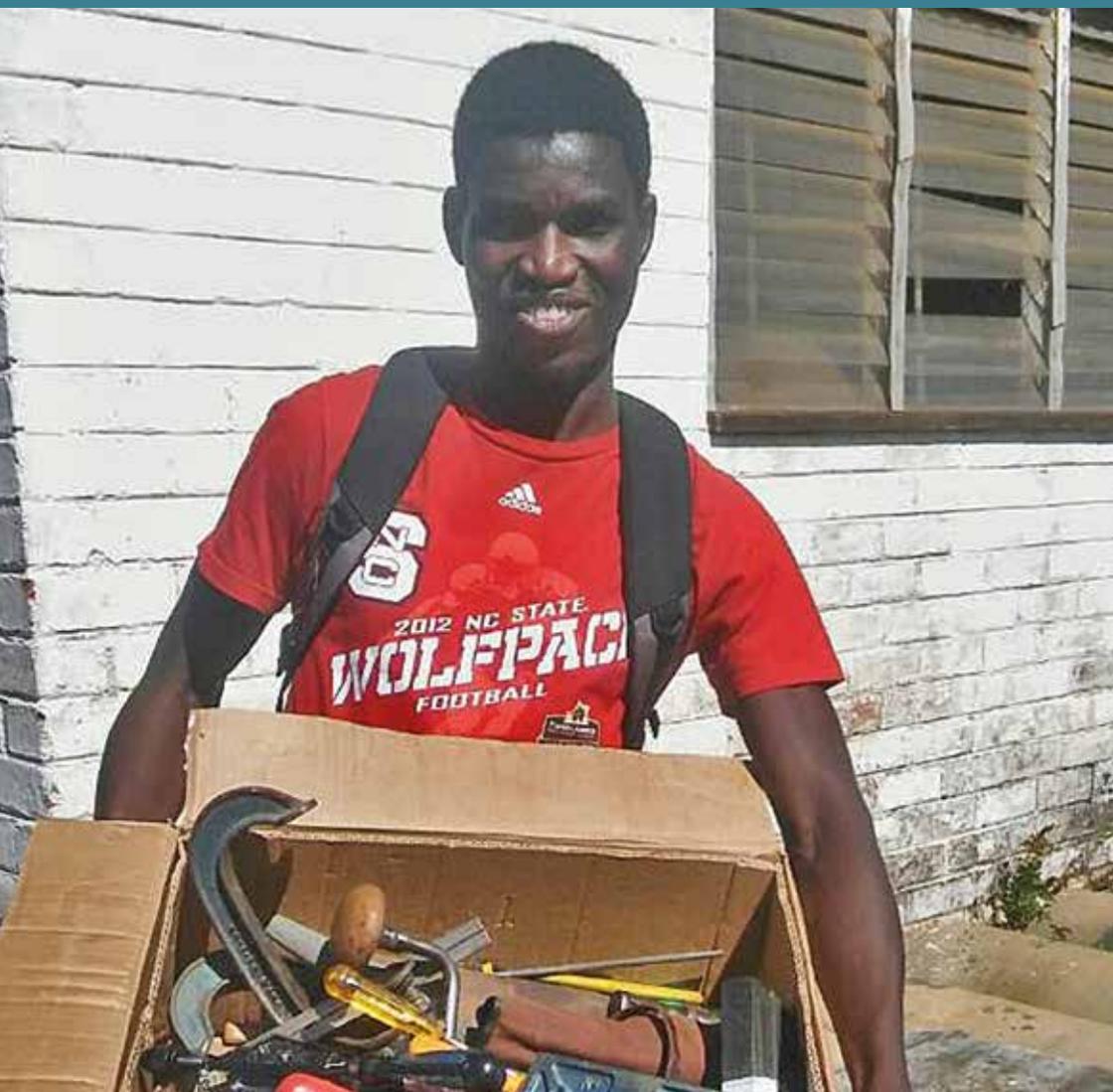


TWAM news

Tools with a Mission

Winter 2017

Gifts for the Journey



A Christian charity sending tools across the world

Welcome to TWAM News



I am pleased to bring you our Winter '17 TWAM News. This edition is all about helping people on their personal journeys from poverty to prosperity through livelihood creating tools. For many the hardest part of a long

journey with unknown challenges ahead are the first steps. Working with charities and churches across Africa, TWAM provides the hope and expectation to take the steps through training and support and the vital promise of the tools to help complete the journey. I hope as you read this edition you will share the joy of these journeys.

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.

“I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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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Gifts for the Journey

Christmas, with its familiar story of the nativity, is just a few weeks away. Soon images of Mary upon a donkey, wise men travelling across deserts and shepherds running excitedly to Bethlehem will adorn our Christmas card displays.

The vast journeys undertaken were both long and short, safe and perilous, travelling home and to strange lands. Some of the journeys were hard to start, not least the journey of Mary and Joseph to Egypt and an uncertain future. Other journeys are hard to complete. We have all been on long journeys where the miles on the motorways were easy, but the final twists and turns to find our destination found us hopelessly lost. This was very much the experience of the wise men who made it all the way to Jerusalem but then struggled to find the home of Mary and Joseph.

This reminds us of so many who turn to Tools with a Mission for help. The step out of poverty seems impossible with little education and few resources. If it were not for the partners we work with, it would remain impossible for many. Equally the final step seems impossible as following training they have to set up their own small business and earn their living. Once again without TWAM providing them with the tools to achieve this it would also remain impossible. Every year thousands turn to TWAM confident we will help them with Gifts for the Journey. With your help we will not let them down.

Let's meet the Bubhubhagmwa Zone Group deep in the rural heartland of Uganda. They have recently started and are just taking their first steps on their journey to livelihood creation.



Within their community nobody has a job and everyone survives on the few vegetables they can grow. Schooling is virtually unknown as nobody has money to pay school fees. Many of the women are widows with no family support. Few are educated. Their only resource is their joint determination to journey together to change this by learning a skill and becoming self-reliant.

Mary, one of the leaders of the group stood defiantly and declared.

“In the garden we just sit, but while we sit we can make clothes.”

In other words, while the vegetables grow all you can do is sit and watch them. But while the vegetables grow why not make something! Materials are easy to obtain in the market in exchange for vegetables and clothes can be sold to the school and townsfolk. They can see the course of their journey and just need the tools to start.

TWAM gave them two sewing machines to start their journey.

Mary continues:

“We will get sewing machines and they will give us profits to start other businesses with poultry and animals. The machines are just the start for us.”

But the journey is not just for livelihoods but also for friendship and mutual support. They are determined they will support every member of the group and when able their wider community.

Mary says:

“It is so good being part of this group. This group is our family.”

Mary is telling us that the journey is so much easier to begin if you have others to go with. The journey TWAM helps people start is not just for livelihood creation but for community transformation.

The community also has men, most of whom have never worked but whose first steps are learning carpentry. They have received two carpentry kits from TWAM and have already found a small workshop they can use. They look after the workshop but the women look after the tools!

One of the younger men is Gabusibwa.

He learned carpentry at a technical institute, but because he left without any tools has been unable to work for three years. The leader of the group knew he had learned carpentry so approached him to join the group and help train the other men. He says:

“I wanted to join the group to help them develop as they were looking for advice and we all needed encouragement. We are hoping when the women go to schools to get uniform contracts we can go with them and sell our school furniture. If we go to the schools and market together we will be able to share the cost.”



Already the men are doing well enough to support their families and send their children to school. They have plans to help other boys and when they have earned enough to diversify into animal rearing.

But they recognise the journey is very long, as they need more tools, cannot sell furniture to their own community as nobody has money, and in the towns have to compete with plastic chairs.

With your support an entire community of several hundred people spread across seven villages are undertaking a journey to self-reliance.

All they need are the Gifts for the Journey, a few sewing machines and some extra carpentry kits. Gifts that will keep on giving for generations to come.

Gifts for the Journey



Given is a young lady from Zambia who can identify with the challenges Mary faced and the fears that she would never complete her journey.

Her journey started well enough attending primary school aged four. But the first challenge of her journey was the death of her father in a mining accident. Her mother was pregnant and the challenges were too great for her to pay for Given's schooling so she was forced to drop out. Education is invariably the first thing to go when a parent dies or loses work, mainly due to the fact that school fees are the biggest financial challenge for any family. It looked like Given's journey to school had come to an end.

Given's future looked desperate. She needed someone to help her restart her journey to school and she found them in one of TWAM's partners the International Teachers Association (ITA). They support vulnerable children like Given by keeping them at home with their families and avoiding the very real danger of abandonment. With their support Given continued her tough journey to school and over many years completed it.

For many of us the journey to school was no more than jumping into our parent's car or taking a short walk from home.

Tragically for many in Africa it is as long and arduous as the journey by Mary and Joseph when they set out for Bethlehem. They faced so many challenges, not least with Mary heavily pregnant the possibility they would never arrive.

She is now 20 and has qualified for University, a remarkable achievement. So has she overcome all her challenges? Is her journey coming to an end?

Journey to School

Mary and Joseph may have thought their journey had come to an end when they reached Bethlehem, but all too soon they would have an even bigger one to face when they were told to flee to Egypt. For Given she too has another journey to face and one with many more challenges - the journey to university.

This will be a remarkable achievement for Given, but for her family it is a desperate hope to cling to, as long term it will provide them with a new breadwinner. A responsibility Given would love to take on. So where does TWAM fit into this story?

Given has no chance of completing her degree without a laptop, but no chance at all of affording one.

This is where TWAM stepped in to support Given on the last leg of her journey.

Given says:

“I am so grateful to receive this laptop, all my studies at university will be done on it”.

Thanks to the laptop computers you donate and the volunteers who refurbish them, Given can reach her full potential. The laptop is a gift for her journey from school to university and on to employment. Like any student at university she will face obstacles, but the lack of a computer will not be one of them.

Each year we get many hundreds of requests for computers. The demand is great, especially from schools and those starting businesses.

Can you give the gift of a computer to someone on their journey of education, like Given? Please turn to the back page for more information.



Gifts for the Journey



Can you imagine sending your children to school each day not knowing if they would survive the journey?

Something had to be done. But great plans and ambition are costly and when money is in very short supply, they come to nothing. So do you give up on your journey or do you find another way to finance it? Chisyabulungu Primary school

Joseph supported his young family through carpentry and no doubt funded the journey to Bethlehem from things he had made. Communities across Africa are following his example and funding the journeys of their young families through carpentry and the things they are making.

We often tell you about community projects with great plans and huge ambition, but this alone is not enough to complete the journey and keep the children safe. We'd like to tell you about Chisyabulungu Primary school.

It was started as a community school for 11 rural villages whose children did not attend, because the nearest school was over an hour's walk through the bush. A walk made almost impossible during the rainy season when the roads flooded and became so dangerous children drowned.

decided to find another way.

The community gathered all of their resources together to open a school within their villages in 2001, but with limited funds they could only manage to construct 2 temporary thatch buildings. With just four Government funded teachers the school was barely able to stay open. The first 10 years of the journey were simply too hard to sustain. But all of that changed when they decided to follow the example of Joseph and support their school through carpentry.

They planned to fund their journey to a self-sustainable school by opening a carpentry workshop and applied to TWAM for carpentry kits and a lathe. Parents, teachers and even the pupils gathered in excitement when the tools arrived, all keen to learn carpentry to help support their school.

to safety for children

Age is no limit on this journey as 10 year old pupil Giggs is keen to tell us. He says:

“I am very happy to see all these tools, even if I do not know how to use them all yet! These things will help bring development to our school and us pupils can learn how to use these tools to make beautiful things and give us a way to earn income in the future as there are not many jobs to be found in this area.”

Even at the age of ten Giggs, like many school children in Zambia, is fully aware of the realities of life and that he too must make the journey to a sustainable livelihood. In the UK we would hope our 10 year olds are not concerned just yet about jobs and income.



It did not take the pupils long to get familiar with the carpentry kits for the school. Peter a Grade 7 student at the school says,

“Because of the TWAM tools, we are already able to make our own desks. We learned how during our Young Carpenters workshops. The desks have already been of great benefit to our fellow pupils, many of whom used to sit on the floor during lessons. In Grade 7 we are tested during technology studies on carpentry and now we can actually see the tools which we had only learned about in books. This has been a great help to us!”

Peter’s mother added,

“Now we have the carpentry workshop as a school-run business we will be able to reach our vision of turning Chisyabulungu into a Secondary School. The community are so happy that we can order doors, tables and chairs straight from the school whilst at the same time the money helps our children to gain a better education”.

The school is now firmly set on its journey to self-sustainability and even has plans to grow into a secondary school. Thanks to TWAM carpentry kits, over 600 pupils now know their journey to education will not fail.

Accent Mahonko the headmaster would like to thank you for your support. He says,

“We are really grateful to Tools with a Mission for sending us so many useful tools for our Carpentry Workshop! The tools will help young people to have access to alternative livelihood opportunities with tangible vocational skills. We will be using these tools to generate income. With the profits we generate here at the Carpentry Workshop we have already committed to building a new classroom block at the school!”



The 10 years of struggle are now past, the school now has the confidence it will be able to continue its journey whatever the challenges. Giggs, Peter and the other 600 pupils now have the confidence they can complete their journey to school and eventually livelihoods without fear of drowning. Their parents can send them on their walk to school without fear they may not return. All because they followed the example of Joseph by applying for TWAM carpentry kits.

Who could believe that a few carpentry kits could not only fund a school of 600 pupils but also literally save their lives. Children are alive today because they did not have to walk over an hour to school through perilous flood waters. An amazing gift for the journey.

We cannot help schools on this journey without your support.
Inspired to help? Please turn to the back page for more information.

Gifts for the Journey to life

Donald is an inspirational young man from Zimbabwe embarking on a journey to bring skills to the young people of his community. He could so easily have given in to the despair of the political situation, the crippling poverty, the unreliable electricity and the terrible rains, but that's not Donald!

He saw the local school trying to teach their students a trade and saw a journey to livelihood creation that simply would never begin. He says:

“There are many needs at the school, lack of access to free learning resources, a textiles and design department without sewing machines and materials, a skills training centre with no tools so we cannot be taught. We have electrical wiring that is dangerous, but often no power anyway. How can anyone learn like this?”

I think Mary and Joseph would have felt just the same when they were forced to leave their home, family and community to flee the violence of King Herod and escape to Egypt. How could they have hoped to even begin the journey, let alone survive it, if the wise men had not given them the treasures to use?

Donald knew if he was to start his journey he too would need treasures, but his were not gold, frankincense and myrrh but were sewing machines and materials, carpentry and builders’ kits, computers, electricians’ kits and a generator.

Mary and Joseph had the wise men for the journey, but Donald had TWAM! His Gifts for the Journey arrived and Donald was thrilled. He says:

“I do not know how to thank you.”



He continues:

“The students are so amazing and have already sewn beautiful curtains using their sewing machines and materials. They have made curtains for the computer lab and knitted scarfs and gloves which were given to financially struggling students and orphans.

The computers enable us to learn better, download resources and without doubt we will see the pass rate increase meaning we will shine in the district. The petrol generator has solved the electricity problems and now the school programmes will not be disrupted like in the past.”

Donald is an inspiration and a great hope for Zimbabwe. He embraced his journey and invited others to join him. A long journey alone can be dangerous and discouraging, so Donald has invited others to go with him. One person is Ayanda, an orphan and ex-pupil from the school who has returned to teach and work as a community volunteer.

Donald, Ayanda and many young people are on a long but inspirational journey to turn around their school and community, and we are confident with Donald leading the way they will succeed. Donald says with a huge smile:

“Now we can survive against all odds. Thank you for the love your organisation has for us. We really appreciate your help. Indeed, you are ‘Tools with a Mission’ it’s all your love TWAM.”

This is a great example of a young person on a journey to transform his community and school with a sustainable training centre. It is a privilege for TWAM to walk with Donald on his inspiring journey.

Hundreds of people like Donald approach TWAM for help every year. Can you give the gift of tools to another young person inspired to set out on their journey? Find out more on the back page.





Gifts for the Journey to work

On the outskirts of Kampala, the capital of Uganda is a remarkable project that in less than a year has grown from 16 boys to over 40. The boys have journeyed many miles to join the two-year mechanics course because its reputation is so high and successful completion virtually guarantees employment. The inspirational founder is Matthias, an unassuming man who invites the boys to join him on a journey to motor excellence.

TWAM has provided every tool in the workshop and provides every student with a mechanics' kit when they graduate. Matthias says:

"Without the tools from TWAM, my workshop would just be a dream and all these boys would have no hope of completing their own dreams."

His ingenuity is such that he also teaches the boys to make garden rakes, hacksaws and

even TV stands so they do not sit around idle if they have no cars to repair.

Let's meet two of Matthias' newest students, Godwin and Ernest.

Godwin tells us:

"I heard about the course from the TV and radio. I have always wanted to become an engineer, but knew it was impossible without money. The course fees here are only what I can afford, so I applied. I came for an interview with my parents and was told such good things about the school that I had to come. I am also learning reading, business management and life skills. This will help me as I would like to become an engineer and manager in a big garage."

Godwin is so full of enthusiasm and so pleased to have started his journey to livelihood and employment.

Ernest is another of the new recruits and a very appropriate one to feature in this edition of TWAM News for his surname really is Christmas. Ernest tells us:

“I live in western Uganda over 300km away. I could have done the course nearer my home but not with all the equipment they have here. The toolkits from TWAM make this place very special. My plan when I finish this course is to work on vehicles in a garage. When I have some money I will start my own garage. It is very hard and very expensive to start a mechanics workshop.”

Ernest, has literally journeyed many miles to fulfil his dream by stepping out on a new journey to qualify as a mechanic. It’s an exciting journey only made possible by TWAM.

But some journeys are filled with fear and

uncertainty. Have you ever seen a Christmas card featuring the desperate flight of Mary and Joseph from the terror and murderous intent of King Herod? Can you imagine the fear as they fled away from family and home to the unknown world of Egypt?

Many of the boys on the course are on terrible journeys that they are desperate to escape from. Many are orphans who have been forced on to the unforgiving streets of Kampala to be recruited by criminal gangs. There is only one end to that journey and it is not pleasant.

But Matthias and his project have a different journey to offer and most nights community workers go out to find these young people and invite them to step out on a new path. But, the question is always the same, how can I change without the tools to do so? Thanks to your support Matthias can offer Gifts for the Journey. You can help a boy or girl start this journey with the gift of a mechanics’ tool kit. Please see the back page.



Chairperson's Chat

Bethlehem 2000 years ago was the focal point for a number of different journeys that we now know as the Nativity. There was Jesus' own transition from the splendour of heaven to planet Earth. There was the journey by Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. There was the journey of the shepherds from the hillside to the manger. And, finally, a year or so later, the epic journey, of the Magi.

Within those journeys we see the poverty of Mary and Joseph, the rejection of the shepherds, and the birth of Jesus in a stable. No wonder Jesus would later say through His brother James (James 1:27) that there is only one religion which is acceptable to Him - to care for orphans and widows in their distress and also pose the question (1 John 3:17): if anyone who has material possessions and sees need but has no pity, how can the love of God be in them?

Those of you who are aware of our Mission know that these verses, amongst many others, drive the desire we have to bring honour to that Child's name by answering the call to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And we know that Christ is pleased with us as we receive the abundant blessing He bestows on our Mission.

Another journey - Eric Britt

(1 June 1936 - 2 June 2017)

Eric's name may not be familiar to some of you, but I wanted to pay this tribute because of the enormous contribution he made, under the Lord's guidance, to the success of the Mission, especially during its formative years. He was one of our original founders and he concluded

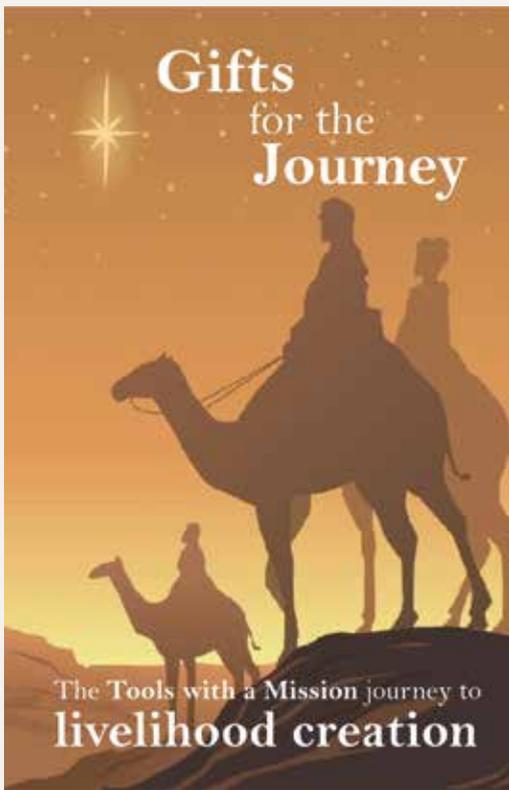
"...there is only one religion which is acceptable to Him - to care for orphans and widows in their distress..."

his earthly journey and went to be with his Saviour the day after his 81st birthday. Eric was a man of many parts; he was a Boys Brigade convert and later became Southend Battalion president. He was also a successful businessman, initially with the family shipping and warehousing business, Baker Britt and Co and, latterly, with his own company. In his spare time (!), he was a magistrate in Westcliff-on-Sea, supported the YMCA and the Gideons and was a leader in his church. A vital man of great energy and accomplishment.

However, Tools with a Mission was close to his heart. For many years he served the Mission in a number of ways but most importantly as its shipping

consultant. The Mission would not have been able to expand and prosper as it has without Eric's pivotal input. We are very grateful indeed to the Lord for the provision of a man of such drive and experience. Our sincerest condolences go out to Eric's widow, Heather, to his sons Stephen, Paul and Andrew, to the grandchildren and to the wider family and circle of friends. Thank you for sharing him with us.

David Ginns



Our stories share the journey to school, to training and eventually to employment. Without these Gifts few could have started their journey and none could have completed it. Their journeys are long, sometimes started with excitement, sometimes with uncertainty, sometimes even with fear, but started nonetheless because of the promise of Gifts for the journey. Gifts of tools to train with and finally tools to create a livelihood with. What better gift could we give this Christmas time, than the Gift for the Journey to the dignity of self-reliance and security?

Could you buy a gift of tools featured in this edition of TWAM News?

- £25 for a Sewing machine
- £35 for a Computer kit
- £35 for a Mechanics' kit
- £40 for a Carpentry kit

You can also find out much more about our tool kits and donate online at twam.uk/giftsforthejourney

Want to donate via post? Fill in the form below and make your cheque payable to "Tools with a Mission." Want to donate by other means? Visit twam.uk/donate, email post@twam.uk or call 01473 210220.

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.