



Our News

July 2023

The power of tools to transform lives



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

Welcome to TWAM News

Thank you for supporting TWAM and for reading our newsletter. I hope as you read the articles contained that you will be inspired and encouraged in your support of TWAM.



We are very encouraged to see containers filled with life-changing tools continue to leave from Ipswich and Rugby.

I hope as you read this newsletter, you will share our passion to collect, refurbish and send thousands of life-changing tools to Africa. We hope this year it will top 600,000!

Mike Griffin

Chief Executive

Containers sent April-June 2023

We sent two containers to Zambia (1x 20ft + 1x 40ft) and one 20ft container to Uganda. Between them they contained approx:

- 500 Sewing machines
- 40 Knitting machines
- 90 Carpentry kits
- 43 Carpentry workshop kits
- 70 Builder's kits
- 35 Plumber's kits
- 42 Electrician's kits
- 17 Groundworker's kits
- 34 Agricultural kits
- 49 Boxes of power tools
- 102 Computers

In total, around 2,175 tool kits and machines.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Hebrews 10:24

About us

We are a Christian charity that collects donated usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits, and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

We support local people, meeting local needs with life-transforming skills training projects. We supply the tools to equip the training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support, we see long-term sustainable livelihoods created. Thanks to over 500 volunteers in the UK and your support, we will continue to transform lives and communities.

Tools to donate?

To find your nearest collection centre, or to contact a local collector, have a look at our website or call our Ipswich office.

Time to donate?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in our centres and to collect tools where they live. Please visit our volunteering website timefortwam.uk or ring 01473 210220 for more information.

Financial support

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 donate online, 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 our Ipswich office.

Tools with a Mission

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

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Evelyn, the leader
of the group

Because the tools are free, the training is also free

TWAM works with all sorts of groups determined to transform the lives of the ultra-poor and the vulnerable in their community.

Some groups consist of just a few widows learning tailoring on a street corner, while others, like the training centre run by the Solwezi Municipal Council, are large purpose-built centres with a training room for tailoring and a separate workshop for carpentry. The tools to equip both have come from TWAM.

The tailoring workshop is for vulnerable women and started in 2018. When the women graduate, they can come back and use the machines to start earning an income.

Thirty women are offered free training on each 3-month course, and the training is free only because the tools are provided by TWAM. Evelyn, the project coordinator, tells us:

“This was the first council training centre, but we now have another three like it. We felt it was important to do this because we have a department dedicated to improving the lives of the community. The mines and larger industries pay a levy for the community, and this is how the council spends it. But the money given is not enough, so we need to partner with TWAM to receive the tools. Because the tools are free, we do not think it is right to charge for training, but we must offer that free too.”

The women meet three days a week to train and support each other. The council has employed skilled trainers and the quality of the work is very high. The passion and enthusiasm is tangible as you walk around the training centre and talk to the women. Evelyn explains how they choose the women they offer to train and why this creates such infectious enthusiasm.

Evelyn tells us:

“The criteria for choosing which women to accept and whose livelihoods we improve are those who are vulnerable and also belong to community groups. It is important that they are part of a group so they can take their skills back and share them with others. It is also easier to monitor. The council sends community development officers to join the group meetings and see what they are doing and what support they need. We also teach business skills and other key skills, such as how to set up community savings schemes.”

So let’s meet two of the former students who graduated in 2021 and see how the training and tools have changed their lives.

First of all, let’s meet Nelly Chisala. Nelly tells us:

“I learnt knitting here last year and graduated in June. My husband just does piecework (day labouring), which is very hard, pays very little and is not regular. So we could not afford our own home and lived with my nieces, siblings, brother-in-law, and parents. I have one daughter, and I could not afford to send her to school. Before, I had no skills and could do nothing. Life was so difficult.

Now, my life has really improved. I come here to use the knitting machines and make jerseys. I often make clothes for my family members. I am a member of a community group, and when we sell things that we make in the group, we divide the money between us. This helps me because now I can afford to send my daughter to school. I can also buy food for my family and help my husband.

Now that I have knitting and tailoring skills, everything has changed for me and my family.”



Nelly shows us the impact skills training and access to knitting machines can have on one family. Her husband can now take days off to recover from hard labour, which will prolong his life, and not feel under pressure to accept the worst jobs.

Nelly no longer needs to fear the family will go hungry or her family will ask them to leave their home because they cannot afford to support them. Three months of training and access to tools have given Nelly and her family a secure long-term future.

Melinda has a similar story. She was trained in 2020 and has focused on hand knitting and doormat making.

Doormats are made from old maize sacks woven with strong wool.

Melinda



Melinda tells us:

"I used to sell vegetables, but I wasn't earning enough to survive. I have three children, and because I am divorced, I have to look after my children all by myself. It's difficult to raise children alone. I am the oldest, so I also have to look after my two sisters, who are also on their own and who have four children between them. They don't work, so I have to earn money for all of us.

This is why I asked if I could join this course and learn a skill to support all of us. I learnt hand knitting and doormat making very quickly. It only took me a few weeks. I'm still learning different skills like jam-making. I don't want to just depend on one

thing. I have to do different things to support everyone.

My life has changed so much since I started learning these skills. Now I have the money I need to manage my life. I can send my children to school and support my sisters and their children. I still have challenges, but I am managing now.

In the future, I want to become a businesswoman. I want to have my own big business. Now, we make jam by hand, but I have a plan to open a factory to make jam with machines. Then, we can supply supermarkets. I've started researching this on the internet. I have big dreams."

From selling vegetables and struggling every day to planning to open a factory (this means a small shop and adjoining workshop employing less than ten people). How did Melinda go from no skills and despair to such ambitious plans, confidence and self-belief? Through the gift of skills training, tools and being part of a supportive group of like-minded women.

Evelyn and the Solwezi Municipal Council knew what they were doing when they chose to use the mining levy to help the poorest yet most ambitious in the community. But they still needed the support of TWAM to make it possible. They now have plans to offer all graduating women their own knitting or sewing machine provided by TWAM. This will be a big commitment and very costly for TWAM, but the rewards will be worth it.

So please do continue to support us so we, in turn, can support Nelly, Melinda and the 120 women who will train in this centre every year.

Bishop Francis with members
of his church

School helps me learn, but skills change my life

New Life Church is a large denomination of churches in Zambia which is led by Bishop Francis. Every church is expected to have a training project to support the ultra-poor in their community. Bishop Francis shares with us why he thinks this is so important:

“My motivation is to understand the extreme poverty of our people. As a Pastor, I know I must help them raise their living standards. Training projects are part of our holistic care to address all the needs of the individual. We are teaching carpentry, electrical, motor vehicle maintenance, knitting, building, tailoring, bricklaying and IT, and alongside those life skills, we offer spiritual care, counselling, and even sports to encourage behaviour change.”

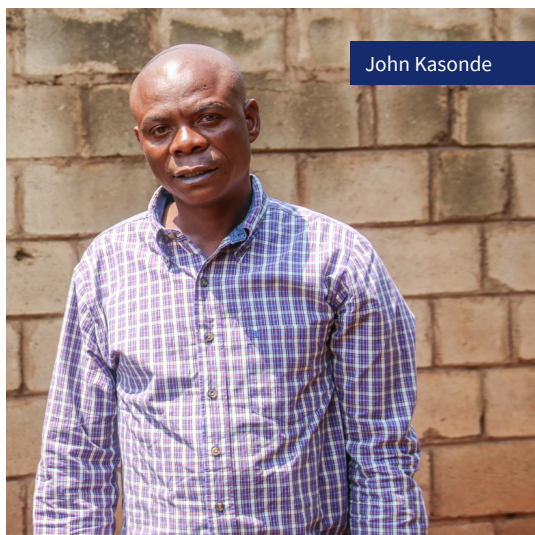
Bishop Francis also recognises that the ultra-poor do not just live in villages and towns and that his community extends beyond this. So he also has an amazing prison ministry, and New Life is working in every prison in Zambia.

1,959 prisoners (in 2022) were part of

their life training programme offering life skills and spiritual care. Bishop Francis says:

“If we do not offer life skills as well as spiritual care, we do not really share the love of God.”

One of the church's projects is the Masansa Skills Production Centre, about 180 miles from the capital Lusaka. The leader John Kasonde travelled all the way to Lusaka to meet our CEO when he visited in October 2022. He proudly handed over a letter of appreciation which read:



John Kasonde

Dear TWAM,

The machines and tools for carpentry we have been given from Bishop Francis and the New Life Giving Ministries Lusaka has benefited the Masansa community by creating sustainable jobs for 10 residents. Because of this, these 10 employees have children and dependents who can now go to school. On average, each worker has 6 family members which gives an approximate number of 60 children going to school.

The machines have helped our production centre improve on the quality of products and contributed to job creation in the Masansa community of Mkushi central province. Having the tools and machines also motivates workers to work well and faster compared to when they did not have them. The tools make our work easier and faster.

Furthermore, the residents of Masansa have found it easier to buy the nice carpentry products from us, unlike before when they travelled long distances to buy them. With these tools, we are ready to expand and empower more youths in the area with job creation.

We are so grateful to TWAM for their generosity. May God continue using you.

Yours in job creation
John Kasonde

Ben



The Masansa Skills Production Centre meets in a government building. Currently they are training 8 students in carpentry, 7 in panel beating and 2 in welding. Students are recruited on the basis of vulnerability, but they must also show an interest in the skill and learning ability to ensure they succeed. John brought a new student with him to meet our CEO; his name is Ben. He tells us:

"I would like to learn every skill, but I will have to choose one. I found out from my brother, who talked to Bishop Francis. My brother thought it would be a good idea for me because I have nothing to do. I stopped secondary school because there was no money to pay school fees. Now I must choose school or life skills."

School helps me learn, but skills will change my life. Without skills, I will never find a job."

New Life has been supported by TWAM tools for over ten years, and the impact across Zambia is amazing. Ben could not sum it up better when he says: 'Without skills, I will never find a job.' The same is true of the 1,959 prisoners benefiting from skills training and TWAM tools.

Thank you for supporting us and making this wonderful partnership with New Life Ministries, their ultra-poor communities and the prisons in Zambia possible. It is truly life-changing.



The team behind the tools

Every tool that comes into our refurbishment centre starts its journey of transformation in the “Tools In” section.

Our Refurbishment Centres are bustling hubs of activity, where vans brimming with tools of all shapes and sizes pull up, ready to unload their cargo.

Here, our team breathes new life into these tools, setting the stage for a transformative journey that begins right here in the 'Tools In' section.

As the vans pull up, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers spring into action. It's no easy task - some items like the heavy foot-powered treadle sewing machines require the collective effort of two people.

But every tool is part of our mission to bring about transformation in the African communities where it is needed most.

Once inside, the tools are meticulously organised. Some bear the telltale signs of a long life, the deep rust and broken parts marking their age. These tools,

deemed too worn to journey on, are responsibly recycled, ensuring nothing goes to waste.

Sorting the tools is an exercise in knowledge and keen observation, and our volunteers quickly learn the value of each item.

From screwdrivers to sewing machines, every tool finds its place, ready to be refurbished and packed.



It's a crash course in tool identification that challenges and inspires, especially when we stumble upon mysterious, unusual tools donated to us.

There's a real sense of camaraderie here. Friendly discussions are had, and theories are put forth as we try to decipher the purpose of the more peculiar tools.

Sheldon, our sharp-witted Ipswich Refurbishment Centre Supervisor, usually cracks the code with the help of our knowledgeable team of volunteers, many of whom come from careers in trades.

Paul, one of our volunteers who helps TWAM in many ways, including working on the bench, says:

“There are so many tools I have never seen before. Some covered in rust, and some shining even though they’re 40 years old. It’s a lot to sort, but no matter how much comes in, we know it’s all needed by TWAM and the people who receive our tools.”

The cycle of receiving, sorting, and sending off tools for refurbishment continues day after day, the 'Tools In' section buzzing with activity, and every van emptied in time for the next. The story of each tool reflects the generosity of our supporters who choose to give their tools a second life, rather than leave them to rust away or end up in landfills.

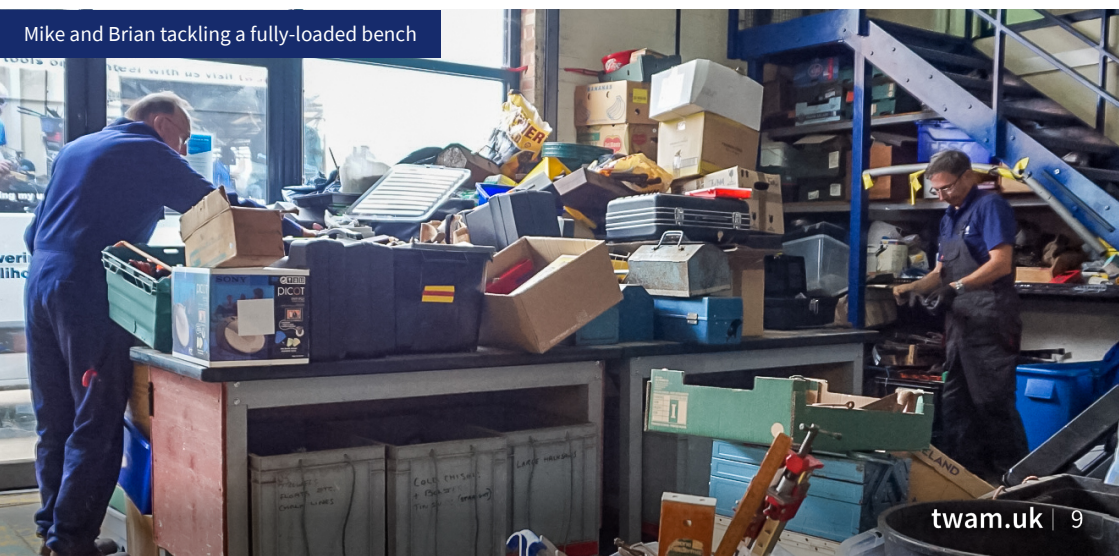
Each tool's journey, from rusted relic to indispensable equipment, mirrors the impact we aspire to make - turning hardship into hope.

Start a TWAM Local Group

If you're interested in supporting our work by collecting tools, offering talks, and even doing some light refurbishment with like-minded friends, consider starting a TWAM Local Group. Our Local Groups have a great community spirit and provide a huge support for TWAM. For more information on starting your group, visit our volunteering website:

timefortwam.uk/local-groups

Mike and Brian tackling a fully-loaded bench





Hope leads to determination, and determination transforms lives

We received a lovely letter of thanks from Zimbabwe which we would like to share with you. Such letters are only possible because of your support, so this letter is really written to you. It comes from Pastor Ignatius Tsunga of the Apostolic Faith Church in the capital Harare. He writes to you:

“It is my profound gratitude to thank you for giving us this opportunity to have the tools to advance our cause of supporting the vulnerable members of our community.

The community in which our Church is located has a need to improve livelihoods because many of the Church members and our surrounding community are vulnerable.

As a Pastor with an overview of the community, I decided to address these needs by offering various skills in dressmaking, motor mechanics, welding, carpentry and building.

Our community lacks these skills, and the skills do offer easy access to income-generating projects. We do

need as well to address unemployment among the community youth, which leads to drug abuse, and instead develop productive youth groups.

We thank God because we have already put the machines to use. We started the dressmaking training course with 15 trainees as soon as we received the sewing machine tools from TWAM in March 2022. The whole idea is to fully equip our trainees so they will be able to capitalise on their machines and earn a living. The other training courses are targeted at the youth.

We have begun looking for school uniform contracts and are talking to many schools.

We are very grateful to the people who are donating the tools for upgrading our church and community livelihoods. These will go a long way to imparting life skills in our community and alleviating poverty.

Pastor Tsunga”



“These tools will go a long way in imparting life skills in our community and alleviating poverty.”

It is interesting and encouraging to hear that the group is trying to secure school uniform contracts. All schools in Zimbabwe require students to have shirts, jumpers and trousers or skirts. These are sourced locally, and gaining one of these contracts can provide a group with all the income they need to operate.

It shows that Pastor Tsunga is putting time and effort into planning for the long term. Not only does this guarantee many more vulnerable people will be helped, it also guarantees the long-term impact of the tools we send.

And the impact is essential, as we see from just two of the first trainees to join the dressmaking course. One is a widow called Loveness Pasipamire. Her husband died four years ago and left her with four children to care for. She is unemployed, so she cannot afford school fees to send them to school. The training course has changed her life. She tells us:

“The dressmaking training has brought me so much relief and hope. Now I expect that after the training, I will get my own machine from TWAM through the Community Savings Scheme (CSS).”

TWAM provides lots of resources to groups to set up a CSS. This works as the trainees make clothes as they train, and a proportion of the money goes straight to them to support their families, but another proportion is kept by the group and saved for when they graduate.

This amount can be increased if they win school contracts and work together to fulfil them.

The hope is by the end of the course, they have enough saved up to buy their own tools or apply for some from us.



Loveness showing a beautiful dress she has made

A well-developed CSS also offers low-cost loans to support business development. Many trainees continue to use the CSS to save and support themselves for many years.

It is wonderful that from the very day a person walks into the training centre, their life begins to change. The gift of hope and the motivation it gives can never be underestimated, and it will send all of Loveness' children to school.

One of the youngest trainees is Chipo Nduma, aged just 15 years. She is a school dropout because she has no money for fees. Pastor Tsunga writes:

“We thought it wise to incorporate her in this program so she will have the sewing skills that will make her self-reliant.”

He knows the danger that Chipo, through utter desperation, could be forced into sex work by the ruthless street gangs. He knew the only way to protect her was to give her the opportunity of alternative employment.

The wise way is never just to warn Chipo of the dangers but to offer an escape from those dangers. For Chipo and so many like her, that is skills training, a sewing machine and a means to earn a secure livelihood.



Chipo shows us the skills she is learning

Pastor Tsunga is a great example of the vision, compassion and determination that is needed to start a skills training program and bring life transformation to a vulnerable community.

It gives us great confidence that the tools generously donated and income sacrificially given will be used for years to come to create livelihoods and transform lives.

Give the gift of a livelihood

£25 would cover the costs of collecting, refurbishing, and packing a sewing machine. Your donation could give a trainee tailor like Chipo a livelihood and help them to put food on the table every single day.

twam.uk/alternativegifts



How do you grow food when rains come too early or too late?

TWAM holds its green sustainable credentials very highly as we save over half a million tools from potentially heading to landfill every year.

We passionately believe in reuse and that a hammer should remain a hammer. These principles extend to all we do and include supporting equally passionate projects in Africa.

One of those is the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre in Zimbabwe. They are trying to encourage farms to adopt Agroecology. The Soil Association describes this as:

“Agroecology is about integrating ecological principles into the design and management of agricultural systems. It sees the long-term protection of natural resources as essential and a key element of food production.

Agroecology promotes farming practices that mitigate climate

change, work with wildlife and put farmers and communities in the driving seat.”

Many of us have seen the devastating results across the world of soil erosion and the loss of nutrient-rich farmland. Agroecology seeks to work with local people to address this. Bornface Matimba, their training manager, explains what they teach:

“Permaculture can be defined as a creative and artful way of designing our lives, where waste becomes a resource (such as using cow manure for soil enrichment), productivity and yields increase (through planting with the seasons).

Work is minimised (by reducing ploughing and double digging) and people’s environments and nature are preserved (by eliminating chemicals) and all by thoughtful planning and a respectful approach to life.”

Many of these practices are becoming commonplace on allotments across the UK and are increasingly adopted by farming communities. But many farmers in Africa are either unaware or ill-equipped to adopt such methods, which is where Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre comes in. Bornface explains what they do :

“There are so many NGOs in Zimbabwe who are assisting marginalised communities, with some giving handouts and others offering training, but there has been close to none that support natural farming. Hence our organisation was established to fill that gap. We started training participants in 1989, and to date, we have trained close to 12,500 direct participants.

We train smallholder farmers, women and youth groups to use sustainable methods of farming. This means ways to naturally increase yields for resource-poor farmers and then help

to find markets for their organically produced products. We help put them in touch with like-minded communities, so together they can provide better methods of development in a complementary manner.”

Economic growth and food security issues have become a nightmare for smallholder farmers. Climate change has meant that traditional farming methods are becoming unsustainable as rains come too late or too early and seeds are washed away, or crops die.

TWAM has provided a range of agricultural tools to support their training programmes. Working with local communities to provide food security is becoming an increasingly important use of TWAM tools. **Through your support, local farmers will have the training, tools and confidence to farm much more efficiently and ensure their communities no longer live under the constant threat of famine.**

Exploring new crops such as strawberries





The Toolbox

You could make a long-term difference by joining The Toolbox.

Donate a certain amount each month, and over the course of a year, you cover the costs of collecting, refurbishing, and packing all the tools for a certain number of tool kits. You will receive a letter at the end of the year stating what kits you have supported, as well as a calendar. To join The Toolbox and make a long-term difference, go to our website:

twam.uk/toolbox

Start a Local Group to support TWAM

Local Groups are teams of people who share our passion for livelihood-creating tools and work together to collect them from their local communities. You can help to arrange

tool collections at local supermarkets, DIY stores, and garden centres, and even offer talks to local community groups or speak on local radio. Some groups even sort the tools before arranging collection and do some refurbishment work, such as grinding off rust and fixing loose handles.

Starting a Local Group is easy - all you need is somewhere to store the tools, such as a vacant garage or big shed, and the enthusiasm to gather together like-minded friends.

Our Local Groups have a great community spirit and provide a huge support for TWAM. We'll be with you every step of the way, providing guidance and support to help you make the most of your volunteering experience.

Head to timefortwam.uk/local-groups for more information and to apply. If you'd like to chat to our team, email Paul Daley at pauld@twam.uk or give us a ring on **01473 210220**.

The TWAM Chichester Local Group



Your support puts livelihood-creating tools in the hands of people who will use them to transform not just their own lives, but their families' lives, and even their entire communities. Let's work together to empower people who battle poverty on a daily basis, giving them the means to build a better future.



Please accept my gift of:

☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £150 ☐ £250 ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

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Online

You can donate online at **twam.uk/donate** or using the account details below including your surname and postcode as a reference.

Barclays Bank Account No: 33190994 | **Sort Code:** 20-44-51

Card

You can donate by credit or debit card by ringing our head office on **01473 210220**. We're open Monday to Friday between 9 am - 4 pm.

Would you like to receive our monthly **Supporter E-News**? It's packed with up to date news and inspiring stories. If so, you can either write your email address below, or go to **twam.uk/stayintouch** to sign up online.

My email address is: _____

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Tools with a Mission. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

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