



Mary Slessor Foundation

Dundee, Scotland & Akpap Okoyong, Calabar, Nigeria

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May 03

(as reported by Dr Lawrie Mitchell on 10/5/03)

We are pleased to report that the building of the **Skill Centre** was finished on time, and well within budget. Despite intensifying rains the roofing was completed, the secure room was built, and the interior plastered and painted. Everything was completed in ninety days by local labour, with no contractor expenses.

Today the closing ceremony of the building phase took place. A video recording of the building was made, and a blessing was bestowed upon it by the Village Chief and Cultural Dancers. There was great rejoicing by the people of Akpap Okoyong. Employment on the site has caused some improvement in the local economy.

The next phase of work will be the equipping and staffing of the building, followed by construction of the palm and cassava processing unit. We expect to begin that in August, and if funding permits the Skill Centre could be inaugurated in September or October of this year.

Unfortunately the installed water system remains non-functional, and we are giving serious consideration to the drilling of boreholes.

Nigerian charitable status continues to be pursued, and our application is lodged with Abuja Department of Corporate and Business Affairs. The barrister handling this expects it to be granted in the near future. This will help us to generate funds within Nigeria.

Contacts continue to be cemented with various major organisations in Nigeria, with CIDA (Canadian International Development Association) and the EU in Abuja. The Caledonian Society in Lagos are adopting Mary Slessor Foundation as a cause



Site for Skill Centre, February 5th, 2003.



Work in Progress, mid April, 2003.



Completion, May 9th, 2003.

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