

TWAM news

Tools with a Mission

Spring 2017

New Beginnings



A Christian charity sending tools across the world

Next TWAM Day & AGM

This year's event will be held at Newbury Baptist Church, Newbury RG14 5UN on Saturday 17th June 2017 from 10.30am. Please book the date now. We'll give further details in the next TWAM News.

Welcome to TWAM News



There are many who simply do not get the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty. People who are motivated, willing to learn and capable but just need a helping hand into a new beginning. I hope the wide range of stories in this

TWAM News will convey how you are personally helping to create new beginnings across Africa for literally thousands of people and the effort they go to in order to make the most of your gift.

Mike Griffin, Chief Executive

Tools to donate?

To find your nearest collection centre or to contact a local collector check our website or contact Ipswich.

Time to donate?

We always need local collectors and volunteers in our refurbishment centres. Please contact Ipswich for details. We'd love to hear from you.

Financial support

TWAM operates seven refurbishment centres across the UK and sends out over 20 containers of tools a year. We keep our costs very low but we still need a lot of support. We value all gifts whether one off or regular. Gifts can be sent to Ipswich and Direct Debit and Gift Aid forms requested.

Prayer support

TWAM depends on prayer. Please pray for us.

“And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great”.

Job 8:7 ESV

Many of the people you will read about in this issue had small resources and little hope. Through TWAM and its many partners God uses people and their journey through life to show his greatness, through new beginnings that lead to a sustainable livelihood and lasting hope. TWAM believes God's greatness is shown in these stories.

About us:

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity enabling people to earn a living and support themselves and their families. In many countries people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. TWAM started over thirty years ago, and has since provided this help by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them overseas. Through collectors and centres across the UK, our team of dedicated volunteers and supporters help transform thousands of lives every year.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Tools with a Mission

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Meet Anna



TWAM would like you to meet Anna, a first year student from Mechanics for Africa, in Zambia. TWAM has been working with MfA for many years, we wanted to give you an in depth profile of someone your tools are giving a new beginning to and what life is like for them as they grasp their new beginning.

Anna's life took a tragic turn when her dad died, leaving her mum with 8 children and 3 grandchildren to look after. Her mum took the desperate decision to leave to look for work on the farm and take only her two youngest children and grandchildren with her. Anna was left to fend for herself and her two sisters. This heart breaking decision is quite common. Anna still gets upset talking about it.

She sees her mum from time to time, when she can raise transport money. Her mum tries to help Anna with college costs, but basically she has to be totally self-

supporting. Anna lives in a mud brick built house with 2 rooms. It is well kept and clean, about 5km (3 miles) from MfA which she walks to each day. There is no electricity in her home and no water. She has to walk to get to a single hand pump 1km away. The hand pump is locked 16 hours per day and she has to pay to use it. Anna cooks outside and her toilet is a wooden shack nearby.

By selling sugar-cane Anna is able to pay for her sisters to go to school. She has to walk 2km to get the sugar cane to sell, which earns 8p a stick.

It would be so easy for Anna and her sisters to drop out of education and deal with the 'now' situation, but it's clear that they value education and are willing to desperately struggle now for a better future to come. The transition from poverty to a new beginning is not without its own big challenges, TWAM hears about many like Anna and her sister, each with their own story to tell.

TWAM supplies MfA with computers and mechanic kits. Anna shares the tool kit TWAM provided with two others as she trains. There is an ongoing need from TWAM for mechanic kits, as when Anna leaves she will have the opportunity to buy the kit for 100 kwacha, or around £8. Most employers expect their new mechanics to come with their own tools.

Anna was one of the fortunate 35 students per year from 150 applications who got a place. She attended a two-day assessment course to test attitude and aptitude. Students range from 18 to 30. TWAM works with vocational training partners like MfA who assess and vet applicants. This ensures that the tools you donate reach someone who is willing and capable of undertaking the challenging transition to a sustainable livelihood, despite the conditions of poverty they live in.

Anna said, ***“A friend told me about it. They knew I loved engines.”***

Many firms will choose students from MfA first due to its exemplary reputation. TWAM works with partners who have a track record of engagement with potential employers that help beneficiaries move into high quality employment.

Cars have to be serviced every 3-4 months due to poor roads in Zambia so there is a good market for Anna’s skills once she has graduated. First year students like Anna work on scrap cars then she will go on to repair customer’s cars in her second year. When Anna graduates she has a vastly improved chance of paid work at a rate she can sustainably support her family on, lifting them out of poverty, permanently.



Tool kits could be bought locally but they would cost five times as much and be very poor quality tools which would break within months. TWAM collects and sends only high quality tools, tools which will last a lifetime. Old tools are often the best tools! We refurbish them and assemble kits designed by ex-engineers to achieve their purpose, providing a complete solution for a trade.

Let’s finish by hearing what Anna thinks about her future.

“It was my dream career. I have been interested in this. In the world we all need each other and if men can do it so can I. I have a dream of making my own workshop”, said Anna.

With that level of persistent determination to learn in arduous conditions TWAM are confident of her success! Your donation of tools, volunteer time and finance has helped to give her the new beginning she both needs and thoroughly deserves. Thank you so much.

Can you help more people like Anna?

There are requests for kits that we have to turn down as we do not have enough regular income to send any more containers. TWAM would love to help more people, with your help.

If you would like to donate to us, please turn to the back cover to find out more, visit twam.uk/donate, email post@twam.uk or call us on 01473 210220. Our website also provides details of how you can donate a small sum to us regularly via Direct Debit using a downloadable form, if you prefer. A regular gift of £6 per month will pay for a mechanic’s kit for someone like Anna and two of her student colleagues to train with.

What is in a mechanic’s kit?

A mechanic’s kit is well over 50 types of tool and includes the following:

- Gauges
- Punches
- Longnose, pipe and combination pliers
- Grips
- Side or edge cutters
- Screwdrivers
- Allen keys
- Scriber
- Calipers
- Cold chisels
- Tape rule
- Wire brush
- Adjustable spanners
- Mole wrench
- Stilsons
- Oil can
- Hacksaws
- Hammers
- Drill
- Power drill
- Large screwdrivers
- Grease gun
- Sockets sets
- Ratchet drive
- Horizontal and vertical extension rods for drive
- Spanners
- Bearing extractor and scrapers
- Dial indicator
- Drill bits
- Morse taper drills and sleeves
- End mills
- Engineers vices and clamps
- Thread gauge
- Vernier caliper
- Micrometers
- Engineers squares
- Reamers fixed and adjustable
- Scribing block
- Combination square and protractor and centring angle

Our mechanic kits provide everything a new mechanic needs to start their own workshop business, complete with toolbox and cloth wraps to protect their tools, which will last a lifetime.



Reaching out to the forgotten Refugees

When did you last see Somalia in the News? Did you know it is rated as one of top five most dangerous countries in the world and its capital Mogadishu rated the most lawless in the world. Did you know over a million Somalians were displaced in 2016 by severe famine and war?

Somalia has been in a state of collapse since 1991 when the ruling regime collapsed, leading northern clans to declare an independent republic of Somaliland in the North. All attempts to put in place governments and peace treaties have failed. We know of Somalia in the UK for modern day piracy, very occasionally we hear about the Somalis who have been displaced but rarer still, the impacts on surrounding countries. Maybe you have seen pictures like the one on this page, of fleeing refugees on the news?

Of the million Somalian refugees more than 300,000 have fled to Kenya, 60% of which are under 25. This in turn impacts Kenya,

whilst Somalia continues to remain volatile. It is easy to focus on how overwhelming this is, however new beginnings can and do happen, quietly going on behind the scenes.

TWAM has been helping partners in Kenya for many years and when the Economic Empowerment Initiative (EEI) approached us for sewing machines, we saw the opportunity EEI had spotted to help both Kenyans and Somalians. EEI started its project, "New Life for the Diaspora" in July 2015, when participants went through the entrepreneurship training and started to graduate in December 2015 as part of the first phase of the project. The project is designed to support the Diaspora from Somalia as they endeavour to become active members of Kenyan society. EEI help them with entrepreneurship training and starting businesses so that they can provide for their own livelihood.

TWAM supplied EEI with sewing machines, but what affect have they had?

Benson Sakala from EEI says, ***"On 8th Nov 2016, I had the joy of giving Harriet a sewing machine from TWAM in the company of her husband Juma in the photo. She is the first person to have received a sewing machine. She was overjoyed! The machine is very strong and durable and can sew all kinds of fabric. Inside the case, was 4 metre piece of cloth. Harriet will use the material to generate more income for her family."***

Harriet is first of what will hopefully be many who can look forward to a new beginning after being displaced, with the help of TWAM. TWAM sends out sewing machine kits with basic supplies including material and haberdashery. With these materials, Harriet will be able to generate enough income to buy further supplies to maintain her business.

Harriet is also using the machine to impact the lives of young women and mothers with her skills through training them in sewing different designs for women and children. This is not untypical of many who receive tools from TWAM, they quickly look at how they can benefit others in their community and see the bigger picture of whole community regeneration that comes from the sustainable livelihoods TWAM seeks to create.

"The dress she wore in the photo was made by her. One of her possible future plans is to set up a tailoring workshop to train both the Diaspora and local Kenyans. I would like to give her another sewing machine as soon as I can. There are 11+ potential projects being worked on."



"Thanks to TWAM for their wonderful vision", said Benson.

The work for the integration of the Somali refugees in society is vital for both Somalians and Kenyans. TWAM and Benson share a vision to see people becoming economically independent through creating a sustainable livelihood. Benson is hoping TWAM will be able to support this project for many years to come as the problems of Somalia are unlikely to be resolved for a generation.

TWAM are looking forward to seeing tools reach the hands of more Somali refugees looking for a new beginning.

Through your support of TWAM, via donated sewing machines and haberdashery, we have the opportunity to give a gift of a new beginning to displaced Somalians and the local Kenyans. As you can see, we may well need to send more.



Answering the question: How do TWAM tool kits get to Africa?

The answer: through the hard work and expertise of the voluntary TWAM Country Coordinator team. In this article we will meet Paul Seymour who looks after TWAMs work in Zambia and who has recently had the privilege of visiting the country to see the impact of his work.

One of the key responsibilities of Country Coordinators is to work with our in-country partners who receive our containers and distribute the tools to recipients. Local on the ground partnership is absolutely essential in a country and without it TWAM would not be able to get the tools to so many charities in each country and have the big impact it does. In this article we'll look at our partner the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and two of the many hundreds of Zambians, who have benefitted directly from our partnership with them.

With any partnership, there is a need for understanding about each other's roles and teamwork is key to the Country Coordinators work. Paul has been doing this varied and

challenging job since he arrived at TWAM as a volunteer in the summer of 2013. Paul explains why he joined TWAM:

"I was conscious from the outset that developing a working relationship based on trust with in-country partners was paramount to success. The only way to do this is to sit down with them to work through the many processes involved. After a great deal of planning, I was able to visit Zambia in the latter part of last year. It was amazing meeting our Lusaka based partner UCZ who provide support in the southern part of Zambia and also Faith Orphanage Foundation based in Kitwe, who provide it in the north."

UCZ have been partners with TWAM for many years, and Patricia has been our main contact for over 11 of those years. During that time, she has become a trusted friend and work colleague. She has been the 'face' of TWAM for the many hundreds of applicants who have received their tools and equipment via UCZ. Patricia says:

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you".



So what does our partner do for us to ensure applicants get their goods? This is the process Paul uses with UCZ (which is the same process across all countries and partners):

1. Paul works with Clive to process and vet over 400 charity applicants based in Zambia who apply to us. Each application is checked carefully and if successful will be allocated tools on the next available container and sent all official documents.
2. For Zambian containers, they are initially shipped to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania before making the arduous journey across country into Zambia and onward to Lusaka.
3. Once the container arrives at UCZ, Patricia gets together a "work party" to unload the container which is done by hand and can take up to 12 hours to complete – hard work indeed.
4. Patricia then arranges to contact all the applicants who have goods on the container to come and collect them. The applicants must turn up with their documents in order to collect their tools.
5. Patricia certainly has her work cut out for her in the weeks after a container

arrives. All queries are dealt with initially in country by Patricia, who liaises with Paul to work out a solution to any issues that arise, always to the benefit of the applicant.

Our partner does what they do because they believe as passionately as we do in TWAM that there is no better reward than to help those who are less fortunate than us. Patricia is the epitome of this and you will not find a better example of a caring and dedicated person who dedicates herself to the service of others.

"My working with TWAM close to 11 years has helped me to see things from the other side of the world and also to understand people from a different angle. I want to thank TWAM for the trust they have in me and I promise not to disappoint them", says Patricia.





This is a challenge for us! How many times did I hear that phrase?

So what is Paul's lasting impression of Zambia? He says:

"Of the many groups I visited, all made a lasting impression on me for their sheer tenacity in the face of such tremendous challenge. Indeed, it was this one phrase that I heard time and time again – "This is a challenge for us", when asked how they were going to overcome difficulties with finances and resources to meet their goal. I saw time and time again the determination and resoluteness in people's eyes when they were asked how they were going to overcome these challenges.

One such group, in Lusaka was the El-Shaddai Christian Church, run by Pastor Ruth and ably assisted by Pastor Joseph and Pastor Mercy, who were working together to develop a skills training centre to support one of the poorest communities in Lusaka. I met the group of over 30 men and women, who were being taught sewing, knitting, carpentry, building and mechanics skills, all with TWAM supplied tools. The project can only operate because TWAM supplied them tools. Amazingly, they are working out of a temporary building which converts to a Church on a Sunday and they have erected a tent within the structure until they can complete it. Two of the youths I met were Evans and Moses.

Evans has been on course for a month and said: ***"I am a school dropout, so this is something I can do. My parents could not afford the fees. I would like computing to be a career. I think with the help of God this is possible. I have no other computers I can use. Without this course it would be very, very hard to find work."***

Moses said: ***"I did building construction at a training centre. I am still learning but am helping build as this is my church. I come and pray here, so I wanted to work for my church and build for them so they can save money for other things."***

Moses stressed that it would be very hard to buy tools as they are very expensive. He has worked on the project for five years – he builds during the week and trains on Saturdays, and attends Church on Sunday. Meeting Evans and Moses had a huge impact on me and encouraged me so much in my work for TWAM."

TWAM relies on volunteers to make this happen, people like Paul and Clive. We are so thankful for the work of volunteers and in country partners like UCZ which make new beginnings possible, new beginnings like those of Evans and Moses.



After a career in the Royal Air Force, with his last 4 years serving in Sierra Leone, Paul had a passion for helping others. When he was offered the chance to work with TWAM, he didn't need a second thought before agreeing to take over the coordination of Zambia. He had seen the work of many charities and NGOs during his time in Sierra Leone and was convinced that the TWAM approach was the most effective and sustainable. Livelihood creation is at the centre of what TWAM is trying to achieve and following his recent visit, he met personally a large number of groups who had benefited from TWAM support. Paul says:

"I am absolutely convinced that TWAM is making a difference, enabling people to support themselves through developing skills from the tools TWAM provides. Every single group that I visited in Zambia were using the tools supplied to them to train and empower those that they were supporting. This was so reassuring."

The tools and equipment are supplied free of charge; however, applicants are asked to contribute towards the cost of shipping to ensure a sense of ownership. Applicants value highly the tools they receive as a result of the effort it takes to raise this money, TWAM cannot afford to send containers for free. Each container takes around 13 tonnes of tools and working with Graham and Lyn (Warehouse and Operations Managers) in Ipswich, containers are prepared ready for shipment. Paul aims to send a container every 2 months. Paul says:

"The reward is to see the container depart, knowing that the tools and equipment will change so many people's lives, giving them a semblance of respectability and independence that they would not have otherwise achieved"

A New Destiny for Freetown Communities



Happy builders in training, using TWAM tools to build Destiny Village.

TWAM partners with Home Leone, who share a great vision to bring a new beginning to those trapped in slums, through relocation to 'Destiny Village'. Home Leone owns 20 acres of land in Newton, 13 miles from Freetown. The land has a natural spring for water and is well placed with resources to be self-sustaining and become Destiny Village.

TWAM magazine has in the past featured Sierra Leone and how we have helped supply tools to organisations helping to handle the after effects of Ebola. However, there are other issues in Sierra Leone. Like many African countries land is an emotive and political issue which affects communities greatly. There is a shortfall of 500,000 homes in Sierra Leone, in Freetown its capital the shortfall is 166,000.

Freetown's population is around one million and is forecast to grow to two million by 2028. Up to 60% of Freetown's population live in slums. One in five sleep in a room with 10 or more people. This problem is set to grow bigger still.

Many live in slums because they are cheap, but they do not own the land they live on, building on it would result in their eviction. Slums come with appalling conditions and around 5,000 families in Freetown live in dwellings in risk of flooding or land slide. They have to be resettled.

In 2015 TWAM supplied a range of building and carpentry kits and loose tools. Rachel Cobb, UK Operations Manager for Home Leone says:

"Well here we are nearly a year on from when TWAM first blessed us with tools and fixings for the project in Sierra Leone. We have had 20 students from a vocational training centre and 40 employees during the build, they all benefited from the hand and power tools and also the opportunity to work with good quantity locks, handles and screws. All of the sand paper and pads were fantastic and production of all our bathroom doors were helped along massively with the routers and planers you gave us".

TWAM supplies good quality tools that can stand the test of time, a lifetime.

The village will consist of dwellings sharing a courtyard with a separate kitchen and washing building. It will include a business centre, football pitch, farming land, schools, health and community centres so it can become self-sustaining. Home Leone have committed to Destiny Village for 12 years with the government, so it can develop its own leadership and manage itself sustainably. TWAM look for partners who have a long term commitment to their projects, it delivers sustainable results.

Tools from TWAM have enabled the first 8 houses to be built and the next phase is to get this number up to 32 and build a business centre. TWAM has provided a further consignment of tools in 2016 due to arrive in Freetown right about now as you read this magazine. We are keen to get our tools in to help as the critical point is reached in the project. Once this building phase is complete people can relocate as there will be enough housing and facilities to create a viable community.

Relocation of people is now in the later stages of planning. Alberta is one of the applicants who Home Leone are hoping will be in the first group of those moving, going through a detailed and in depth selection process. She is on a job search, hoping to become a private driver to support her young boy. "I like to be a good mother", she says. She believes that every second she can invest love and kindness into her son, it will affect his future and the man he becomes. Alberta's son is extremely active and well-liked by all. He inspires her to play and laugh

every day and ignore life's troubles. "It's not easy to be a single mother, he needs a father's love and financial care. If you are not educated, you are an outlaw and men will take advantage of you", Alberta says. Life's proven to be difficult, but she is very active helping in her local community, Cockle Bay. She is keen to move and create a better life for her and her son.

TWAM tools are helping to build a new community for 1000's of people through the provision of tools that will be self-sustaining, one which can give Alberta a great environment to raise her son in, complete with school, football pitch and businesses that may provide him with future employment. Complete new beginnings for a whole community.

Thank you for all your help to make this possible.





In 2013 Chipango George (founder and director of Building Futures) visited a village called Shabwafwa located in the central province about 23 miles from Lusaka the capital city of Zambia. There he found 92 children learning under trees with only two teachers who were teaching on a voluntary basis. This situation touched TWAM greatly, children had no seating or any form of furniture, they would sit on either stones or seats made out of tree branches, the school

Chipango said, “The tools we received from TWAM have enabled construction, during the project we were able to offer skills training to the locals and our team members for future projects”

Today Shabwafwa village children have a school building of four big classrooms, a library and an administration office, attracting more children from nearby villages that have never attended school due to lack of infrastructure and distance to the government institution. This brings the number of



Thanks to your volunteering, financial support and tool donations. You are helping to not only build a school that is educating 200 children, but train local people in new skills and help them prepare a new generation with the skills they will need. Maybe some children will go on to learn about building from those that built their school. Maybe some of them will be inspired to become teachers because of this locally driven new beginning.

Bringing New Schools to Zambia

Often TWAM tools are used to build vocational training centres which then go on to train a new generation in a trade. The approach works best when those coming to the centre to learn have basic schooling so they can quickly absorb new skills and put them into practice.

TWAM believes tool kits and education go hand in hand in order to create sustainable livelihoods. As we have discovered over the years, supporting the building of schools for young children through tools is vital, the basic educational tools of reading, writing and maths are needed for every trade.

Building Futures Zambia is a great example of a partner passionate about education. TWAM wants to support small overhead high impact organisations in the toughest regions of their country. TWAM and Building Futures are passionate about transforming the lives of less fortunate children by improving the quality of learning in Zambia’s community schools and increasing the number of children attending education, particularly children living in the remotest areas of Zambia, far from government learning institutions.

had no chalk boards, no text books or other equipment. These children are 5 miles away from the nearest government school called Kayoshia Basic School, this distance made it very hard for the children of Shabwafwa village to attend school on a regular basis, because of this barrier most children stayed home, and girl students ended up being married off.

How can just 5 miles make such a difference to the lives of children? It can mean no formal education.

Chipango decided to launch a school building project and this was well received by the locals and they were willing to volunteer and work throughout the construction of the school. But they did not have any construction tools. Chipango wrote to TWAM requesting for support with construction tools, without which the project could not get off the ground. In late 2015 TWAM despatched tools to Zambia via Lusaka, which included their order. The tools arrived and the school could now be constructed.



enrolled children to over 200, none of which would be having an education without a school. A school which could not have been built without TWAM tools.

“We have applied for more tools from TWAM for maximum impact because we have more children needing our support and we are very excited that through this partnership a lot of left out children will receive the quality of education they deserve, communities are developing and young people are receiving survival skills”, said Chipango.

“Tools with a Mission donated tools for the building and carpentry works. Building Futures are grateful to TWAM for the marvellous gesture which will never be taken for granted”, said Chipango.

TWAM are delighted to hear of such a success and vision for the future. We have high hopes that the partnership with Building Futures will lead to many more schools in Zambia being built in remote rural areas with as yet many thousands of unreached children having a new beginning thanks to you. Your tools can have an amazing impact on hundreds of young lives. TWAM are also delighted to see that many newly skilled builders had a lot of fun making the school, judging from the photo!

A Gift of a New Beginning

Throughout this magazine you'll see stories of new beginnings. For Anna, the sacrifice she has made and is making, to grasp that new beginning is amazing, your gifts are never taken for granted by us, our partners, or beneficiaries like Anna. For Harriet, she is now able to sustain her family, her new beginning means other young refugees will have one too.

TWAM generates literally thousands of new beginnings via enabling school and village building, that creates the new beginnings of community regeneration, literally from the ground up.

None of this is possible without you and your support of TWAM. We send on average 2 containers a month and the cost of collecting, refurbishing, sorting into kits and sending tools is around £16,000 per container. A sewing kit and machine for someone like Harriet costs £25. A computer for training someone like Evans costs £40. A builder's kit for a school or village project costs £45. A mechanic's kit for someone like Anna is £50. A regular gift of £6 per month for a year will pay for a mechanic's kit for someone like Anna and two of her student colleagues to train with. Your gift of any size can help TWAM provide more new beginnings.



Please consider the gift of a new beginning

Want to donate via post? Fill in the form below and make your cheque payable to "Tools with a Mission", use the enclosed freepost envelope to send them both back to us.

Want to donate by other means? Visit twam.uk/donate, email post@twam.uk or call 01473 210220.

Donation amount £ _____

Office use only: 2017F02

Name(s) of account holder(s) _____

Home address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

I would like to increase my gift by 25% without paying a penny more

Signature _____ Date _____

I can confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made over the past 4 years to Tools with a Mission. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that TWAM will reclaim 25p for every £1 I donate. I agree to notify TWAM if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.