

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our news

The transforming power of tools: The power of the Tool Club

January 2020



A Christian charity sending tools across the world

Welcome to TWAM News



Welcome to this special edition of TWAM News which focuses on our latest initiative - the TWAM Tool Club (see pages 8-9). Every article looks at different ways that the gift of tools can bring about a transformation of life that

goes far beyond providing someone with a means to pay the bills. You will see tools that help to transform entire communities by building a health centre. You will see tools used to defeat prostitution and fight abuse. You will see tools that can provide homes and education for orphans. Incredible stories of visionary people given the tools that enable them to transform literally thousands of lives. Please read and be inspired by these stories and please also consider joining our new Tool Club.

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.

'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.'

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

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

2 Bailey Close,
Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate
Ipswich,
IP2 0UD

t: 01473 210220
e: post@twam.uk

The power of tools to improve health



Imagine a town where there is no Government Health Clinic and where people have to walk miles to find one. Imagine a town where you must start your walk at 3.00am through the dangerous streets of the slums in the pitch black of night in order to be at the Centre when it opens. Imagine then waiting all day in a queue in the hope you might just be seen by a medic. Welcome to Chapata Compound on the outskirts of Lusaka. Welcome to the reality for 17,000 people in this compound and tens of millions across Africa.

Now imagine a gravely sick mother leaving her ramshackle home in the dead of night with her young son and baby in the hope of finding desperately needed medical help. She walks for hours down the silent streets until suddenly she is confronted by a group of men. She screams at her young son to run away. He runs into the shadows to watch in terror what unfolds.

What he sees, he will never forget, as the men murder his mother and baby sister.

In horror, he watches the men cut out his mother's heart and then do the same for her baby. They throw them into a plastic bag and head off down the street to the main road. The young boy knows the hearts will be used in witchcraft.

It was this terrible tragedy that persuaded Pastor Paul Swala that there needed to be a health clinic in the Chapata Compound. But how do you build a clinic in a compound plagued by virtually 100% unemployment and where money is virtually non-existent?

The answer is... you build it yourself!

Pastor Paul had already built a church, skills training centre and school, so a clinic was not a great challenge. All the other buildings had been built by hand using TWAM builders' and carpentry kits, and the same hard working tools in the hands of willing volunteers were now going to build this new one. Any costs would be financed through the sale of furniture, metalwork and clothes made in the Skills Centre.

Two years ago when I (*Mike Griffin, CEO*) first visited the health clinic it was just a shell, but last year when I returned it was fully open and serving the community. The centre offers all basic health care including ante-natal, respiratory tract infections including pneumonia and TB, hyper-tension and high blood pressure, sexual diseases, intestinal tract infections, fractures, diabetes and immunisations. They even have an old, but fully working, x-ray machine.

Typical road in Chapata Compound





The new health clinic built with TWAM tools

The Skills Centre is able to support the clinic and ensure all patients are seen for no charge and even receive their first 3 days medication free of charge. Doctors give their time freely and the clinic sees about 100 patients a day. What a transformation! Pastor Paul sums it up well when he says to us:

“Please tell everyone in the UK that because the people of TWAM have stood with us, we now have hope. We are sitting in a place where there was no hope, but now there is hope.”

Now, imagine a town where people in need of medical care, get up in daylight and walk safely down the crowded streets to their local clinic. They do not queue for hours or fear they will be turned away. They do not have to risk their lives or those of their families in a desperate attempt to receive much needed care. Welcome to Chapata Compound on the outskirts of Lusaka and the ‘power of tools’ to improve health.

Never forget the **‘power of tools’** and the incredible gift of a tool kit. Please consider joining the Tool Club (see pages 8-9) so you can help us transform lives month after month through the gift of tools.

The power of tools



“We want to help girls whose parents have died and who are being abused by teachers or relatives who say: “we will only support you if you give us sex.” We want to empower women whose husbands force them into prostitution.

We want to give these girls a different way to live. We want to provide an alternative and tell women and girls to come and join us.”

Judy

people. Judy is one of the right people!

Judy lives in Chipata Compound in Lusaka and she knows the pressure orphaned girls can be put under simply because they are vulnerable and easily taken advantage of by powerful men.

She also knows the pressure women are put under by husbands who suffer long term unemployment and seek to ‘drown their sorrows’ in gambling by day and drinking by night. Women who see what little money they have beaten out of them, and, when it is all gone are then forced on to the streets. This is a terrible life that leaves deep emotional scars and often, especially among girls, irreparable

physical damage. It also exists in the ultimate injustice - social outcasts, with girls denied schooling and women evicted from their homes. It is a miserable and stigmatising existence from which there seems no escape. It is no wonder that

Are girls really forced into sexual activity just to go to school? Do husbands really force their wives onto the streets for sex-work? Tragically, yes they do. Can tools really help fight prostitution? Wonderfully, yes they can, in the hands of the right

to fight prostitution

Judy tells us:

“Women and girls like this just sit around in depression. They do not know what to do to change their lives.”

But, thankfully Judy does know and so do all the women in the Chipata Compound Women’s Group. They got together and applied to TWAM for 6 sewing machines, a knitting machine and a computer. With these they offer orphans and vulnerable women the opportunity to learn tailoring, knitting, bag and bead making. They sell these to locals and tourists in the city centre markets. The money is used to pay for girls’ schooling and to help girls and women become independent of abusive families and husbands.

Judy continues:

“We don’t want people to live like this; we do not want them to just sit and cry out their hearts. We have to follow God’s leading for us and for each other.”

Tools don’t just provide livelihoods that put food on the table and a roof over someone’s head; they provide livelihoods that break girls and women free from the appalling abuse of being forced into sex-work. Never forget the **‘power of tools’** and the incredible gift of a tool kit. Please consider joining the Tool Club (see [pages 8-9](#)) so you can help us transform lives month after month through the gift of tools.



The transforming power of tools - the

What is the Tool Club?

Like most of the best ideas, it's really simple. Every month supporters contribute towards sending a tool kit to a community group or graduating trainee. As we have seen in this edition of TWAM News the impact can be incredible. The number of kits sent each year will depend on how much is given. The options are:

- **£6** a month will send three kits a year
- **£12** a month will send five kits a year
- **£18** a month will send eight kits a year to Africa



The chart below shows when in the year you will purchase a tool kit.

£6	
April:	Sewing Machine
September:	Mechanics' Kit
December:	Agricultural Kit
£12	
February:	Sewing Machine
May:	Mechanics' Kit
July:	Agricultural Kit
October:	Carpentry Kit
December:	Computer Kit
£18	
January:	Sewing Machine
February:	Sewing Kit
April:	Mechanics' Kit
May:	Agricultural Kit
July:	Carpentry Kit
September:	Computer Kit
November:	Knitting Machine
December:	Electricians' Kit

How do I join the Tool Club?

1. Complete the Standing Order form and post it back to us. We'll do the rest.
2. Sign up online with - Virgin Money Giving. It's all done in a few minutes using a Credit or Debit Card. You'll need to add your preferred amount, as we can't customise this. Go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com and search for "Tools with a Mission"

What will I get when I sign up?

You will receive the Tool Club newsletter, every time you complete the purchase of a Tool Kit. We'd also like to send you by post our quarterly newsletter: TWAM News. You can choose whether or not to receive this when you sign up. We don't send out regular appeals, at most it is one a year and only if we have a very specific need.

transforming power of the Tool Club

Join the Tool Club here:

1. Complete your details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

2. Choose how we communicate with you

Please send the Tool Kit newsletter by post by email (please tick your preference)

3. Set up your Standing Order

I would like to make a regular monthly gift for the Tool Club via Standing Order for:

£6 £12 £18 (please tick your choice)

Please debit the above amount from my account on or around the

1st 15th 28th of the month starting _____ (month) (please tick)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society:

To the Manager _____ Bank/Building Society

Bank/Building Society Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Name(s) of account holder(s): _____

Bank/Building Society acc. Sort code:

And thereafter the same sum instalments to Tools with a Mission:

Barclays Bank Sort code: 20-44-51 Account no: 33190994

Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. Could you sign up for Gift Aid? Increase your gift by 25% without paying a penny more!

I 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.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. Finally pop it in the post to: Tools with a Mission, 2 Bailey Close, Ipswich, IP2 0UD

 are proud to sponsor the Tool Club. www.greenscene.online

The power of tool



“I used to fear people and never went out of my home. Now I am confident with the friendship I have found in the group. I suffered domestic violence but now that has changed.”

Monica

Monica married with high hopes of a loving husband and happy children. She was never naive, and she never expected an easy life. She knew her life would be filled with hardship and struggle, because that was the reality of every family living in her community. But what she desperately hoped for, was that her life would be different - because she hoped her husband would be different. She was wrong.

Rural poverty and the prospect of life-long unemployment affects everyone differently, but for many men it leads to

gambling and excessive drinking. They spend money they do not have and take what little their wives earn from growing and selling vegetables. Monica tried so hard for the sake of her children to keep what little money she had, but time and time again her husband would beat her until she handed over the cash.

In pain and tears she would hand over the few coins that would have meant food for her children and fees for their schooling. Monica is not alone, many women across Uganda share the same heart-breaking experience.

s to defeat abuse

But what can this possibly have to do with tools? How can tools defeat abuse?

Four years ago a group of women started a tailoring group in Monica's village. They applied to TWAM and received sewing machines to set up their workshop. Monica heard about it, but did not dare join as her husband forbade her from leaving the house without his permission.

But one day some of the women from the group knocked on her door and managed to encourage her to join. Somehow she plucked up the courage. But her husband found out and beat her and banned her

from ever leaving the house without his permission again. Monica's heart was broken.

But then, something amazing happened; the women of the tailoring group came to her rescue and together confronted her husband.

This was an incredibly brave thing to do, but the sheer force of numbers and their determination to protect Monica won the day. Her husband was forced to agree she could stay in the tailoring group and also had to promise not to beat her or take any of the money she earned.



Monica has now been in the tailoring group for over two years and tells us:

“I never had any chance before this group. I had no confidence before this group. I pray to God this group will never stop.”

Monica is not alone in saying this and as a result of this group every member has broken free of abuse, started to keep the money they earn and as a result are sending their children to school.

When we send out the tools to start a tailoring workshop for women, it will always become more than just a class where women learn tailoring. As confidence and friendship grows, so does the combined strength to stand up to abuse and injustice. Tailoring groups don't just make clothes - they make champions; and Monica and her tailoring group have become those local champions.

It is the amazing truth that it is never just a sewing machine, a carpentry kit or any other tool kit, it is always so much more when given to a group of visionary, determined people wanting to change every aspect of their lives for the better.

Once again, never forget the **‘power of tools’** and the incredible gift of a tool kit. Please consider joining the Tool Club (see pages 8-9) so you can help us transform lives month after month through the gift of tools.



The power of tools to provide homes for children



“I saw thousands of orphans without families, schooling or any prospect of a better life. I knew I had to do something.”

David

David is referring to the disaster that ravaged Northern Uganda for over 20 brutal years. The terrible legacy of the war against the Lord’s Resistance Army which left 1.6 million people homeless, hundreds of thousands dead, and over 150,000 children orphaned. This has resulted in the highest rate of incidence of HIV and AIDS in the country; the highest level of unemployment in the country and the highest school dropout rate in the country.

You could be forgiven for despairing that nothing could be done, but not David Abala.

David saw the huge need and the potential time bomb of so many orphaned children and decided he must do something. But what could he do?



The answer was obvious:

Children need families and an education.

- ***But where would these new families come from?***
- ***Who would willingly look after traumatised, vulnerable and needy children?***

Perhaps an even bigger question:

- ***Why would somebody already struggling to survive take on somebody else's children and give what little money they have to pay for their education?***
- ***Most parents in Uganda struggle to do this, so why would anybody struggling to put food on their own table, spend their money on school fees?***

David knew if he was going to persuade people to offer homes to orphaned children he would have to answer these questions and also the question “what benefit will there be for me if I offer a home to some orphans?” This is where TWAM came in.

For David was a man with a plan! A plan to recruit literally thousands of ‘orphan caretakers’ who would offer a home to children in return for training in tailoring, knitting or catering. And most importantly the gift of a sewing or knitting machine on completion of their training so they can provide themselves and the orphans in their care with the income needed to improve their lives.

David has based himself in the capital Kampala to gain access to businesses and institutions that can help his project and has won many contracts making school uniforms and nurses uniforms to give the orphan caretakers an outlet for the clothes they make.

This approach has proved very successful and David has already provided homes for over 500 orphans and is currently recruiting another 600 ‘orphan caretakers’ to support thousands more. They are also trained to make liquid cleaners like washing up liquid which they can use and sell. David’s next project is to introduce egg production which TWAM tools will support.

The orphans are not left out of this training as they are offered computer skills and vital counselling in life skills.

David is also trying to provide additional income and job opportunities through a programme called 'Clean me up' which provides a cleaning service for offices and homes with the income going to the orphan project. The orphan-caretakers and some of the older children help with 'Clean me up'.

David is an amazing man, with a heart to transform the future of thousands of homeless orphans and is doing it with little income and incredible creativity.

Finally, can we say that it is the amazing truth that it is never just a sewing or knitting machine, or any other tool kit, it is always so much more when given to a visionary person with a huge heart to meet the needs of their own community and country.

Once again, never forget the '**power of tools**' and the incredible gift of a tool kit. Please consider joining the Tool Club (see pages 8-9) so you can help us transform lives month after month through the gift of tools.



I want to help transform lives through the 'power of tools'

Please accept my gift to help TWAM collect and refurbish tools to send overseas to change lives and communities forever.

£10 £15 £25
 £50 £100 £150
 £250 Other £ _____

(Please make 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.

Or you could donate online or provide the gift of a tool kit 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.
- You can opt out of receiving mailings or emails from us at any time by contacting our Ipswich office by post, email or phone using the contact details below.
- We will not share your data with third parties for marketing purposes.
- You can read our Privacy Policy at twam.uk/privacy or request a copy by post.

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