

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our news

Just imagine what you could do

Summer 2018



A Christian charity sending tools across the world

Welcome to TWAM News



Just imagine what you can do... I find the biggest challenge when I am writing TWAM News is to convey the incredible impact tools have on a person and community. A tool kit can change so much. It can provide the

income to send a child to school and change their entire future. It can save a woman from the despair and pain of being driven onto the streets. It can give a desperate young person an alternative to crime. I hope this edition will help you imagine just what you can do when you support Tools with a Mission.

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.

Now to him (God) who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us.

Ephesians 3:20

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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Just imagine what you could do

with a gift of sewing machines



Mindset is TWAM's main partner in Uganda and they help vulnerable young women escape the terrible consequences of extreme poverty. Lack of education, skills and any hope of work forces many young women into the clutches of gangs, underage marriage and even prostitution. Mindset aims to change that through the offer of free tailoring and catering training.

Just imagine sitting in the bright green converted container in the Mindset compound in Entebbe talking to Namugwana as she tells you her story.

"My mother has no money and I have never been to school. I have four brothers and sisters and they have not been to school. We have so little and there is no hope for me. I want to learn tailoring, but I have no money to pay for training or the materials I need. I do not know what I will do or how I will survive."

Just imagine what it would feel like to be able to say to her that it will get better because you will help her and her family. You may never sit next to Namugwana in the bright green container but by supporting TWAM you are doing just that.

With your help, when Namugwana graduates we will provide her with a sewing machine. She tells us:

"With my sewing machine I will go back to my family and start a small business. I will earn enough money to send my brothers and sisters to school, and I will make their uniforms for them. I will support my mother and with my sewing machine I will change my family."

Just imagine what you can do....

Just imagine sitting down listening to Apophia and Monica who have just graduated from Mindset and who have decided to join forces to open a shop. Their story is not so different to Namugwana's, as they too come from extreme poverty, with little education and even less hope. But they don't want to talk about that, they have far more exciting things to tell you about. Apophia goes first:

"We have seen a shop! It is on the edge of a busy market which will be good for business as lots of potential customers pass by. The rent is low because the area is high in crime, but that means we can afford it and as long as one of us is always there it will be alright. If we work together we can keep the shop open six days a week, which is good for us. If customers see we are closed they will go elsewhere."

But all of this will remain hopes and dreams without sewing machines and materials. Just imagine being the one who gives them the tools they need to start. What a privilege that would be. Monica continues:

"When we graduated we had no money but lots of ideas. Now TWAM has given us two sewing machines and a knitting machine. We are very proud to have our own business and now we can help our brothers and sisters with their school fees."

Apophia and Monica have now had their shop for seven months and are doing really well. It's still early days, but they are building loyal customers and no one walks by without noticing these two outgoing and enthusiastic young tailors.

It costs just £25 to provide a sewing machine and £35 a knitting machine. Just imagine what you could do by providing this precious gift.





Sofi and Imaculate

Just imagine sitting down with Sofi, who graduated back in 2004. Her story is the same; little money, no school fees for her children and a daily desperate struggle just to put food on the table. But Sofi doesn't want to talk about those days or how she offered to make uniforms for the school in lieu of paying school fees. She wants to tell you everything she has done with the help of her TWAM sewing and knitting machines. She says:

"I can hardly believe it, but I have built my own home. It has a workshop and shop attached, but I have given that to a family who had nowhere to live. I make sweaters and specialise in traditional clothes. When I have made something I walk around the community wearing it so people see what I do and come to buy it."

Offering a family a home is not Sofi's only act of kindness. She was approached by the grandmother of a young girl who could not afford school fees and asked if she would help. Sofi says:

"I was asked if I would help Imaculate and I agreed. I then took her to Mindset and they trained her. I help with her training and give her work. I have been helped so much and I want to help Imaculate just as much."

Imaculate is the fifth person she has helped.

Namugwana is about to graduate, Apophia and Monica are just starting their new life and Sofi has proved what can be achieved. But each one can only fulfil their dreams if first of all you imagine what you can do by providing the tools that make everything possible. Without your imagination they will remain just dreams.

Just imagine what you could do with a chicken and an egg



Just imagine sitting down with Pastor Manu of the Apostolic Church of Zambia as he shares with you his problem. He is the Pastor of a church in a rural community where nearly everyone relies on growing their own vegetables for food. What little meat available is scrawny chickens which run freely around the villages. But Pastor Manu is not downhearted for he is a man with a plan! But he needs your help!

He starts to tell you his plan:

“The government wants to invest a lot in agriculture in the next five years so this is a good opportunity for me to help my community by getting funding from them. I want to empower families by giving them 30 chickens and selling them a very cheap egg incubator. One incubator can hatch 1,000 eggs in a month. They can sell the chicks to support themselves and pay school fees.”

With great enthusiasm and a huge smile Pastor Manu continues to explain the benefit of an incubator:



“Free-range village chickens lay eggs and then sit on them for up to 30 days before rearing the chicks for 3 months. During this time they do not lay any more eggs. But if the eggs are taken away and put into an incubator they will lay again quickly. This means an extra 100 eggs over 3 months. The incubator raises lots of money because the eggs are immediately removed which encourages the chickens to lay again quickly.”

Pastor Manu also sells incubators that can hatch 5,000 eggs and can be bought by a community coming together as a cooperative.

He continues:

"I was looking for something that is easy to do but very much in demand. You don't need someone to go for a degree to learn to keep chickens. It just takes some training. Everywhere you go you find chickens, everyone needs chickens so this is good. Even the poorest of families can keep chickens. The challenge is to support them and service the machines. We cannot give people a machine that costs so much if we are not confident the machine will not break down."

Amazingly he has personally designed and built every single incubator using insulation from old fridges (so the incubator stays warm during power cuts), an old ceiling fan to circulate the air and an old bicycle chain to connect it to the motor. By employing two local boys, he can make one incubator every week.

So what is Pastor Manu asking you to help him with?

He is asking for the tools to equip his workshop and build the incubators. TWAM has already supplied a compressor and engineering tools, but he needs many more tools to expand the work and build many more. He must do this to make his mum happy! She breeds all the chickens and she is very good at it. She currently has over 1,000 chickens waiting to be given away. She is also raising quails which produce an amazing 2,500 eggs per week which are sold to local hotels to fund the project. The project is now fully funded and self-sustaining.

Pastor Manu's enthusiasm and excitement is infectious and his vision boundless. He has achieved so much with so few tools, just imagine what he could achieve with lots more. Just imagine what you could do by donating tools and supporting the cost of collecting, refurbishing and shipping them.



Just imagine what you could do *with a workshop kit and a school*

Just imagine sitting down with Pastor Abraham, a man with a great weight on his shoulders. He explains his struggle:

"My church is in one of the poorest communities in Lusaka, Zambia. Nobody can afford to send their children to school and those left orphaned have no one to look after them. The church wants to help, but we are small and cannot possibly fund a school and orphanage, but somehow we know we must help."

So Pastor Abraham turns to you and asks if you will help?

The question seems impossible, how can you fund a school for 500 children and an orphanage? Just imagine the joy if you could say yes!

The answer isn't as impossible as it first appears, because what Pastor Abraham is asking for is a Carpentry Workshop Kit costing £240. Our biggest and most expensive kit. This is all he needs to fund the school and the orphanage which has eight children and two house mothers.



Pastor Abraham explains:

“We are just a small Brethren Church, but we met to discuss what we could do to help our children. A member of our church who owns a workshop offered to lend it to us. Many of the men in our church offered to work there one day a week for free to make furniture and doors that we could sell to fund the school.”

This has been successful and the Emmanuel School was born, but because the workshop is small and not easy to find, it is not able to make enough money to support the school. So Pastor Abraham wants to build a larger workshop in the grounds of the school and equip it with even more tools. But for this he needs our help.



He needs Builder's and Carpenter's kits to build the workshop and another workshop kit and generator to fully equip it.

Just imagine what you could do... fund an entire school of 500 pupils and an orphanage, by supporting a small church willing to make huge sacrifices to provide for the children of their community. A church that does not want to rely on handouts, but on the work of their own hands, if only TWAM will provide the tools.

With your help we will.





Just imagine what you could do *with the help of the formidable Pastor Ruth*

A question often asked during radio interviews with famous people is 'Who would be your choice of dinner guest?' Invariably the answer is someone who has achieved great things through their vision and bravery. I think for many who have met her, Pastor Ruth would be included in their list of dinner guests.

One of the great privileges for TWAM, and in all honesty what makes our work so successful, is the people we work with. Our tool kits are just collections of unwanted implements until they are handed over to someone like Pastor Ruth. Someone who can easily imagine just what she could do with the tools we donate.

Pastor Ruth founded El Shaddai Christian Church in a poor community on the outskirts of Lusaka in Zambia. A community with crippling unemployment, virtually non-existent education, and chronic social problems including alcohol, drug and gambling addiction. Women are forced into prostitution to fund their husband's addictions and children have little chance of escaping the same downward spiral to crime and addiction. Could one person really change this? The answer is no, but one person who can inspire many others to join them and who receives the tools they need, most certainly can.

It is about inspiring people like Pastor Winston, who has his own church to lead, but comes four days a week to help build the church and while doing so teaches young people carpentry. He says:

"I saw my fellow Pastor was doing the same things that I am doing, so I wanted to go and give a hand. We have built a family here and will support each other for a long time. We work very hard, it is the only way to do it."

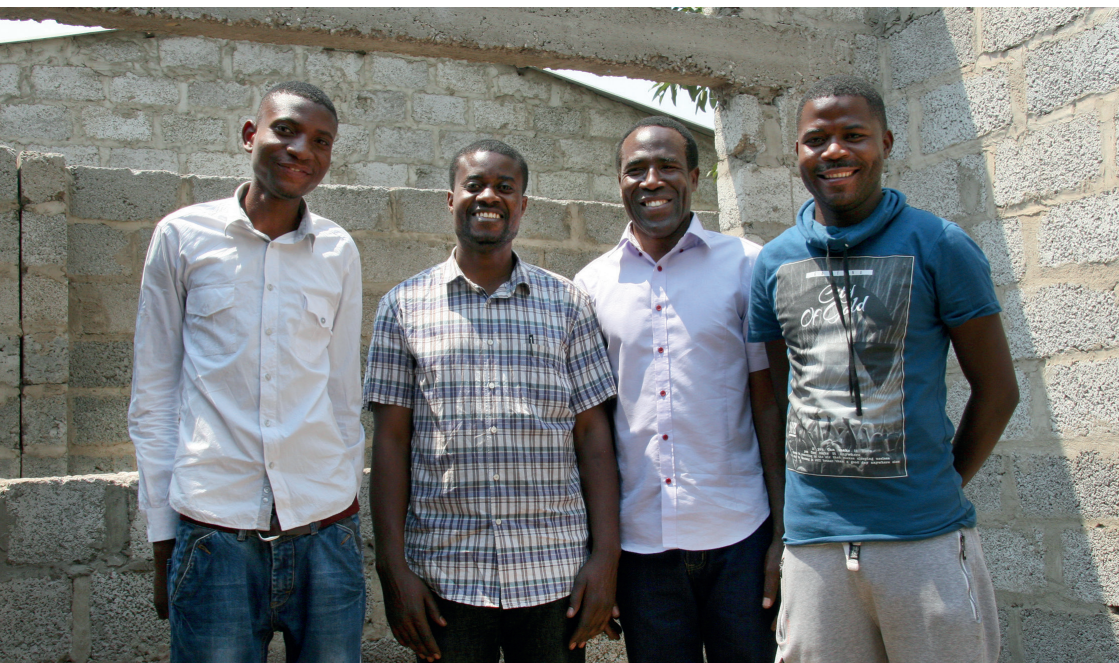
Pastor Winston is just one inspiring person who has come to support Pastor Ruth. Moses, the bricklaying instructor is another. He says:

"I did building construction at a training centre. I have been building here for five years and will be here at least another two. This is my church and where I come to pray, so I wanted to work and build for them so they can save money for other things."

Just imagine what you can do by supporting this visionary team. But as Moses explains, without your support, none of this would be possible. He says:

"It would be very hard to buy tools we need as they are very expensive. The tools we could afford, are not good and would break quickly. The tools we have from TWAM last many years and are everything we need. Without them we could not build this church."

The tools we have provided are carpentry kits, builders' kit and electricians' kits to build the church and skills centre while also training young people. Sewing and knitting machines have helped women earn their own money to send their children to school and avoid being driven on to the streets by their husbands. Typewriters, computers and motor mechanics' kits have been sent to train young people.



The main church building houses the tailoring workshop and computer room, and adjacent buildings house a skills centre and workshop for the other trades. One young trainee sums up the difference Pastor Ruth, her amazing team and TWAM are making. Isaac says:

"I wanted to experience the good tools and work. Building is a good job and will make it easier for me to find work. Without this, I would have nothing."

El Shaddai is one of the Hebrew names for God. It signifies one who nourishes, supplies, and satisfies. It literally means 'God comes to help and bring all manner of blessings'. I don't think Pastor Ruth could have chosen a better name for her church. But she needs more tools to grow the work and see the blessing to her community continue to grow.

Just imagine what you will do as you support TWAM with the tools Pastor Ruth needs along with the financial support to collect, refurbish and sort them into trade kits and ship them across the world.



Just imagine what you could do *with a carpentry kit and two very determined orphans*

Just imagine sitting down with two young men, both orphaned and both living with great pain. Just imagine your surprise when they don't want to talk about themselves, but rather the project where they volunteer. Just imagine the thrill of a young man telling you:

"It is ingrained in my heart to help."

Then selflessly asking if you will help him do that by providing him with the tools he needs. Meet Andrew and Alex, two young volunteers with URICT, one of TWAM's long term partners in eastern Uganda. URICT has built a school, orphanage, farm and carpentry workshop. But how do you fund and grow such a large project in the middle of nowhere, which few have heard of and less come to visit? The answer: you recruit young men like Andrew and Alex. We'll let Alex explain:



"I completed a carpentry course at an institute, and then decided to volunteer in the carpentry workshop at URICT. I have come here to teach the children to make furniture. We make tables and chairs for the school and orphanage and other furniture to sell. What we sell raises money for the school and helps me buy food. After school local people come and I teach them too."

I wanted to come and help here as it is ingrained in my heart to help, because I grew up as an orphan, so if I can help other orphans it will be good for them. There is stigma in being an orphan and I want to change that. Education is very hard to complete as an orphan, so I have to help where I can. I will stay and help URICT as long as they need me and then if God wishes I want to get a diploma in carpentry. I told Andrew about this project, because he is my friend and I invited him to come, so he too would have a better life."

There is no greater recommendation than for one of the beneficiaries to tell his friend that he needs to come too. We'll let Andrew continue the story:

***“Alex told me about the project and I decided to join because I am an orphan too and no one helps me. Even my auntie would not help me when I was starving. I knew I had nothing to do and must organise myself to achieve anything. There was a man in my village who did carpentry and I saw how he worked with wood and how his business expanded and helped lots of people. I wanted to do the same. I feel in my soul that carpentry is for me.*”**

It hurts me to hear about the orphans and I wanted to help them. When I finish my year here, I do not want to stop helping and want to stay here to help the project grow and help more orphans.”

One of the great joys for us, is that TWAM tool kits don't just help the projects they are sent to, but very often the people who work and volunteer in the projects. They too benefit as their greatest desire is to serve others and to give something back to the community. It is such a privilege to support Alex and Andrew who have suffered so much, but in response don't want not to gain for themselves but to give to others.

Just imagine what you could do by providing the tools to grow and develop the workshop Andrew and Alex so passionately volunteer in.



Chairperson's Chat

Imagine what you could do

Spend, spend, spend!

Older supporters might remember the name Viv Nicholson. In 1961 her husband, Keith, won the football pools to the tune of £512,319, equivalent today to £3,167,827.

Imagine what you could do with a fortune like that. Sadly, however, when asked by the media what they would do with the money, Viv has a major imagination failure; her response, that they would; spend, spend, spend! passed into folklore and is still heard even today.

Viv and Keith's imagination was limited to expensive cars, fur coats, jewellery, holidays and the rest of it, Viv later recorded in her autobiography that she'd been unable to cope with the psychological effects all this money, spending for her had become like an addiction to narcotics.

By 1965 - only 4 years later - the money was gone. After 5 marriages, bankruptcy and alcohol addiction, Viv died, aged 79, in 2015. 1Timothy 6 is true: the love of money really is a root cause of all kinds of evil.

Send, send, send!

By way of contrast, TWAM has a rather different philosophy. When we send an applicant one of our kits, or a sewing machine or any of the many other

types of tools and equipment which we stock, we are always delighted to find that our applicant's imagination is rather more fertile than poor Viv's. The imaginative horizons of our applicants are not confined to a fur coat or a sports car, they dream of setting up a business to feed the family or a training scheme for the youngsters.

Without the generosity of our supporters we wouldn't be able to facilitate these soaring imaginations. Please

keep on giving of your money, your time and the tools listed on our website. How much better it is to send, send, send than it is to spend, spend, spend!

“When we send an applicant one of our kits or a sewing machine... we are always delighted to find that our applicant's imagination is rather more fertile than poor Viv's.”

David Ginns

Just imagine what you can do

With your support we can see lives and entire communities changed with the provision of livelihood creating tools. In this edition we have imagined sitting next to people with such desperate stories asking for our help. We have considered how impossible their requests seem to be, but then been inspired by seeing how TWAM meets that need with a tool kit.

But without you, it remains just imagination. Please help us provide the tools that turn hopes into realities.

I want to imagine what I can do through my gift of:

- ☐ £25 could provide a Sewing Machine
- ☐ £25 could provide a Electricians' Kit
- ☐ £35 could provide a Carpentry Kit
- ☐ £45 could provide a Builders' Kit



Please accept my gift of £ _____ (Cheques payable to Tools with a Mission)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ I would like to Gift Aid my donation, please send me a Gift Aid form (please tick).
Or you could donate through our online tool kit donation store at twam.uk.

We'd love to stay in touch

At Tools with a Mission we take your privacy seriously and will only use your personal information to administer your account and to provide you with the communications and services you have requested from us.

From time to time we would like to send you our magazine and other mailings and/or our regular e-newsletter by email. If you consent to us contacting you for this purpose please tick to say how you would like us to contact you:

Please contact me by ☐ POST ☐ EMAIL (tick as appropriate)

- You won't get our regular newsletters or updates unless you tick the boxes to opt in.
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