Dear Parishioners and Friends

*Container Number Seven is on its way!*

*R*emember the ‘Times Tables’ you learned at school? Here’s one for you…

1 x 7 = 7

That one was easy, but how about this one?

1 Container x 7 = £185,080

This is the estimated value of the contents of the seven containers we have sent so far. The amount has been calculated after comparing average second hand prices in shops and online.

On page 3 of this newsletter we show a list of all categories of items sent and their numbers or weights.

With the exception of some of the school materials and one of the sound systems, every item you see in this table has been given to us. Apart from our parishioners we have many friends; these include companies and individuals both local and further afield. Many of these have supported this project since the start in 2009.

We send to four parishes, three schools and an orphanage. However, the parishes have their own primary schools and *Karonga* also has two secondary schools.

We are therefore giving to eight schools in total, plus three nursery schools and the orphanage.

*A few notes about the attached table:*

Section 1.

These items benefit parish communities and schools and so far we have sent:

* 186 Desktop or Laptop Computers and 19 Printers.

All these machines have been cleaned and serviced by *Kevin Wilkins*. He has installed sufficient software in every machine to allow the users to learn computer skills and access the internet.

* £5,000 worth of various IT Accessories

These are the items much needed by the students to enhance their knowledge of working with computers. They include DVDs, CDs, Ink cartridges, Memory sticks and even Floppy Discs, which we have probably forgotten about – but the students still use them.

* Half a million sheets of A4 sized white paper.

All this paper has been provided free of charge by two local printers. This includes guillotining much larger sheets and boxing them for us.

* 88 Sewing Machines.

When we are given these machines they are collected by *Martin Jeffries*, a retired Sewing Machine mechanic, who has supported us since the start. He takes away the machines, services them and returns them fitted with new spare parts – all at his own expense.

*Martin* has also donated many (over one third) of the sewing machines.

Section 2.

This section benefits the parish communities and the schools….

* Sewing Materials, Bedding and Curtains

These are a valuable gift to the poorer people in the parish communities. They are accustomed to having very little money and so they develop the skills needed to ‘make do and mend’ with whatever comes their way.

* The Sewing Machines - *Are an added bonus!*

Men can be seen along the pavements in the towns and cities, working on their machines to earn an income.

Women – and especially single parents - are able to make or repair clothing for their children. Some may set up their own business making clothing such as shirts to sell on the markets - in fact several have done so with the aid of our Microloans project.

Secondary Students

Both girls and boys learn to sew as part of their education.

One of the schools we assist is a Junior Seminary and is a boarding school. The school is in need of curtains generally and bedding is always needed for the boys’ dormitories.

They too now have sewing machines and receive a share of the various materials we send.

Section 3.

This section benefits the parish communities….

Many people must grow their own food to survive. They also have to build their own houses because they can’t afford to buy. The tools we send help with all their DIY tasks.

We have sent a lot of clothing over the years, which has been used, together with the bedding and curtains, to cushion any breakable items within the cartons.

The clothing and shoes are shared between the parishes and are treated by them as valuable gifts.

Section 4.

As reported in our February newsletter, Jean Smallcombe has formed a group of parishioners and friends who are knitting babies’ hats and squares to be sewn into blankets.

We saw the impressive results at our recent film show where three large tables held a display of the items that were sent last month.

This project is ongoing and Jean is happy to chat with anyone interested in joining the group. Her phone number is: Tonbridge 351998.

Section 5.

Two parishes: *Chiringa* and *Karonga* asked us to help them to obtain a sound system for their churches.

We needed to purchase one of these systems but at a fraction of the full cost.

*The table below tells the whole story.*

What started out as a ‘one-off’ exercise has become an enormous annual gift to many thousands of people in the communities we serve. The cost to our parishioners, friends and associated companies, is comparatively small compared to the enormous benefit derived from the seven containers.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Brian Wilkins

Co-ordinator, Container project.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ITEMS | 2015  Container | Total for all  Containers |  | Total Value  £ |
| 1. | Desktop Computers | 22 | 154 |  | 27,750 |
|  | Laptop Computers | 9 | 32 |  | 5,800 |
|  | Printers | 3 | 19 |  | 1,150 |
|  | IT Accessories (Mem Sticks, DVDs & CDs/Floppy’s etc) | 5 | 36 |  | 5,000 |
|  | A4 White Paper 2500shts/box | 118 K | 500 K |  | 2,900 |
|  | School Materials | 17 | 175 |  | 16,000 |
|  | Sports Equipment | 1 | 14 |  | 850 |
|  | Sports Clothing | 2 | 11 |  | 2,750 |
|  | Musical Instruments | 6 | 28 |  | 3,300 |
|  | Digital Cameras | 3 | 14 |  | 1,400 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Sewing Machines | 19 | 88 |  | 8,000 |
|  | Material for Sewing | 28 | 60 |  | 6,000 |
|  | Bedding | 12 | 59 |  | 2,950 |
|  | Curtains | 9 | 45 |  | 2,700 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Tools Metalwork/Carpentry | 5 | 38 |  | 9,500 |
|  | Tools General/Gardening | 4 | 35 |  | 9,000 |
|  | Kitchen Utensils | 6 | 49 |  | 7,350 |
|  | Shoes (App 30 pairs/box) | 9 | 66 |  | 3,950 |
|  | Reading Glasses (App 120/box) | 8 | 42 |  | 25,200 |
|  | Soap | 1 | 7 |  | 280.00 |
|  | Clothing Adults | 27 | 210 |  | 26,000 |
|  | Clothing Children | 12 | 82 |  | 13,200 |
|  | Toys | 11 | 70 |  | 2,100 |
|  | Bikes | 3 | 9 |  | 900 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Babies Hats & Blankets | 3 | 4 |  | 400 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Church sound systems | 0 | 2 |  | 650 |
|  | **Grand Total** |  |  |  | **£185,080** |

\* These values are based on the UK pound; when converted to the Malawian Kwacha

they are far, far greater.