



Good morning.

I am here to

make a request,

issue a challenge and

offer you a chance to transform your domestic life and that of many members of your congregations!

Men and boys of Church, SLA needs You!

In 1999 Greenbank congregation in Edinburgh sent 23 young people to help build a shelter for 120 destitute or discarded children in India. The young people had raised £28,000 for the building. After they left India some of them wondered how their Indian partner could feed, clothe and educate the children. The next year they set up a charity, Scottish Love in Action (SLA).

We are asking you to contribute to a ***Men Baking for SLA (MBfS) event***. So far we have used money from MBfS to raise funds to help the young people in Tuni and Hyderabad to go on to college and university after they have finished their schooling. It costs us £120 a year for 2 years to send them to intermediate college and up to £1000 for each of 4 years to send them to university for the more expensive courses. SLA is currently supporting around 550 young people, with around 40 going to intermediate college next year and 4 already in university.

To do this we need **YOUR** help

All you have to be able to do is to read a recipe book and **refuse** help from any woman (that includes wives, partners, daughters, sisters, mothers - or any variation on any of these). Don't hint, sigh, or groan, hoping that they will take over from you. Think of your honour. You can have any help you need from another man.

So, women of the churches of Scotland, stand firm and stiffen the resolve of the men (husbands, partners, brothers, sons) in your congregation and your lives. Ignore all hints,

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION ☆ CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

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Patron – Tom Fleming : A registered Scottish Charity : Charity Number SC030516 Company Number SC280397

sighs, moans, groans, bangs and clatters from the kitchen. In fact, go out and leave the men in your lives to fend for themselves.

The challenge. You can't be the first to take part in this event. However, you can stand up and be counted and do whatever you can to raise money to help a young person achieve independence and so escape poverty and destitution.

The offer. If you have the courage to take part in this event, you will transform your domestic life. And if you think that you can't do it (or if the woman in your life lacks faith in you perhaps because of your pretending that you cannot do such things), think of the husband of 51 years who had baked nothing in his life and came with a positive cornucopia of baking, and a wife, children and grandchildren stunned with admiration!

And best of all you and your congregation will have a great deal of fun. All of the churches who have done it have loved doing it and found that it built up fellowship in their congregations.

If you would like to help us but feel that this is not for your congregation, we have other ideas for things you could do to help. If you would like to do MBfS but would prefer us to use the money to support the children in other ways, just let us know. It costs £10 to feed a child for a month and £360 to support a child completely for a year.

For those of you unable to contribute because of gender or other commitments, please come and buy the baking. Buy generously, forget the need for change and remember, the baking team is not proud - it will accept any donation from you!

And finally I would ask you to think of the children we support and give us your prayers for them and for all of those who support them by raising money, increasing awareness of providing the actual care and support they need.