



UPDATE June 09

Dear Friends,

The rains are finished; Malawi is in full 'harvest mode'. Trucks and carts are everywhere, full of maize. The dark greens are beginning to fade and cooler temperatures on the way.

The build up to the elections were peaceful and we are proud of how they were held. There were serious tensions just months ago, but the previous President won with a large majority, in a peaceful election with people starting to vote on policies rather than old tribal strongholds.

Madonna has been in the news again! Again our comment is really 2 questions and we have no answer. Firstly 'who are we to judge?' and is it better to do something and no doubt make some mistakes along the way or do nothing?

Malawi is No2! Currently, according to the IMF, Malawi has the fastest growing economy in the world behind Qatar. Well done Malawi!

Building

This is now on the last stretch, just a little plumbing and wiring to go - the final colours on the wall! We have been having team meetings in the building already and we are excited to move in fully. A few weeks ago DFID gave us some office furniture they no longer required. This was such a blessing as these types of goods are so expensive here and to be given them for free is refreshing.

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 (often they don't!).

Leaders Training

Our leaders have just had a harvest break and time off for the election. Bill kindly wrote a special session on elections for us which was a big hit. It was a surprise to most people that we could teach about following Jesus and our responsibility at elections without talking about politics!

George and Tom have been meeting to discuss and edit Bill's gift of Follow Me 2. As a team we have been talking about how to structure the next part of this journey. We will be in the new building by then and split the current group in to two, to allow for deeper discipleship. Below are some extracts from thank you letters to Bill from the group. It is wonderful to see people learning and growing.

'Dear Brother Bill, I thank you for the book you designed Follow Me, it has helped me in my spiritual life and even my family has changed. It was very difficult for me to forgive other people in the past but now I am a changed man.'

'Bill Dixon, I would like to say my thanks for the teaching which has revived me. Before even though I was going to Church I was still practicing and having belief in cultural practices like consulting a witch doctor, no matter how small a problem. But now because of this book titled Follow Me I'm now a strong person in my spiritual life. I'm now in the hands of God.'

'The book called Follow Me has helped me a lot. Especially the chapter called The Leaders Call. In the beginning I did not know that a leader has to be called by God to be a leader, so now I am thanking you Bill Dixon very much, because I am changed in the Lord.'

Under 5's Happy Faces

Rhodess is one of the top students in her class and just about to have a one week holiday. It has been an

intense course so she deserves a good rest and a chance to see her family as it is a residential course.

Youth Work

May saw the end of Kirstin helping out with the leaders. As you can see from one of the thank you letters he received (attached), he was a great encouragement to them all. We will miss him and his family as they move back to Norway.

The programme has developed again with Symon taking responsibility for the four groups. The leaders training will be done just before the youth meeting and they will be actively mentored as they lead the groups. We hope to gather the youth groups soon for a football / netball contest and celebration of their learning and desire to develop their communities.

CHE

Chippo has finished his probation and we are so pleased that he has become a solid team member in such a short time frame. We have had wonderful news from Kevin and Erika who will be coming from South Africa in September to run the second part of the complete training course. They have also put us in contact with the nearest running project; this is in Lusaka, Zambia! We hope to send Chippo to see the work there and come back envisioned and with tips!

Our research for community and church CHE continues to go well and the CHE structure is very challenging and thorough. It is by far the best grass roots material we have seen in the seven years we have been here.

All of this would not be possible without Nick and Fiona from Birmingham who are partnering with us on this vision for holistic health.

UK Visit

We are back for a fleeting visit before returning to Malawi to host UK visitors. Now the boys are in school our window for staying in the UK is very small as we still need to provide access to the work of the Trust. 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. Being back in the UK is allowing us to appreciate and see the effects of the credit crunch. We want to thank you for your continued personal support and commitment.

Visitors

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. There is an updated information pack we can email.

The Husbands Family

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

Highlights/Challenges

'My recent highlight is getting ready for a UK trip in the knowledge of having a great team in Malingunde to keep pressing on, serving and investing in people.' Tom

'My future highlight will be to unpack the resources that have been sitting in boxes for nearly 3 years awaiting this very moment, the beginning of Happy Faces Malawi!' Ali

Thank you

- Building work almost completed!
- Chippo and his family have settled into Malingunde and the team
- For our faithful staff in Malingunde; Symon, Medson, Limon, Rhodess and Chippo.

Requests

- Working from our new building would set the right tone and expectations in the community.
- Development of the CHE programme through the community, church and families.
- Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde.

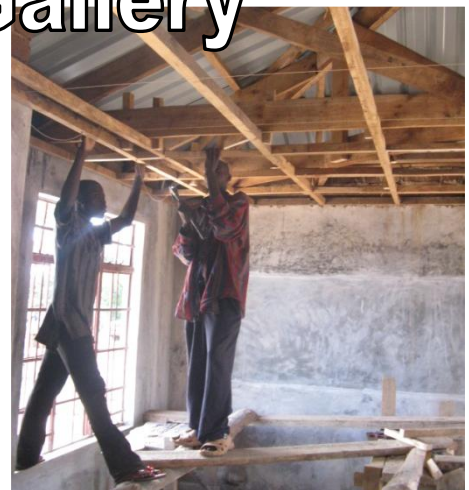
Tom & Alison

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Building Picture Gallery





Rhodes on a practical part of her course

Kapiniga Centre
Box 36
Mahunguude

Thank you letter to Kirstin

Dear Kirstin

I am very happy and I would like to thank you very much for the teaching and tremendous work you have done to us here. I appreciate the way you have done the work of teaching about Leadership. Am very glad because now I as leader have many friends whom I have built trust and confidence and I am now knowing what am doing as a leader.

I appreciate also with the work you mentioned that, Leaders are not born but develop through Learning, Experiencing, developing, Studying, start to Lead and also through making mistakes and Learn.

And am also helped much to know characteristics which I am using in my area like determination, courageous, vision and focus. It is my wish that what you have done to us you should do the same to other youth Leaders.

May God bless you and your family

Your faithful

Partson Stafford