



Mary Slessor Foundation

Dundee, Scotland & Akpap Okoyong, Calabar, Nigeria

E-Mail: info@maryslessor.org

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DR LAWRIE MITCHELL S REPORT FROM AKPAP OKOYONG

Since our last update, there has been continued, steady progress in the Village.

The two **BOREHOLES** continue to function properly, and are giving the villagers reliable drinking water without the previous 5 Kilometre walk to the stream, to collect water of doubtful quality. Water is available for agriculture processing, and for the Medical Facility.

POWER supply is a continuing problem - the National Grid performs very erratically. We get by with two, just about adequate, Chinese generators, but we are seeking funding for a large standby model.

The **SKILL CENTRE** programmes in Carpentry/Furniture Making, Metalworking/ Mechanics, and Tailoring/Fashion Design are well under way. We have two VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) Instructors from the UK, who are well settled into African village life, and an experienced fashion designer from Kaduna, Northern Nigeria, who trains in Fabric Arts. Their maintenance and living costs are about 5,000 GBP, and we are looking for Donors to fund them for a period of three years.

The first commercial order for the Skill Centre has been produced and dispatched a consignment of forty beehives and metal stands, involving woodworking and metalworking students. Various orders for the manufacture of palm oil processing machinery are being undertaken.

In the **AGRICULTURAL PROJECT**, the main palm oil processing season is in full swing, with two lines of machinery in full use, and a third planned. We are exploring the cost of palm kernel oil extracting machines (in the region of 30,000GBP for two lines) With that, the project could go a long way to be self sustaining, and give employment to a number of men and women of the area. As well as encouraging the villagers to grow crops, beekeeping will be introduced, and this could eventually mean further sources of income.

The **MEDICAL FACILITY** is complete, and will open soon, as we have obtained the services of a doctor from Calabar Teaching Hospital to work alongside Dr Lawrie Mitchell. This doctor will be well equipped to undertake our mission in reducing Peri-natal Mortality, give instruction in Family Planning, and improve Sexual and Reproductive Health.



Dressmaking Class.



Completed Beehives.



Completed Beehives Being Loaded.



Medical Centre Being Made Ready.

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