



UPDATE Apr 09

Dear Friends,

Nothing stands still and 2009 is full of surprises; just as there is change in the UK, Malawi is in strange times. Elections are due in late May and there have been mediation talks between the 3 main political parties to help maintain peaceful elections. The former President has recently been charged with 26 cases of theft amounting to millions of dollars and has just been expelled from the elections as a presidential candidate. Life in Malawi continues and rural life is largely unaffected. Food is now scarce and prices beyond the reach of most families.

It is great to know that communities we have worked with are sharing their food stores with the vulnerable.

Building

This has moved forward extremely well and we are very pleased with Jose our contractor. The roof is due on any time and we hope to be in the start of May, a little behind time but well worth the wait. Electricity and water are our next challenge, the electricity company will only connect us once the building is finished and inspected. We will need a new section of line about 250m long, so we hope they have poles and wires which they are often without.

Leaders Training

A committed core of 30 leaders is doing well and we are starting to see a change in the group dynamics of trust and openness to the teaching. Being part of this group is certainly a

challenge and searching your heart motives and faith are deep issues. The group has gone to a new level under George's leadership. A group that Tom started and then with Emmanuel took forward now has a full Malawian team pioneering ahead. Not just that, but being disciplined and focussed. So this has been a real blessing seeing the team released and working hard. Rhodess and Janet recently taught about marriage and family size. This brought about so many new ideas of having 2 children against 7 or 8 that 2 weeks were spent on group work and follow up discussions.

Under 5's Happy Faces

Rhodess is about to embark on a 6 month residential training course to help equip her to start our under 5's program with Alison in September. This will see children and parents coming together for sessions to learn about play, health and much more.

Youth Work

This continues to challenge all of us and to keep moving forward is hard work. We keep finding great young leaders who we invest in and then find them leaving their home area for further study or work. This migration is a challenge and we are currently reviewing how to improve our strategy. We keep learning and want to see villages with youth groups caring, serving and teaching their young people. If we don't teach young people about health and life then local witch doctors will, perpetuating myths and practices that are very, very damaging. We do not feel it our mandate to run these groups hands on long term, so will keep pushing to find a model of how we can accomplish this successfully!

CHE

Chippo and Janet have settled in well to Malingunde and the team. 3 CHE families are being trained and good progress is being made. These families will, after a year or so, start to educate their neighbours; not only by the way they live, but by

dedicating time to share health and spiritual lessons. We hope that the Dalitso Trust team will receive their second CHE training course soon. We can then move forward to draw to a close the initial research for the 2 more CHE models through Community and Church and look to start these 2 programmes.

Crunch

As you are probably aware The Dalitso Trust family is resourced mainly by individuals who have come to know us personally, share in the vision and believe in changing Malawi. We are supported by hands, hearts and minds rather than by grants or big business and feel called to develop a relational style of work/partnership. We are passionate about educating leaders and young people, serving the poor, connecting people with God and seeing Malingunde transformed from within.

We are not in the U.K. so it is difficult for us to get our minds around the credit crunch or explain this to our staff as our funding is now worth 30% less due to the value of the £. We want to thank you for your continued personal support and commitment to us.

Visitors

Simon, Nick, Christine and Phil recently visited from Birmingham. Simon has helped us to develop the team and to grow as leaders. Nick spent time with Chippo and looking over the CHE work so far. For Christine and Phil this was their first visit and we hope not their last. We welcome visitors and want to provide a safe, but challenging environment for overseas visitors to partner and serve. There are plenty of accommodation options in Lilongwe and out in Malingunde where we work. Ask for an information pack.

Tom and Jo Gallagher

Tom and Jo have just returned to the U.K. as their baby is due in June. On Tuesday afternoons Tom has been

helping with team development and on Wednesdays helping Chippo establish Family CHE. It has been great to see both Tom and Jo settle on this trip and flourish in their roles. We hope to see them back in Malawi around September time.

Moving On

Liness unfortunately left The Trust in February. We first knew Liness after being put forward by her local community to be a literacy teacher. Thanks again to Liz Pearson for fundraising and helping to organise the course. Liness had really grown as a person from a shy, down trodden rural Malawian, to a confident lady with dignity. She had been working in our leadership training and leading Kapaninga Youth Group. It has been sad to see cultural

pressure and stereotypes stop her from her work and personal growth.

The Husbands Family

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

Highlights/Challenges

'To see the building develop and how this base will improve our work and relationships with local villages.' **Tom**

'Hosting a team from Birmingham. Very inspiring, encouraging and supportive.' **Ali**

Thank you

- Building work is near completion

- Chippo and his family have settled into Malingunde and the team
- For our faithful staff in Malingunde Symon, Medson, Limon, Rhodess and Chippo.

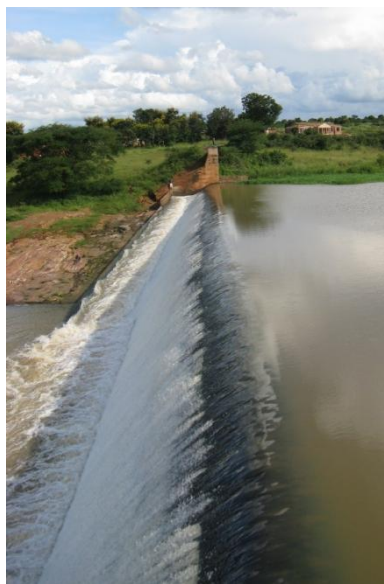
Requests

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

Tom & Alison

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Building Picture Gallery

