



Mary Slessor Foundation

Dundee, Scotland & Akpap Okoyong, Calabar, Nigeria

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July Progress Report and Annual Statement, 2004

NIGERIAN BULLETIN

The **MEDICAL CLINIC** has been raised from foundation level to completion of roofing. Now interior work can continue. Flooring, plastering, plumbing, electrical work, windows, doors, fittings will follow, to be completed by mid-October. By December, funding permitting, medical equipment will be installed, with a view to a December opening.



Completed Clinic Building

The **PALM / CASSAVA PROCESSING UNIT** had one more fibre separator and one water-cooled diesel engine installed. By November we will have two production lines installed and, funding permitting, a third line. This will allow us to meet the great demand from the women of the area to process their palm fruit, cassava, beans and corn. In turn this will give an economic uplift to many families in the village, and will go towards children's education fees, at present out of reach for many. In addition, we are seeking funds for a palm kernel extraction machine. This will enable the production of the valuable kernel oil, the end product of palm fruit processing, used for medicines, cosmetics etc.



Palm Oil Processing Machinery

NINE TRADES SKILL CENTRE We carried out a market survey in the village, and most people want a facility which will give training in skills useful in the labour market, such as mechanics, plumbing, carpentry, tailoring, computer skills, and others.

We are happy to announce that Mary Slessor Foundation has been able to conclude an agreement with **VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS (VSO)**. This will help in a variety of ways. They will supply trainers, and if necessary, an administrator. Also, it will engage us into the more general world of international agencies. Our costs will be **95 GBP** per month for each volunteer. This agreement will be very helpful to the advancement of the project.

UK STATEMENT AND PLANS

We have been operational for funding and best repute for some 27 months, this from a standing start. In this time, a Skill Centre has been built, Palm Oil / Cassava processing has commenced, a borehole producing clean water has been sunk. A purpose built Medical Clinic, which will be fully operational to 50 Outpatients per day by Christmas this year has been constructed. Thus our fundraising has gone well in Nigeria and the UK, with promise of more.



Strong support from Sir Ranulph Fiennes and the Lord Provost

In particular, we are grateful to the Incorporated

Nine Trades of Dundee, and LloydsTSB Foundation, Scotland. Yet these leading funders are followed closely by many other excellent supporters, and income has been generated by the musical production Mother of all the Peoples the lecture by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, many slide presentations and other activities. The Friends of Mary Slessor deserve our thanks.



The Deserving Young

It has been a wonderful honeymoon start, but now it is necessary to forge the Partnership fully, sustain and develop main prongs of activity, all with best local Governance and simple agreements. All this will need further significant funding from Mary Slessor Foundation for some years to come, in particular the Medical Clinic and Skill Centre training for employability of the deserving young people.

Here in Dundee the Foundation (committed Trustees and Volunteers) is shaping very well to ensure onward steady support for the front line in rural Nigeria.

Finally, we are delighted to have the Lord Provost of the City of Dundee as Patron, and are most grateful for his encouragement and support. To date, our efforts have caught the imagination of many; we must retain and add to these, whilst ever reducing already low running costs.

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