

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our news

Changing the World – *one life at a time*

April 2020



A Christian charity sending tools across the world

Welcome to TWAM News



This edition of TWAM News focuses on the combined impact of tools and their recipients. Tools can help just one person, but in the hands of the right individual, they will go on to help many, many more. One tailor,

choosing to use their gift to train others; one carpenter, choosing to open a community workshop to employ young people who have been forced to drop out of school. Please read all the stories of individuals and the impact each one has chosen to have on so many others in their community.

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 are in particular need of drivers at our Coventry Refurbishment Centre. If you are interested please contact the Ipswich office, 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. You can send donations to our Ipswich postal address or request a Standing Order and Gift Aid form.

Prayer support

TWAM depends on prayer. If you don't currently receive our quarterly prayer diary and would like to, please contact the Ipswich office.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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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Percival in blue shirt with his computer class

Percival

“I want to help more young people”

This edition of TWAM News is focusing on changing the world – one life at a time. How could we possibly do that? Well, put simply, it is about changing one life that will go on and change many other lives. It is about throwing one stone into a pond and seeing the ripples travel across the water touching everything they pass. One life given the opportunity to learn skills and as a result become a stone dropped into the community is the story of - Percival.

Percival was one of the first students to join the computer course at the El Shaddai Church Training Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. It has changed his life, and importantly not just his life but many more too. We'll let him explain:

‘I have always had an interest in computing and was very pleased to be invited on to the course. But this was just the start for me, for now I am at college learning to become a teacher. I want to teach because if I had not been taught I would be nowhere. So I thought I would help

other children to have the chance which had been given to me.

During the holidays I come back to the church to teach in the Centre for free. I want to help more and more young people like me, who have no hope of a skill that will get them a job.’

Do you see the ripples? By providing the computers to El Shaddai, we have helped Percival change his life and as a result, and with selfless gratitude, he has gone on to help many others. They in turn will go on to help others with their new skills and lives will continue to be transformed. The ripples just keep going out, spreading further and further as lives are changed by training and tools. This truly is changing the world, *one life at a time*.

Thank you for your support, whether it's the gift of time by volunteering, or the gift of the money to pay for the refurbishing and distributing of the tools. Together we are helping to change the world – one life at a time.

Purity

“My life broke my heart”



and became pregnant, everything went wrong for me. I started doing very badly at school. My parents were old and could not help me and I had to drop out of school. This broke my heart as I wanted to go to college and become a teacher.'

Purity lived in a small rural village and people were not kind to her. Not everyone saw Purity as a victim and this hurt her deeply. So she spoke to her parents and through tears they agreed she must leave and try to start again, somewhere else. So Purity went to live with a distant family in a far-away Province. But as her child, a son, started to grow and schooling loomed, this too proved to be an unwelcome home. Her relatives feared they would have to pay school fees and all the spiralling costs of a growing child and so asked Purity to leave. She was in despair, far from her parents and the only people who loved her. But, thankfully she still had one person to turn to - an Auntie in Lusaka. The decision to go to Lusaka was one of the best she ever made. She explains:

'My Auntie is a widow and very poor. She has very little money and survives by growing vegetables, but she welcomed me and my son into her home. Somehow we have survived and I have even been able to send my son to school. He is now 16 and has completed primary and now attends secondary school. I have two sisters living in Lusaka and they have helped me a lot. But I had not done anything with my life or my dream to become a teacher. Then in 2017 a friend invited me to Fly Deaf Inclusive to learn tailoring. The course was free, so I was able to attend and it has been a joy for me to learn this skill and have the opportunity to earn some money. I have completed my 12 months course and use the groups sewing machines when the new students are not training. Now I make clothes to sell and can help my son and my Auntie.'

Finally, after many years Purity is able to think about her future. But what of her dream to become a teacher? Thankfully, Fly Deaf offers more than just tailoring; they also offer computing. This has reignited her passion to become a teacher. She tells us:

'I have started to learn computing. It is a six month course, but I think I will be able to extend this to a year so I can learn more advanced computing. Now I am thinking that I could go to university and do a teaching diploma. My tailoring could fund the course.'

With the help of Fly Deaf and TWAM, who have provided all the sewing machines and computers, Purity is able to resurrect the dreams that she was cruelly robbed of sixteen years earlier. She is typical of the people TWAM want to help. An inspiration to everyone who shares our passion to help change the

world – one person at a time. But how does this help change the world? We'll let Purity explain:

'I have been helped personally so much and now I want to assist in my community. Many adults need literacy so I want to teach them to read and write. I want to work with Fly Deaf so that many more people in the community can be given a chance in life.'

By helping one inspirational person, we equip them to go on to encourage many others and the ripples of hope keep extending further and further out... *one life at a time.*

Thank you for your support of Purity, her son and her Auntie. Because of you, one life has changed and a small part of the world has become a better place.

Women in the computer and tailoring class



Purity lives in Zambia and attends the Fly Deaf Inclusive Training Centre on the outskirts of Lusaka. Purity has faced many challenges in her life and she desperately needed someone to show her an act of kindness. Without this, she knew she would never break free from the despair of poverty.

Purity's life started well, as she went to school and did well, even able to attend secondary school, which was rare for children from poor families. But when she was fifteen, it all started to go horribly wrong as she was abused by an older man and became pregnant. Tragically, many girls submit to this kind of abuse, as predatory men prey on them with empty and cruel promises of marriage and wealth. This changed Purity's life and she tells us what happened:

'I was doing well at school and loved maths and science, but when I had my difficulties

Simakanda



“I want to use my skills to teach youngsters”

Simakanda has been learning carpentry with one of TWAM’s long term partners, Collins, who runs a workshop in Zambia to train young people. He also uses the profits from furniture they make to fund a local orphanage. A very precious ripple changing the world. He tells us the kind of young people he is looking for and he says:

“I try to identify students who behave well, who are intelligent and want to learn. I want students who will help others and not just themselves.”

Simakanda is one of the students he identified. It’s easy to see why, as he tells us:

“I am studying at university to become a teacher as it is so important to give children an education. My parents do not work, so I know how hard it is to keep going to school and how important an education is. For me, the challenge was always to stay at school and not become a drop out. If you drop out of school, it is very hard to get a good job.

I am still struggling to avoid being a drop-out as my parents are poor and cannot help me with university fees. I must pay for them myself and it is very hard.

This is why I approached Collins and asked if he would teach me carpentry. This skill will help me pay my fees, as I will work very hard making furniture I can sell. But I do not want these skills just for myself, I want to use them and my free time to teach youngsters like me to earn the money to go to school and college. I don’t want them to have the ability but no way to fulfil it. I can do this as I train and when I become a teacher.

Also, people should not rely on one thing, not even teaching which is under-paid. Carpentry gives another skill and a means of income. Maybe if I work in a community school that cannot pay me, I will have carpentry to support me.”

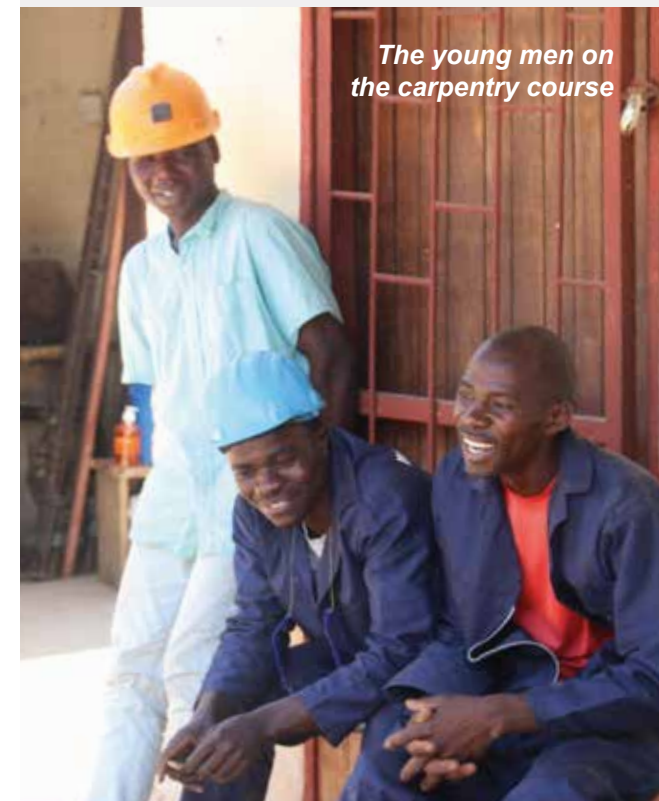
Simakanda has learned the hard way how difficult it is to complete an education and improve your life. Thankfully he has decided to use these tough experiences to encourage others. He continues:

“Many do not complete their schooling and if I teach them carpentry, this will give them a chance. I must help others who are struggling like me.”

This is another amazing example of TWAM tools supporting students like Simakanda to learn a life-changing skill, but as the ripples go out, continue to help disadvantaged young people. Simakanda is a great example as his heart is to go on to use his new skills to train others, and when, thanks to his skills, he completes his teaching he can then go on to serve in a school - educating the poorest children.

This really is helping to change the world - one life at a time.

Thank you for helping make this possible.



The young men on the carpentry course

“I had been helped so much and I wanted to help others so much too”

Sofi is an amazing example of changing the world - one life at a time. She is one of the most inspiring and selfless people TWAM has helped. But her story has a typical start, with marriage and children, but precious little money on which to survive. So Sofi turned to one of TWAM's long term partners, **Mindset Development**, Uganda, to learn tailoring.

Sofi learned well and gained great skill. A skill quickly recognised by her community as her reputation grew and her business flourished. Over the next 18 years Sofi became quite wealthy (by Ugandan standards) and even built her own home with a workshop and small retail shop attached. She is a great example of what can be achieved with training and the gift of a sewing machine.

But we are sharing her story with you because of what she chose to do with her skill and her prosperity.

As soon as she could afford to, Sofi took on local girls who had been forced to drop out of school due to lack of money, often as a result of the death of a parent. She offered to train them free of charge. While they were training, she allowed them to use her sewing machines and workshop free of charge, and even after they had completed their training she allowed them to stay on until they had acquired their own sewing machine.

To date she has trained five girls. Four have gone on to start their own workshops, and most have taken on other girls to train themselves. Many lives across Sofi's community have been touched by her kindness and many children as a result have completed their schooling and enjoy food on the table and a roof over their head.

Despite still having four of her seven children to put through school, Sofi continues to take on girls to train and currently has one named “Immaculate”. She is an orphan and lives with her grandmother. It was her grandmother who asked Sofi to take her on. How could she refuse? Sofi tells us:

“I helped Immaculate because I had been helped so much myself and I wanted to encourage someone else just as much.”

We might wonder how many more lives will be touched by the huge heart of Sofi? How many more families will benefit from financial security they could never have dared dreamed of, if it were not for Sofi? She shows us yet again, that by helping one person, so many more can have their lives transformed. Who could believe the gift of a sewing machine could have such an amazing impact on so many people?

But this is not the end of Sofi's generosity, as she has never actually used her new workshop. She was about to move her sewing and knitting machines into it, when she heard of a family who had been made homeless and offered it to them.



Immaculate

They have now lived in her workshop for over two years and have little hope of leaving. So, Sofi has set up a business in her small living room, which makes it almost impossible to even walk across. But neither Sofi or her family complain, because they know without the same kindness being shown many years before, they might be the homeless and desperate family.

Sofi, so powerfully and inspirationally shows us how people can respond to the kindness shown to them. How they can be willing to share their machines and tools to benefit others. They show us just what an incredible impact tools can have, when placed into the hands of people willing to help change the world – one life at a time.

This is the impact you help us achieve when you donate tools and support us financially. It's hard to think of a better way to help change the world – one life at a time.

Gabusibwa (3rd left)



The gift of tools that keeps on giving

Gabusibwa lives in a rural Ugandan community that has remained almost untouched by progress. There are no roads, no running water and no electricity. The opportunities for work are limited: growing and selling vegetables, or for the more prosperous, cattle rearing. Few have ever been to school and none had any expectations that life could get better.

Then Gabusibwa and the other members of his community found out about TWAM. A meeting was held and a Community Group formed. The women applied for Sewing Machines and the men for Carpentry Kits. Wisely, the men chose a skill that almost guarantees work, as everybody needs furniture.

Five men joined and set up a shop: Gabusibwa tells us how he got involved.

He says:

“The Chairperson (of the newly formed group) told me the group was starting. She told me because she knew that I could make furniture. I learned at the Technical Institute and after that worked with my father.”

The shop is open six days a week and Gabusibwa trains the men every day, as well as making furniture to support himself and his wife. They make tables and chairs, coffins and sofa sets. Gabusibwa says:

“We mainly sell to schools and the local hospital as people in our community do not have money and could not afford our furniture. When the women approach schools to obtain uniform contracts we go with them and ask about furniture. It works well and helps all of us. We all go to market together which means we can share the cost. What we sell supports all our families.”

This is another great example of a single Carpentry Kit transforming five lives and through those five, their families too. But they have far greater plans than this. Gabusibwa continues:

“With our shop and tools we can do so much more. We see lots of boys in our community who have never been to school and who are struggling. Many boys come to us and ask if we will train them so we take them on to help them too.”

Gabusibwa and the growing number of men and boys in the carpentry shop are changing lives throughout their community. The gift of a Carpentry Kit and the determination to share what they have, both their skills, shop and tools, means that one life after another is being transformed. But without your support and the gift of tools, it would remain just another unfulfilled dream of the cruelty of unending poverty. So thank you for all your support and please consider giving the gift of tools, the gift that just keeps on giving...

...one life at a time.



Sheldon

Over £23,000 and counting...

On 2 January 2020, thanks to our supporter's incredible generosity, Sheldon started his apprenticeship with Tools with a Mission. For just over a year Sheldon has been volunteering with TWAM at our Ipswich Refurbishment Centre, assisting the centre manager Trevor.

Trevor has valued Sheldon's commitment and enthusiasm towards the volunteering role throughout 2019, and is delighted that he has now joined the team full-time. Since officially starting, Sheldon has led the Ipswich team in the loading of containers bound for Zambia and Uganda.

Arriving early on his first day in the new year, Sheldon is already impressing staff and volunteers alike.

"The variety of work is my favourite part of the job. One minute you're sanding down tools, today Trevor let me use the drill flat sander, the next you're helping people bring in old tools with different stories attached to them."

"I have enjoyed the increased responsibility. The first day I was in when Trevor was off, the Orwell Bridge was shut (which causes Ipswich to come to a standstill). I had volunteers calling up all morning to say they wouldn't be in. It was a challenge, especially on my first day without the boss! I panicked to start with, but hopefully dealt with it well."

A new experience for Sheldon is joining in with staff prayers on a Friday afternoon. Our Friday afternoon prayer time gives staff the chance to bring the challenges of the week to God in prayer and ask for rest and refreshment over the weekend. This time also gives staff the chance to thank God for all He has done in the life of TWAM and individually over the previous 7 days.

Sheldon jests that prayers are...
"Not as bad as I thought they would be. There's sometimes cake!" He continues, ***"it's a different experience to what I'm used to, but very calming as Mike and Trevor said to me it would be. It's a peaceful end to the week."***

Sheldon has spent over 10 years in the care system. After leaving school at 16, the chance to work and learn alongside professionals in the TWAM office is a significant step in his working life. The apprenticeship that TWAM supporters have kindly helped fund, is not only supporting Sheldon's career development – but in turn is supporting thousands of vulnerable individuals across sub-Saharan Africa. Many of these recipients have been in the 'care system' themselves – in the many forms that takes across the world.

"A lot of the tools we send out are going to help people my age, or people who have just finished school. When I first started volunteering for TWAM that wasn't something I'd appreciated."



I learn far more in the refurbishment centre, doing hands on stuff than doing coursework, but I know it's all important. To any apprentice overseas I would say to them; there is light at the end of the tunnel, you've just got to look further through the tunnel!"

When asked where he sees himself after his apprenticeship he says, ***"I'll be here of course, working for TWAM!"***

Thank you for supporting Sheldon in his new and exciting role. If you missed the Christmas Appeal, you can still give to support Sheldon's apprenticeship costs, simply visit: www.twam.uk/sheldon



...thank you!

Lydia

Lydia lives in Uganda and her story with TWAM began after she got married and had a family. This should have been one of the happiest times in her life, but as with so many Ugandan families, her happiness was tainted with the knowledge of future sorrow.

It is a story we tell so often in TWAM News; the struggle of parents to pay school fees and send their children to school. Far too many parents know from their earliest dreams of a family, that it is unlikely that their children will ever go to school, and therefore never realise their full potential. It is a constant heartbreak to know your children are almost certainly destined to a life of unemployment and poverty.



“Without TWAM tools we could do so little”

But Lydia found a way out when she heard about the tailoring course offered by Joy Initiatives. It was started by Florence and she tells us her motivation:

“I could see that mothers who have no income or education have no way to ever improve their lives. So I decided I must help by offering them tailoring. I found TWAM on the internet and applied for Sewing Machines to equip my training centre. I also applied for Carpentry and Mechanics Kits so in time I could also help men, but I wanted to start with tailoring.”

Lydia was relying on growing vegetables to feed her family, but in countries like Uganda that suffer from droughts and floods this provides no food security at all. No wonder Lydia tells us:

“One day I was listening to the radio and I heard a businessman talking about his fashion business and I was very interested. But I had no money, so when a friend told me about this course I had to grab at the opportunity. I had to think of my children.”



My family support me and buy me some material to use. Before this course I was just digging to grow vegetables, which is very tiring. Tailoring is much better because in the fashion world you cannot fail to get money if you know what you are doing.

When I finish my course I will get a Sewing Machine. I have a dream to go to the town and rent a small shop. The biggest challenge for me is that I worry about rent as customers will not come immediately and I must be able to help with this. Also I must get a Sewing Machine, but as long as I get the skills I will make it work.

My family expect me to support them when I finish this course. I have a husband and three young children (Misani 8, Timothy 6 and Benjamin 4). My training is so important for my family.”

Lydia is so typical of the women who refuse to be defeated and see their children hungry and excluded from school. When you combine the compassion and initiative of Florence with the drive and determination of Lydia you have an unstoppable force to help change the world - one life at a time.

Lydia is an amazing example of someone whose life has been transformed by TWAM tools in the training centre and, in time, in her own shop. By transforming her life our tools have transformed her children's lives too. There is no price for a child's education, but there is for the Sewing Machine that has made it possible: just £25.

We'll give Florence the last word, as she says to us:

“Please tell all your supporters how very grateful we all are for your tools. We have done so much for the vulnerable because of them. Without them we could do so little.”

I want to help change the world

One life at a time

With your support we can provide someone struggling with poverty, homelessness and despair the tools they so desperately need to lift themselves out of poverty. Your gift can transform a life for ever.

Please accept my gift of:

- £25 will pay for a Sewing Machine for a woman like Lydia
- £45 will pay for a Builder's Kit for a community in Uganda
- £240 will pay for a Carpentry Workshop Kit for a student

Or you could donate online at twam.uk/donate; by phone to 01473 210220; using our bank details. Please include your surname and postcode as a reference.
Barclays Bank - Account: 33190994 Sort code: 20-44-51



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