

## Container Ministry

**Update: February 2019, written by Rev. Ken Todd**

On a recent visit to the Methodist Container Ministry in Lurgan, I met the team of volunteers who were organizing containers to be sent to our partner churches in Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Togo. The busy volunteers were Mervyn (computers), Victor (medical), Bertie (warehouse co-ordinator), Freddie and Ken (sorting and packing), Irene (finances), John (equipment maintenance) and William (team leader). In response to requests from our partner churches, they were organising medical equipment, a scooter, cement mixer, tools for vocational schools, books for Bible Schools, educational materials, computers for Churches and sports equipment.

**Question:** Why would a rural development project in Africa request the Irish Container Ministry for a cement mixer?

**Answer:** To mix locally-grown chicken meal, of course!

**Question:** Why would a Methodist Church project in Togo require four kilometers of electric fencing?

**Answer:** Because the wild animals, making their way each evening to the water hole are traversing the Methodist Church agricultural farm and helping themselves to the crops as they go.

The funds for the fencing and batteries were donated by a lady who is ninety five years old who felt that God wanted her to donate to this ministry. Books donated by Edgehill College were carefully packed and ready for dispatch. One third of these has already arrived in Sierra Leone for use in the Theological Hall. The remaining two thirds of the Edgehill books have been designated for Myanmar and Zimbabwe.

The Container Ministry is like a hub of World Mission Partnership. William Carson is a household name in Methodist churches and charities across the world. He is in constant contact by phone and email with our partner Churches. Across Ireland, the Container ministry has links with most Methodist Circuits.

Please visit the Warehouse in Lurgan to see for yourself the vision being realized. Pray for this on-going work, that supply will meet demand and that upon arrival, the containers can be released from the docks with minimum delay or charges.

*(The photograph shows some volunteers with a consignment of theological books from Edgehill College, destined for Zimbabwe. The cuddly toy is a gift to the Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Harare.)*

