27th October 2014

Dear Young Writers and Researchers,

January 2015 sees the 100th anniversary of the death of Mary Slessor. As some of you will already know, Mary Slessor left her work as a weaver in Dundee to go to Africa to work with the people who lived in what is now called Nigeria.

Mary Slessor’s life was quite remarkable and I am not telling you any more about her – that is for you to do!

I am writing to invite your to write about the life and times of Mary Slessor.

How you go about this is entirely up to you and further details about the competition have been sent to your teachers. I want to keep the form and structure of how you write quite open so that you have a lot of freedom to develop your own style and approach.

Of course, since it is a competition, I am more than happy to reward the winners of this competition. The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee will award a mini laptop, an iPad or a similar tablet to the winners of each category, fiction and non-fiction. Your teachers will help me to decide what the best kind of tablet is for young students at school today. Winners will also receive an engraved trophy to remind them of their success.

I would like to add that if any school would like to know more about the Nine Trades, I will happily send one of my team to talk to you about our long established organisation.

Entries for the competition will be submitted anonymously and not even the schools will be known to the judges. The details for final submission will be sent to schools in February 2015.

In the meantime, I wish you well as you find out about the remarkable Mary Slessor, her life and her times.

Yours faithfully

**Jim**

Mr James Shearer

*Deacon Convenor, Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee*