



UPDATE Dec 09

Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas to you all from a hot Malawi! People are busy cultivating their land and getting ready for the rains. 2009 has been the best year ever for the Trust and there is a sense that, as the DT family, we are all thriving. CHE has helped us so much with our vision and how to effectively help and serve people in Malawi. It is such a pleasure to begin to see our team members develop with experience and maturity in their work, as we equip and release more responsibility to them in 2010.

Building - yes but not officially!

We are really enjoying having a base for the Trust. Still no sign of the electricity being connected ... we wait expectantly for the electricity company to do their part.

'Even with no water or electricity it is still totally brilliant!' Tom

Current needs are funds for outside pit latrines and a water connection. Please email for more information.

Dalitso Leaders

On the 29th September, two groups of Follow Me started and a new FM group. It is great to have some new students and see our graduates pressing on for more knowledge. Bill has been busy writing FM3 and looking at ideas for FM4! Bill, thank you so much for underpinning this work and for partnering with us.



Dalitso Health - Chippo's bit

Hi, I have worked with the Trust for 9 months now. I'm settled and excited, as I feel that I completely believe in CHE and we are moving forward.



CHE Training with Kevin & Erica

Kevin and Erica did the second training course in September. It was so nice and we had to learn a lot from them. We now feel ready and confident to start training two village committees. The highlight for me was learning to facilitate rather than just teach. Tom has trained us all in teaching and now we are facilitating. This is about empowering with what people already know but helping them believe and start to make changes in their village. It is a discipline as there is a pull to teach and tell them what to do!

Mbanga and Ndumira chose their committee members for training – we did not choose them as we would be taking away the ownership. Both villages have 12 committee members who have started the training, we hope to be left with 7 to 9 and the remaining choosing to be health visitors.

The training so far has been wonderful as no one has ever shared how they might develop their village themselves and helped them see their needs as opposed to telling them.

The team are challenged at this time as we have never trained committees before. There are things we do not know and while translating lessons in to Chichewa we are helping each other.

It seems we are getting quite a few visitors as we are pioneering CHE in Malawi and people want to see how this new approach works and what

impact it is having. It is such a move away from relief work and trying to rescue everyone. Tom and other expat visitors cannot visit 2 of the villages as it would ruin the ethos of what we are trying to do. If people saw you it would stop their true involvement and they would wait for a hand-out as that is how they believe white people behave – that is what they have observed and learnt from most organisations. Once we are more established I will try to take some photos for you to see, but at the moment it would hinder our work. *Chippo.*

Crunch

We are working our way through the crunch. Money is very tight and we are experiencing our worst financial position since starting in 2002, but we push on believing in our work and calling. We are able to just continue running, but are looking for ways to expand relationships and increase cash flow. We are monitoring this very closely and have several plans.

Visitors

Wow what a busy time!

Kevin and Erica came at the start of September and ran the 2nd CHE training course for us. It was a great week of equipping and learning. Des and Caroline Bowden visited us for a day and were our guinea pigs to learn about CHE from the team! Dave and Ann Rideout from Canada spent a few days looking at CHE. They had just done some CHE training in Thailand and were on their way to Kevin and Erica in SA to see how they might slot in to a training team somewhere in the world.

Mike Scott and students from Downe House School in Berkshire joined us for a day and had fun learning about how we work, spending time in a village and also running a youth group session. Gwen and Kathy also visited for the day and our team has never been asked so many questions!

At the end of October Brian and Val visited, blessing us by training the team and spending time with them and their families.



Medson adding to Val's teaching "If DT had a body, which part are you?"



Brian teaching on balance, using a water pipe to make his point!

Debbie Shearing of New Generation Church, Sidcup visited to spend time with us and Tom and Jo Gallagher. She led some Follow Me sessions and the leaders want her back to do more. A real compliment, women can be easily dismissed due to cultural norms here.



Debbie running a Follow Me 2 session

The Husbands Family

We hope you have logged on to our blog spot. Remember, the address is <http://husbandsfamily.blogspot.com>

Highlights/Challenges

'Part two of CHE was excellent, the team are buzzing to use these tools in the community' Tom

'Seeing the team maturing into leaders with integrity within the Malingunde community.' Ali

Thank you

- The safe arrival of Joypealo (joy, peace & love), a daughter for Symon & Rachel.
- CHE is now in 5 villages.
- For Kevin and Erica's visit from SA to train and impart so much to us.

Requests

- Safe arrival for Chipipo and Janet's 3rd child, due in late December.
- Successful Training of the 2 CHE committees.
- Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde.

Tom & Alison

Tom & Alison Husbands, Founders & Directors
The Dalitso Trust Charity No 1090274

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An appeal from the Trustees

First of all a huge thank you for your support of the Dalitso Trust. It is no exaggeration to say that without you, the Trust would not be where it is today, having reached over 100,000 Malawians, enriching lives and saving many by the introduction of improved farming methods, plus AIDS awareness and basic healthcare training.

In the Update above, Tom and Alison mention that money is very tight. Inevitably, the current poor economic climate has affected regular giving. This, coupled with the poor exchange rate has meant that the money available to the Trust each month has fallen by 30% in real terms. Tom and Alison have made personal sacrifices to help meet the shortfall, but this is not something we have encouraged, nor want to continue. Remember, with the poor exchange rate, the value of their salaries has also fallen.

Please consider the items below and give some creative thought to how we can raise more finance for the Trust; first to fill the gap developing from the economic slump and then to grow the Trust's work in future years.

COULD YOU INCREASE YOUR GIFT?

If you are already giving regularly to Dalitso, thank you. Please consider if you would be comfortable making a small increase each month.

ARE YOU ABLE TO START GIVING?

Prayer, encouragement or voluntary work are essential to the Trust's infrastructure; and this support is gratefully received and sufficient. Please consider if you are able to contribute financially too. Any gift, however small it may seem in the UK, can go a long way in Malawi (standing orders can be set up from £1 a month).

TELL OTHERS

Do you have friends or colleagues who would like to support a charity where they can have a personal connection and see a small monthly donation make a real difference in people's lives?

SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

If you would like to gather sponsors for something you are doing, you can set up a page on www.justgiving.com/dalitsostrust for sponsors to donate easily online.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS or GRANTS

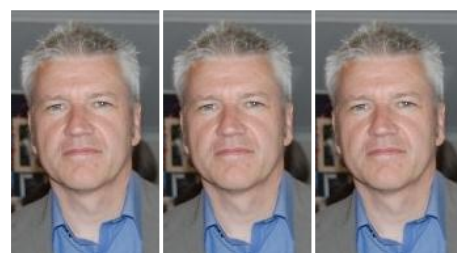
If you have any ideas for fundraising or know of sources of grants and awards that you think the Trust may be eligible for, we would love to hear from you. Contact trustees@dalitsostrust.org.

Once again, thank you for your support. We are not in dire straits now, but if we don't address the current situation we may need to take action in the near future which would limit the work of the Trust.

We hope you understand why we have hijacked this month's update to bring you this appeal. Tom and Alison, like many who serve in the way that they do, are not the best in asking for money. We on the other hand have no such scruples!

With thanks, love and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas,

Sue, Peter and John
Trustees



Sue Bennett

Peter Barrett

John Arundel