



## NEWSLETTER SPECIAL NEW YEAR EDITION

Foundation website – [www.williamstewartfoundation.org](http://www.williamstewartfoundation.org)

Foundation fb page –

[www.facebook.com/hopeforthehopeless.levisonmlambya](http://www.facebook.com/hopeforthehopeless.levisonmlambya)

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We are bringing you another special edition of the Newsletter as by the time the next regular one is due there will be a lot more events to cover.

### **The Christmas Party**

The Christmas Party was, of course, set for Christmas Day, but the plans went awry when we received an e mail on 23<sup>rd</sup> that the second container would be at Ekwendeni the following day.

Those of us in the UK honestly did not believe that Levison could possibly organise the collection in time but he did. He is indefatigable. He left in the early hours after finally getting hold of a motor bike taxi to take him to wait for the first of the buses, and he made it to

Ekwendeni before the container was unloaded. There were 56 boxes and he got them all home on Christmas Day, arriving late in the evening.

The Christmas Party took place on 27<sup>th</sup> and was the first time Santa had been to Ibuluma. There were 400 children and they had a thoroughly good time; they had a special meal and received gifts. Next year, Santa will have a beard!



A word here about the buildings you see in the background. On the right is a tent constructed to provide cover for some of the children. On the left is the Skills Shed. We had originally made this as a temporary structure but it was so well constructed that the builders realised that they could turn it into the permanent building, thus saving time and cost.

It's not finished but will have its doors and windows later in the New Year. It is called Sophie's Skills Shed, named after a little girl in

Strathblane, West Stirlingshire, Scotland who wanted to fundraise for a charity and picked the Foundation. She and her mother held a Sparkling Tea Afternoon at which Sarah sold crafts, and they all raised a lot of money to build the shed.



Levison with Anock, the little orphaned boy who had no blanket or shoes and who now wears his new clothes and trainers with pride.



The Foundation was officially opened on 31<sup>st</sup> by the Group Village Head. The event was attended by Foundation trustees, the other Chiefs, the Primary Education Adviser, members of the police, clergy, social welfare, teachers and many more people who came to witness what was an historic occasion in the Ibuluma villages.

There were 600 children and all the orphans came. They received gifts of clothing and shoes sent from the UK, and the infants received cuddly toys.



Not all of the items have been distributed, firstly because there simply wasn't time to open and sort out the contents of all the boxes and secondly because Levison wants to give out on a monthly basis so that the children realise that they are looked after and thought about all the time and not just at Christmas.



The Group Village Head making sure that the ribbon is correct. He wears the hat of the Senior Village Chiefs of Chitipa, Karonga and Rumphi - it is a symbol of authority. With him are Martha Nyondo, one of the Foundation Trustees, Levison, and nearest is Chief Kanyalu.



Some of the small children with cuddly toys received as gifts



The Group Village Head with children showing their uniform items which came all the way from Scotland

## Two New Year Outreaches

Levison has been on two outreaches, the first of which was a very special New Year's Day one, to see Happy and his family. Happy is the little boy who is paralysed and who featured in the video 'Faith with Action'.

People in the UK had been so taken, not only with his smiling face, but with the way in which his mother coped, that they wanted to donate items to the family. Sarah and Stuart bought him a chair so that he didn't have to carry on sitting on the ground.

And so Levison got out his bike and cycled once again along the rough track to Happy's home where he gave them the gifts – clothing, Terry nappies, waterproof pants, soap and creams, blankets, a solar light and a selection of toys to help engage him as his mother is unable to get



him to school. Happy was happy and his Mum was overjoyed at folks' generosity.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Levison went to see Matilda, who was featured in one of the outreach videos last year where she was rolling on the ground, overcome with emotion. People had sent gifts for Matilda, her children and her parents too. This time she wasn't as overcome as before, but she cried with joy nevertheless.



## **Other News**

Sarah and Mary ran a Christmas appeal to buy a chicken or a goat for Malawi, in their local area, but it spread out beyond Stirlingshire. There was a tremendous response and there will be 20 goats and a billy called Stuart – there is already a goat called Sarah and a kid who has yet to be named. There will be 95 chickens and five cockerels.

The building of the goat kraal will start very soon, followed by the hen houses as time, the weather and funds allow. The birds and animals will be purchased in stages. As the orphans gather in Sophie's Skills Shed for their life skills lessons they will be taught animal husbandry too.

Well that's about it, Foundation Friends, except to wish you all a very Happy New Year from me, William, and the team here and in Malawi.

