

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

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

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

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

Greetings.

In the April Newsletter, we celebrated one year of the Foundation; now, three months into the second year we rejoice in its continued growth, based on the principle that faith with works will bring hope to the people of Malawi. The 'faith' is that the Gospel of Jesus brings hope; the 'works' is the belief that giving based on love will reach out to people in need. The generosity of people in many places around the world has been overwhelming. In the first half year of 2018, William has received £225 in donations, which have been used to buy Bibles and help pay freight costs of the parcels he has sent. 491 English Bibles and 49 Bibles in the Tumbuka language have been distributed.

In Malawi, Levison continues to work tirelessly to establish the Foundation. The building of the Resource Centre is well under way. The first stage was the digging of the latrines. The photos show the hard work engaged in by Levison and the builders. Before the digging started, the ground had to be cleared of shrubs and deep roots. No JCBs there! Pick and shovel and hard graft, as you will see from the photos.

Here is a link to a short brickmaking video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmcz3tZCaA0>



Preparing the ground for the latrines



Digging the latrines



All hands to the job.



graft!



A pavement of bricks

If you fancy a mud bath, I'm sure that Levison would appreciate your help with the brickmaking! There's always room for more!



Give me the tools and I'll finish the job.

The dedication of Levison and his team is just something! Seeing the conditions under which they work, and the willingness they show, is awesome. Levison's goal to have at least the Resource Centre ancillary buildings open by September looks as if it will be met.

News from Sarah

The time has passed so quickly since the last newsletter. We've been kept busy and have met lots of lovely people. I have been continuing to visit the local nursery as the children have shown a real interest in Malawi. The educators have supported the children to find out about differences between life here and life in a village in Malawi. Models of houses were made, paint representations of African prints, and jewellery too. The Nursery displayed all of their Malawian/Scottish themed work at a local agricultural show where all local schools and nurseries take part. Their work won first prize and no wonder, it was amazing and the children had learned so much.

Mary and I have attended a couple of local school fetes to promote the Foundation and to collect donations of outgrown school uniform. People have been very generous and I think there will be more uniforms still to come.

We've packed up lots of boxes and these were delivered to the Bananabox Trust in Dundee where the container was packed and set off on 30th June on the long journey to Malawi.

Levison's short films he's made of his outreach visits have touched so many people. The little boy, Happy, who has additional needs, especially pulled at my heartstrings. I have a child with additional needs and I am so thankful for the healthcare we receive in this country. I made a 'wish list' for items to help Happy and his family. Friends of mine, whose children also have additional needs, bought blankets, towelling nappies, soap, toys, etc. Levison is due to visit the family with the gifts very soon.

Part of Levison's outreach is donating bibles to those who would like one. Lots of bibles have been donated so far but the number of requests still outnumber the bibles donated. I have started making little books of bible verses that Levison will be able to give people.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported, encouraged, and donated to the Foundation. Together, we are making a difference and bringing hope.

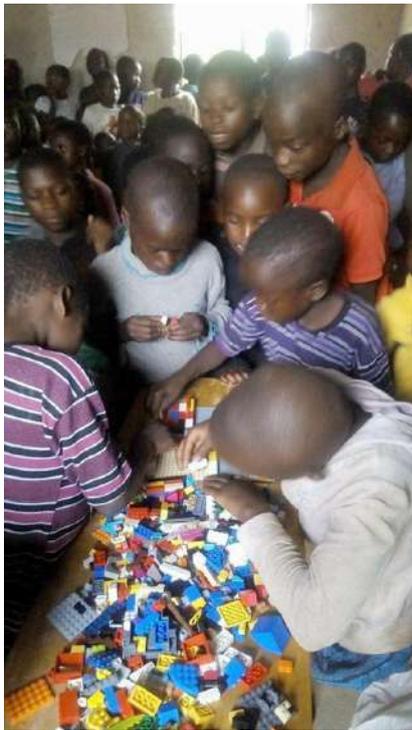
Sarah



News from Nkhazi

The Lego Party

In the last Newsletter, we promised you photos of the Lego party. The children had a great time playing with the very small sample sent by air; there is much more on the container. At first, they didn't quite know what to make of it but, as with kids everywhere, they learned quickly.



Smileawi Container

The Smileawi container arrived and Levison made the long journey to Ekwendeni to go and collect the boxes. There were clothes, shoes, toys, toiletries, books, fabric and sewing materials, and this lovely sewing machine which will be kept until the crafts shed is ready and, amongst other subjects, sewing classes begin.



Bricks for Malawi

Sarah had a great idea a while back; to 'sell' bricks – the handmade bricks being made in Malawi to build the Resource Centre buildings. First of all for Father's Day and since then we extended the idea to presents for teachers at the end of term and, in fact, for any occasion.

Mary added this to her JustGiving page – anybody buying bricks for fathers, whether the Dads are still alive or have passed on, and for teachers and support workers – received a certificate and the Dad's name to go on to a plaque to be hung in the Resource Centre.

Mary's JustGiving page reached its total of 100% for the first phase of the Resource Centre build and Sarah's has reached 88% of her total.

Brickmaking

The brickmaking has been amazing and wonderful to see it develop, from the extracting of the clay, to the first lot of bricks being made, and added to, and added to. Then to the collecting of the wood; the making of the first kiln and to the all-night firing of it.

So far, more than 52,000 bricks have been made and were fired in two huge kilns.

There were three lady brickmakers, and three men, supported by the Ibuluma villagers. A short video of them working can be seen on the Foundation website.

The bricks will be used to build the Resource Centre latrine blocks, kitchen and crafts shed. When those buildings are erected, then approximately 100,000 bricks will be needed for the main building.

I salute the brickmakers, who were so impressed by the work the Foundation is doing that they themselves donated 1800 bricks, and the villagers who came to help and man each of the burner ports at both kiln firings.

A word about the process

The brickmakers took their time to select the very best place to extract the clay – all by hand, of course; no machinery here. The clay was then put into moulds and the bricks laid out to dry but not too quickly or they would break and so they were covered with vetiver grass.

The first kiln had 21 burner ports, and the second had 20, into which purpose-grown eucalyptus wood was placed, the entrances to the ports acting like a damper on a fire. The whole kiln was covered with a skim of clay to prevent heat escaping. The first kiln was about 3 metres high, (the second very slightly less) and grass was placed on the top of it. When the grass above each burner port caught light it meant that the bricks were 'cooked'. Cooling down takes about a fortnight.

When all the bricks, including those for the main building, have been made, the site from which the clay has been extracted will be made good and cassava planted there, for food.





The first kiln

News from Levison

Preparation for the building

Just less than a year after the foundation was registered more and more developments are feasible. Over 52,000 bricks have been made within two months after generous donations from many people. It's time to start building our structures.



The first part of the building project is latrine blocks. The bricks are being ferried from the kilns to the construction site. More encouraging is that apart from older villagers helping in ferrying the bricks and sand to the construction site, children of the Foundation are also taking part as it is holiday time. When asked why they have involved themselves in ferrying the bricks to the

resource centre site three kids said happily that they are not helping anyone but themselves. There are over twenty young boys and girls involving themselves in the work. It is amazing to see happy faces working for their own sake.

More land gifted and another vision for Ibuluma

The Chiefs have been so impressed by the work that the Foundation has managed to achieve in such a short time that Chief MweneIbuluma has gifted more land.

The foundation has received not only funds, clothes, stationery and Bibles but also agricultural materials like vegetable seeds for onions, garlic, pepper, tomato and many more from donors, primarily John Curtis who himself lived in Africa for forty years. The foundation will soon have a vegetable garden in the Chambo river bank where these vegetables can be grown to feed the orphans and the surplus to be sold. We are also in the process of establishing a fish pond along the river wetland. Plans are in the pipeline that in the near future we should be supplying vegetables to the nearest schools and hospital as one way of sourcing funds hence self-reliance. As part of self-reliance as the Foundation is receiving more and more sewing machines and fabric from well-wishers, plans are underway that a professional tailor will be involved to make different designs of dresses, shirts, trousers and school uniform for the helpless and hopeless children and elderly it is supporting and the other clothes will be sold.

We have decided that the new site should be for a shop. It will be on the road from Chitipa to Nthalire where we expect the government to put electricity before the end of this year or early next.

Apart from the farm produce and clothes the other part of the shop will have a soft drinks store and barber shop. Not only these, as the children will also doing electronics, painting and tin making (pails, watering cans and pots), there will be a phone, radio, torch repairing service; tin and paintings shops adjacent to the main shop.

The Foundation will also be keeping chickens for eggs and meat. Surplus will be sold so as to raise funds for the Foundation.

We are very excited by this project.

Faith with action project

As one the objectives of the Foundation is to reach out to the helpless and hopeless people in Malawi, a lot has been done. Over twenty families have been reached and touched by foundation volunteers and coordinator. Children have received different school bags, books, pens, pencils, soap, clothes and other stuffs. It is very encouraging to see that schoolgoing children who have been assisted by the Foundation are doing well in class as almost all of them have passed their end of year exams to another class.



Mr Makangu Nyondo (left photo) receiving clothes, Mr Zawe Kaonga and daughter (right photo) receiving Bible, clothes, soap, sugar and other stuffs from Levison, donated by friends of WSHHF.



Julius, one of the volunteers, giving out bags donated by friends of WSHHF.

Finally, I went with Julius on some outreaches recently; I think that you will be touched by the smiles on the faces in this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeGZFBBCKqI>

Blessings to you all

Levison



Some of the school going children at Chambo Primary School being helped by the Foundation.