MALAWI - TWIN

*Container Number Nine – 10th June 017*

Newsletter No 68

 March 2017

Dear Friends of Malawi

*OUR NEXT CONTAINER* will leave for Malawi on 10th June this year. This will be our ninth consignment in only eight years.

Our parishioners have given an enormous amount of aid to many thousands of men, women and children, who have no access to what we consider to be everyday essentials. At least seven thousand children benefit and this number continues to grow each year, as we receive further requests for help. Students and younger children are experiencing an improved standard of education and living standards.

This project receives a lot of help from many companies, both local and further afield, as well as schools and individuals. These give freely of their time and skills, which include warehousing and workspace, transportation, office services and various types of equipment. With their continued support, this project has become enormously successful.

We have letters, photos and video from *Maggie**Lidamlendo,* a secondary school Headmistress from *Lilongwe*. (*Maggie also acts as a coordinator and oversees the operation in Lilongwe*). She has told us that her teachers and students were accessing computers for the very first time in their lives. We are having a major impact and raising teaching standards in their school.

They have managed to erect a new building which is dedicated as a computer suite. Electricity has now been installed and the computer room is now fully operational. Maggie is requesting more computers and we are again in a position to send additional desktops next March.

**Our March Container is well under way. We have already ….**

* Secured 450 cu ft of space in the Container which leaves Birmingham in March.
* Secured the warehouse for storage and packing from ***Tyler Holdings Ltd.***
* Secured the services of ***T & T*** ***Express Deliveries*** for storage and transportation, both locally and to Birmingham to meet the container. *T&T* also provides all our photocopying needs and other office services.
* Secured the services of ***Martin Jeffery*** to service and repair sewing machines. Martin also donates many of the sewing machines we send and he already has 12 ready to go.
* Identified companies who will supply us with the cartons we need to stow the goods and all the tapes and wrappings we need to secure them.
* ***Kevin Wilkins*** started work in November last year, on a batch of desktop computers which needed a major overhaul He has 23 desktops, fully loaded with new software and will start work this month on 20 laptops.
* ***Denzil from Pureprint*** ***Ltd*** *(Uckfield)* already has a half ton of **white paper** cut into A4 size and boxed, ready for us to wrap and send. (*Pureprint* supplied over 180,000 sheets for the last container – all cut to size by *Denzil).*

**We need your help again this year**. Please check for any unwanted items you may have: sheets, bedding material, men’s, women’s and children clothes, especially casual shoes for adults and children and all those unwanted tools which might be littering your house, garage or garden shed.

\*Shoes need to be flat - no stilettos please\*

* Many children still run around in bare feet and wear very old and torn clothing.
* Adults need shoes and clothing, bedding, household tools and reading glasses.
* The men need the tools to help them farm their garden plots and carry out repairs to their homes.

If you can help, please leave your donations in the Narthex at Corpus Christi, during January & early February. Alternatively, you can telephone Brian Wilkins on **Tonbridge 366846** to arrange collection of bulk amounts.

Below we show a list of the types of items we hope to send:

**Education (for 7,000 children)**

Pens – Pencils – Crayons –Chalk- Colouring Pens – Felt tip pens - Small blackboards – Rulers – Calculators - Staplers & Staples – Scissors - Sellotape – Drawing Pins – Paper clips - Erasers - Art Paints & Brushes – Glue/Paste – School Bags – Sports Equipment.

**Clothing**

Flat Shoes – Trainers – Flip Flops – Men’s & Children’s clothing (Good as New) – Cotton Cloth.

**Tools** **(Non Electric)**

Household, Gardening and Woodworking Tools – Hand Drills & Bits – Spanners – Wrenches – Pliers - Cutters – Grips – Nuts – Bolts – Washers – Screws – Screwdrivers – Hammers – Allen Keys etc.

**Musical Instruments**

**Health**

Reading Glasses – First Aid Kits – Bandages & Plasters – Soap - Shampoo - Tooth Paste/Brushes –

Mosquito Nets – Nappies ect

**Household Items**

Manual/Electric Sewing Machines – Cottons – Scissors – Needles – Tape Measures – Sheets – Blankets - Pillow Cases – Curtains – Towels & Flannels – Soap – Kitchen Tools – Plastic Bowls/Jugs/Cups - Cutlery

**Computing**

Computers (under 5 years) – Blank CDs/DVDs – Floppy Disks – Memory Sticks – Digital Cameras.

**Toys**

Soft Toys – Skipping Ropes – Balls – Games – Picture Books – Board Games.

Keyboards, guitars, in fact any musical instrument in good working order.

Our friends in Malawi look forward very much to our next consignment, expected to arrive in late May /early June.

If you would consider helping with our shipping costs, a donation would be gratefully received. In the form of a cheque it could then be Gift Aided.

Many thanks for your continuing support for this very worthwhile project.

Brian Wilkins

Co-ordinator

Container Project

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