first anniversary of the Foundation. As we look back over the past year, we rejoice to see how the Foundation has grown and how much has been accomplished. We thank the Lord for His guiding hand, and for all the hard work done by everyone in furthering the aims of the Foundation: to bring spiritual hope to people in Malawi who are living in despair and hopelessness by supplying Bibles in English and in the native languages; and to help to provide for the physical needs of the elderly and the orphans of the country, many of whom have nothing.

## Congratulations

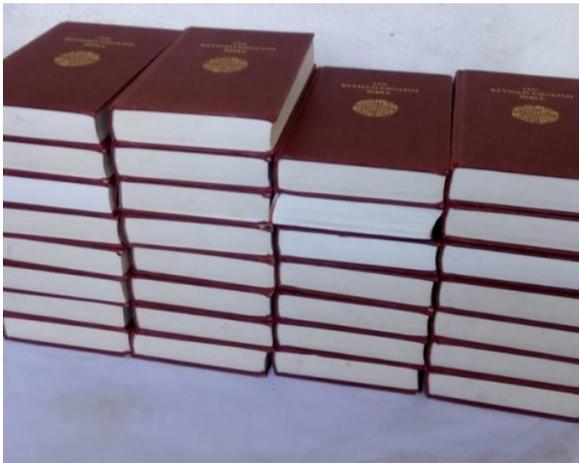
After passing the two parts of his driving theory with high marks, Levison passed the practical with a score of 98.2%. Well done! The examiner told him he was an excellent driver.

This is an important stage towards the Foundation having transport. Up to now, Levison has depended on taking Bibles by bicycle or walking. Sometimes a kindly neighbour has taken him by car. When Levison collects parcels from Mzuzu, he has to go by bus, at least a six-hour journey each way.

God knows the need and He will supply.

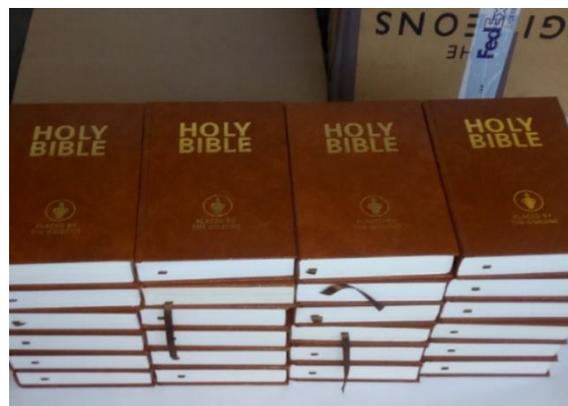
## BIBLES

The Foundation started when Levison Mlambya, an online counselling student, asked for any old Bibles. William sent sixteen new ones in English and since then used and new Bibles have been donated. Stanley, who works in the Eastleigh Cry Charity shop, has, over the past year, brought many Bibles and Christian books which are now in Malawi.



One of William's local churches in Winchester donated forty-eight used Bibles to the Foundation and when Levison took delivery of them, he said that one of the four DHL officials said, 'Your friend William has sent more Bibles' and he asked if they could have one. Levison promised them each a Bible when he had stamped them. These and other Bibles will form part of the Faith with Action Project. All the existing and planned projects can be seen on the Foundation website.

Earlier this year someone donated twenty Gideon Bibles to the Cry Charity shop, and because they cannot be sold, Stanley donated them to the Foundation. In addition to those donated by the Winchester church and the Gideons, many of the parcels have included Bibles, large and small, and New Testaments, the Gospels and the Epistles, as well as other Christian literature.



## Donations

At the time of writing, William has received £135 in donations. People have been so generous and that money has been used to pay for postage of parcels and to buy Bibles in the Malawi local language. Thank you for your generosity.

## **The Resource Centre**

Plans are well underway for the building of the Resource Centre

This will be built in four stages:

1. Latrine blocks
2. The kitchen
3. The crafts 'shed'
4. The main Resource Centre building.

The building for the latrines will start on 16<sup>th</sup> April, weather permitting.

This may have to be done in two stages with one block for girls and the other block for boys and then two more at a later date. Levison has prevailed upon local builders to do the work and receive payment later. It is kind of them to do this for the Foundation.

Levison and Mary worked very hard recently to prepare all the required evidential paperwork and project costings for an application to Global Giving, a non-profit organisation connecting donors with grassroots projects. Sadly, having raced to meet various timelines, the Foundation was turned down because of its religious activity!! So for the time being, until we can pursue other funding avenues, we have to think piecemeal and rely on the kindness of people to donate to the Foundation.

Sarah and Mary have been working to publicise the Foundation locally to them in Scotland.

## **Sarah's Update**

Hi, I think it's fair to say that I have been so supported and encouraged by the other members of the team that I have embraced my new role wholeheartedly.

Inspired by William's daily cycle challenge, I set myself a challenge too as my exercise bike was feeling neglected. I decided to get fitter and help the orphans at the same time. You can read the story so far here -

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarahjaneblack?utm\\_term=97RRwZagE](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarahjaneblack?utm_term=97RRwZagE)

Please share with others to encourage them to donate (on behalf of William too) and raise the profile of our Foundation's work for the orphans. We also require prayer support please.

We had a rush at the end of January to squeeze a few boxes of donations onto the Smileawi container that left from Dunoon with vital dental supplies. It was through a chance conversation, with a friend who had volunteered with Smileawi last year, that we were able to make contact with the people who run the Smileawi charity and discovered that they had a container leaving in just over a week. So it was all hands on deck to get some donations boxed up to send on that container. Then came the snow. Eventually my husband, Stuart, managed to get our boxes to the container the day before it was due to leave. The shipment should be there by May. Donations included lots of fabric, needles, threads, sewing patterns, wool, knitting needles, footballs and other sports equipment and a vintage, hand turned Singer sewing machine.

Another chance contact produced details of The Bananabox Trust in Dundee. This is a new charity and they are about to send their first container, full of donations from various charities, to Malawi. On Saturday 17/3 we headed to Dundee with 18 boxes to The Bananabox Trust warehouse. There are several places where deliveries are going before Levison will be able to collect our donations from Ekwendeni mission hospital.

Mary and I were able to get some great bargains at a local jumble sale. We appealed locally on social media for donations of toys and books and have some wonderful resources in the boxes; educational books, fiction books, flash cards for counting and alphabet, wooden letters, pens, colouring books, small cars, jigsaws and Lego.

We wanted the children in Malawi to have fun at Easter as they heard the Good News. Levison organised an Easter Sunday service, followed by a fun day and invited the local children. We boxed up 2kg sweets, 4kg mini eggs, stickers, pens and activity sheets, 2 children's parachutes for games, 200 paper cups and more hot chocolate to supplement the lovely hot chocolate that Levison received by accident.

100 children attended and as you will see from this photo – and there will shortly be more on the website, as well as a great video – their Easter Sunday was filled with joy. Levison has written a summary of the day, below.



On Thursday morning 22/3, I was invited to the local nursery in the village where I live. One of my friends works there and wondered if the Foundation would like some of their excess Lego. I showed the children lots of photographs of the children in Malawi, the crops that are growing, the latrines that are going to be built and the bath house which Levison wants to build. One boy said, 'It's an outdoor bathroom.' There was great interest in the methods of transport that the parcels would take and that Levison carries parcels home when he gets off the bus. Some Lego has been sent by airmail so that the children at Nursery will be able to see that their donation has reached the orphans.

A Lego Party will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April to celebrate not only the first birthday of the Foundation but also Levison's birthday on the same day, and we will have photos of these celebrations in the next Newsletter.

A photographer from the local paper came to take a photo of the children for an article about the Foundation, raising awareness over the wider Stirlingshire area.

## Balfron kids are building blocks for Malawi

Children at Balfron Nursery have been building strong links with orphans in Malawi by donating Lego bricks.

The nursery had heard of a request by the William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation seeking donations of toys and had offered some of their spare Lego.

Much of it will be making its way out to Africa by shipping container, however was also been sent by air so that it arrived in time for a Lego Party planned to celebrate both the birthday of one of the charity's co-founders and the first anniversary of the foundation.

The Balfron children were shown photos of some of the plans for a resource centre for the 203 orphans of the Ibuluma villages in Northern Malawi.

This will provide facilities for learning life skills and, essentially, provide the



properly constructed latrines housed in brick.

Sarah Black, who is the foundation's fundraising team coordinator, collected the Lego, and the children all waved and cheered for the children in Malawi.

Mary Young, who lives in Killearn and is the foundation's administrator, told the Observer that a campaign will be starting very shortly - 'Save A Penny; Let Orphans Spend One' - to raise funds for the build of the latrine blocks.

Mary added: "If anyone would like to read about the projects already in place and support the aims of the Foundation in any way, Sarah or I can be contacted through the form on the website [www.williamstewartfoundation.org](http://www.williamstewartfoundation.org). Details of where pennies will be collected will also be on the website in a couple of weeks."

**Lunks** Children from Balfron Nursery with their Lego bricks donations for Malawi orphans

<p>children with meals from the foundation's crops which are almost ready for harvesting.</p> <p>The nursery learned about poverty in Malawi and that children there must come out</p>	<p>of school if they cannot afford a pencil or a notebook.</p> <p>The Stirlingshire youngsters looked at photos of typical houses in rural Malawi - small straw-roofed huts without a</p>	<p>door or windows - and heard how, because many Malawians are forced to go into bushes if they need the toilet, the first build of the resource centre will be</p>
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I will revisit the Nursery and show them the photos of the children playing with the Lego they have kindly shared. I am hopeful that this will be the starting point of a relationship between the two groups of children.

As you may imagine, the Foundation has kept me out of mischief! We have plans in place for making a PowerPoint presentation and also some fundraising ideas. I would love to hear from anyone with ideas or who is fundraising on our behalf. I can be reached via the contact form on the website.

Sarah

### EASTER IN IBULUMA

Ibuluma village is about 40 KM to the south of Chitipa Boma. It lies under the lovely hills of Mafinga and has a beautiful river, the Chambo. As one of the remotest parts of Malawi, Ibuluma village has a lot of people who are mostly farmers. Due to lack of farming inputs the people of Ibuluma, as with other people in rural areas in Malawi, produce very little to feed themselves as well as the orphans they are taking care of.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March I set off to Chitipa Boma where I bought sugar and soap to be distributed to the children on Easter Sunday. As a foundation we believe faith without works is dead and is why our daily business of spreading the gospel includes giving.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018 over 100 children from Ibuluma had a great time. The children thought that it would just be a usual Sunday when they would come and have some football games and do some knitting. The Foundation surprised them with gifts. They received soap,

exercise books, pens, and pencils and also had a cup of chocolate and a snack.

The chocolate had come to the Foundation in a mysterious way. A parcel from the UK was delivered but another was also addressed to us. When it was opened it was found to contain several tins of chocolate drink from Whittard of Chelsea in the UK. After investigations, it was discovered that the parcel was intended for a gentleman in Seoul, South Korea. However, when it was explained to Whittard where the chocolate had ended up, they so kindly let the Foundation keep it for the celebrations.

Some of the villagers who were passing by couldn't believe what was happening and came to see the interesting activities that the kids were doing.

One lady thanked the Foundation for the work it is doing, referring to what happened in September last year when assorted items were shared to the children at Chambo Primary School and the sick at Chambo Health centre.

Everyone was able to see the wet eyes of Mama Nyamwayi who spoke, half crying. The words we'll quote in her speech were, *"These kids you see here sleep on empty stomachs, they don't have soap and they lack learning materials. Please thank, Gogo William, Nkhazi Mary and all those supporting the children for what they are doing for us. They are fathers and mothers to these children. May the Lord keep on blessing them."*

It was not surprising to hear some children refusing to go to their respective homes, saying they would like to keep on playing. I promised them that the time will come when the Foundation will have its own structures where they can spend the whole day. It was really amazing to see how happy the children were. Yes, some were shedding tears but they were tears of joy.

A number of activities like games, singing, jokes, verse narration, storytelling and eating took place on this memorable day. The first Nkazi's News, a newsletter from Mary Young whom the children know as Nkazi – Aunt - was read. One of the kids read it with tears in his eyes. Yes, it was a quiet moment as the children were listening attentively to Nkhazi's narrations. This helped to answer some of the questions the kids ask like, "When are the people helping us coming so that we see them?"

One of the kids, Pempho, asks this whenever we meet. I tell her, and the other children, that there are many people supporting them who live at a great distance from Ibuluma. But I also tell them that while there may be many miles between us physically, we are very near to their hearts as they are to ours.

Levison Mlambya – Coordinator Malawi

The last word of this newsletter goes to the children of Ibuluma Village.



THE CHILDREN OF IBULUMA VGE  
SAY THANK YOU TO  
GOGO WILLIAM, SARAH AND STUART  
BLACK NKHAZI MARY WILLIAM  
YOUNG AND ALL FRIENDS IN UK,  
AUSTRALIA AND SPAIN.

