



UPDATE Jan 09

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Vision

As we finish our 7th year in Malawi, we look forward to at least another 4 that we have committed to, if not more! We have learnt so much during our time here. We began in 2002 focussing very much on relief and meeting immediate needs. The more we developed relationships and got to know the culture we began development work. Last year nearly the whole team completed a training course run by 'Lifewind'. We all learnt so much about working within a culture that is essentially looking to others to solve its problems. We are now better equipped to serve Malawians in a holistic way and work in a manner that will not damage the culture. We have seen that most work here being done by well meaning and gifted people who help in a western way actually sow long term problems.

The result of this is our commitment to implementing a fantastic long term programme called CHE which stands for Community Health Evangelism. We have known for several years that we would like to work in the area of health. We have been researching this with Nick and Fiona Harding and several other key people from Birmingham – you know who you are. They are partnering with us to now research the 3 main ways the programme can work.

Our focus for 2009 is discipleship and CHE. These are underpinning our whole strategy as we seek to empower people's lives physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

Building



Can you see what it is yet?

This has begun and is being built slowly but surely! It is nearly all being done by hand, the only machinery is a cement mixer. We are excited about having some offices and two meeting rooms for some of our work. Thank you to everyone who has given generously for us to reach our target of £40,000, it is very humbling to be able to serve rural Malawians with your support. It amazes us that we are able to live here and run a small organisation with your help, no big fundraising or gimmicks, just word of mouth and people seeing our work for themselves.

Leaders Training

There has been a seasonal break over Christmas to allow people to work in their fields. Everyone is a farmer in Malawi. Even MPs in the city cultivate part of their gardens. The rains have been steady and the country is so green, it is very beautiful.

A long time friend Rev. George Katambo is taking over leading the course which is a real blessing to us. He is Malawian, knows some of our team well and also people in the Malingunde area. It is so helpful that he already has some standing in the community and is trusted. We are just over half way in the course and it has been wonderful to see so many people grow in their faith and in their confidence as their knowledge increases.

Youth Work

We have 4 youth groups running and aim is to find 20 something leaders who want to develop themselves and their communities. There has been a small turnover, but we are encouraged as we hope to find the right people to move forward with.



The Youth Leaders and Kirstin

Kirstin Hall a good friend and business consultant joined us for a session in December. He is going to continue working with the group for the next few months. It is great to have him involved and bring his enthusiasm and drive to these young men and women.

CHE



Chippo and his wife Janet

We have an exciting new member of staff joining us in February called Chippo Chale. He has a strong vision for CHE and will head up the new programme. Find more about what he and the team will be doing at Lifewind.org or cheintl.org. CHE has not been done in Malawi before; we want to trial and see which models work and why. Different strategies work through **community**, **church** and **family** models. We are going to research all three.

Visitors

The last part of the year was quieter and Brian and Val Marriott worked with us in late October/November. Their visit was so timely and was a huge encouragement to us personally and the whole team. They blessed us with teaching for the Dalitso Trust staff and an opportunity for staff and their spouses to have marriage enrichment.

We welcome visitors and want to provide a safe, but challenging environment for overseas visitors to partner and serve. If you are a member of New Gen, Werrington or NVC please come with a team. There are plenty of accommodation options in Lilongwe and Malingunde where we work. There is an updated information pack we can email.

Tom and Jo Gallagher

Tom and Jo returned to Malawi in November and their news is that they are expecting a baby in July! Tom is going to be working with us 2 days a week helping with team

development and Family CHE. Both of them are also working with Flood Church in Lilongwe. They return to the UK at the end of March and hope to return to Malawi around September with the baby.

Moving On

We said good bye to Emmanuel and Maryanne with a Christmas party at our house for all the team. They have moved on to new challenging roles in Salima working with a schools' based charity. They have been a wonderful blessing to the Dalitso Trust.

The Husbands Family

We hope that you have been able to log on to our blog spot. Just to remind you that address is <http://husbandsfamily.blogspot.com>

Highlights/Challenges

'My goal for 2009 is an awareness of what the Trust is gifted at; there are hundreds of 'good things' we could do, but we love people so lets become exceptional about investing in them and changing lives.' *Tom*

'My recent highlight has been to see Tom Gallagher return and Chippo become part of the team.' *Ali*

Thank you

1. The building work has started
2. Chippo and his family moving to Malingunde
3. For our faithful staff in Malingunde Symon, Medson, Limon, Rhodess and Liness

Requests

1. The building work would be of good workmanship.
2. Development of the CHE programme through the community, church and families.
3. Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde.

Tom & Alison

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