



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

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

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

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

Great things have been happening since the last Newsletter. What Levison and his workers have achieved is astonishing. Those of you who have been following the progress of the building of the Resource Centre on Facebook will know what's been achieved; but for those who don't, the photos will inform you.

What Levison and the women and men who work with him are doing reminds me of the Bible account of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. People laughed at him and his workers, but he persisted, and the walls were completed in record time. Although the parallel is loose, there are similarities with what is being achieved in Northern Malawi.

When I look at the photos and see what has been accomplished, my heart overflows with thanks. The first buildings to go up were the two latrines. The photos show the development of some of the other buildings. This would not have been possible without the support of so many people who have devoted time and energy and money. We have been inundated with items of stationery for the children, blankets and clothing, and so many different items too numerous to mention. All of which will bring hope to people who have so little and are so grateful.

The two principles upon which the Foundation is established are bringing hope through good works and God's word. The first part of my greeting shows how good works are bringing hope, and when the Centre is up and running, it will become more evident how these good works generate hope. We believe that it is not sufficient to give people what they need, but to give them the means whereby they can help themselves. The phrase 'Give us the tools and we'll finish the job' is very apt. Levison is tireless in fulfilling the second principle, as he takes Bibles to outlying places, But he not only carries Bibles, his bicycle is loaded with items of clothing and sometimes soap, salt and items which to the recipients are items of luxury. Sometimes he gets a lift from someone with a motorbike. I am constantly reminded of the Lord's words, 'Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me' (Matthew 25:40). Levison is constantly receiving requests for more Bibles, for schools, and communities. Bibles in English, bought in Malawi, cost about £4.00. Bibles in the Tumbuka language (many Malawians cannot read English) cost about 6.00. It makes more sense to send money than to send Bibles from England. Nevertheless, I am grateful for all contributions. Thank you.



LEVISON ON OUTREACH

You will find more inspiring photos on the Foundation Page
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and on Facebook at
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THE BUILDERS



THE LATRINES IN THE EARLY STAGES



LEVISON HITCHING A LIFT ON OUTREACH



THE FIRST FOUNDATIONS OF THE RESOURCE CENTRE



JUST A FEW OF THE TOYS



SOME OF THE STATIONERY ITEMS



PACKETS OF SEEDS



SOME OF THE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

Sarah's News

During the summer months, people in the village where I live, and surrounding area, have continued with their generosity. We've had lots more donations of school uniforms that we've boxed up along with shoes, children's clothing, children's bibles and blankets and these are on the second container which has left Scotland. It is amazing how many people want to help and we are so grateful for this.

We also have an appeal running for hats and gloves as the orphans are so cold walking the long distances to school each morning. The nights can be very cold in Northern Malawi. Also, I am trying to coordinate Christmas parties for the orphans and other children in the surrounding area. There will be approximately 1,000 children..... I've never planned presents or parties on that scale before! This will be the first time that the children will have had a Christmas party and received some gifts. The plan is to have 5 or 6 parties, so similar ages are together. There will be singing, playing games, a snack and drink and Santa will arrive at the party with gifts. Some of the village ladies will make up a bag for each child with sweets, a pencil, stickers and a small toy for the younger children and a more practical gift like needle and thread for the older ones. I am really looking forward to seeing the photos after months of planning. Hopefully, this will be the start of a new tradition.

I make some crafts and have a Facebook page <https://Facebook.com/sarahjaneblack69> 'Something Special by Sarah'. I make wreaths, bunting, slate hearts etc. and all profits from now until Christmas will go to the Foundation. I am also running a number square competition where you pay £2 per number and can be in with a chance of winning one of my wreaths up to the value of £50.

So as you may imagine, I am keeping out of mischief and working hard for the Foundation which is what I feel God wants me to do. I would love to hear from anyone with suggestions or who would like to join the team and help us help the orphans.

I enjoyed being part of a flower festival at my church recently. My display was on behalf of the Foundation to raise awareness locally. It was a privilege to be able to use the African artefacts that my grandparents had brought back from their time in West Africa 80 years ago when they were missionaries.

Best wishes from Sarah x



Nkazi's News

Most of the aspects of the Foundation's work with which I've been involved during the last three months are covered by news from William, Sarah and Levison.

I think the building work, and the speed of it, has been tremendous as has been the generosity of the folk who have donated to allow the bricks to be made and those who have donated subsequently.

As I write this, the Christmas appeal is coming to an end and I am delighted with the hats, gloves and sweets which are already gathered in my house (I have to make sure that my dog doesn't get into the boxes) and I know that there are goods lying out everywhere waiting to be collected over the next week or so.

There are also people who are knitting or crotcheting for us, some of whom have never done it before and who are loving it. So we will let this continue and in fact have some...woolly... plans for the New Year.

We also have plans for fundraising for, and raising awareness of, the Foundation in 2019 which we will work on in the interim months.

There has been a lot of hard graft this summer but already I am seeing photos which will be included in the next newsletter, of even more progress. There will be so much to report in the January Newsletter that we will start preparing it very soon.

In the meantime, all the best from Mary

Levison's News



Me (second right) with some of the team

In the last Newsletter I said 'It's time to start building our structures' and we have made excellent progress. The building team is wonderful and a pleasure to work with.

After all the ferrying of bricks and sand was finished, we started building on 1st August – first the latrine blocks, then the kitchen and stores. In between, we dug out boulders and tree stumps from the road and cleared the ground for what are now the football and netball pitches.

Here are a few photos to show the progress. At the time of writing this piece for the Newsletter, we are moving on to construction of the Skills Shed. Because we have not got time to brick-build

the shed before the rainy season, we will make it temporarily wind and water tight so that it can serve its purpose of providing an area for the children to learn practical skills. We have also decided that this should be used as a dining area for the orphans, until such time as the main Resource Centre building is constructed.

When the rainy season has passed we will start building it using the bricks which have already been ferried to the site and which will be covered and protected in the meantime.

Also during the rainy season we will landscape the premises as the ground will be softer to work during this time.

We're all very excited and so are the children. Every weekend about 100 of them flock to the site even though the work hasn't been finished. They feel it is a place; their place. They say they feel quite at home when they are in a neutral environment where they can play games and enjoy themselves.



The first laying of the bricks on 1st August



The start of the road clearance – end of August

The first laying of the bricks on 1st August



A touch of colour to the latrine blocks – mid October



The road to the Resource Centre – mid-October



The kitchen and stores mid-October

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter.

We have many plans for the next Foundation steps in 2019. If you can help us in any way, or have any ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us via the contact form on the website or by e mail to William.

This year, it's very early to be giving Christmas wishes but nevertheless we are taking this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season when it arrives.