



## UPDATE Feb 10

### Dear Friends,

Wow 2010 is off to a fast start! We are in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the Trust and as an organisation continue to grow in understanding and maturity. We are in the wet season and the rains have been poor so far, the lowest rainfall here since 1945. We hope they will pick up and the harvest will be good, but Feb/March is a critical time, as crops mature after that time and any extra rain will be too late. Domestic politics are very animated with President Bingu now the Chair of the African Union, the Kwacha is devaluing, fuel shortages and Malawi played well in the Africa Cup of Nations.

### Dalitso Play



*Happy Faces preparation with Rhodess and Janet holding Peace.*

On Feb 17<sup>th</sup> the first parents and children will come for trials of 'Happy Faces Malawi'. Rhodess, Ali and Janet are running educational play sessions. Over to Ali ....

*"We are beginning with some pilot sessions to see what works and what doesn't. I am so thankful for Rhodess, having completed her 6 months residential course for nursery education and thrilled that Chippo's wife Janet has asked to become involved. She has a lot of*

*experience in this area and has been trained by the Church of the Nazarene to head up their nursery education. The vision is to serve mothers by equipping them to play with their children at home, not with physical resources, but with skills and knowledge they can take away and adapt to suit their own situation. Watch this space!" Ali*



Tom's brother James is running the Marathon on 25<sup>th</sup> April for the Trust. He is an accomplished athlete (he ran the Chicago marathon) and in great shape - he's just finished an 18mile race in 2h 17min, way to go James! We'd like to raise £1,500 to help Happy Faces this year. Please tell your friends and point them to [www.justgiving.com/James-Husbands](http://www.justgiving.com/James-Husbands)

### Building

The building is doing fine, with no leaks! On Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> it rained so hard we couldn't see across the dam.



*Landscape in front of the building.*

The team is benefitting wonderfully from a firm base from which to operate and meet. We have 12 staff and 15 volunteers and a good working rhythm which is currently:

Mon: *Team development and programme meetings.*

Tues: *Follow Me & Follow Me 2*

Weds: *Happy Faces, Follow Me home visits and Family CHE*

Thurs: *Community & Church CHE*

Fri: *Community & Church CHE*

*"Even with no water or electricity we are blessed to have such a wonderful work space." Tom*

### Dalitso Leaders

We have 3 classes running at the moment. The students had a 4 week break over Christmas to allow them to concentrate on their farming. Attendance can be a challenge due to poor weather conditions which occasionally even stop Tom and Ali from travelling out from Lilongwe. Medson is on a 2 week bible course in Lilongwe, so we are looking forward to his return with new insights and different ways to teach.

### Dalitso Health - Chippo's bit

"Hi, I am now one year old in the Dalitso Trust and it has been great and wonderful. It has also been very challenging as CHE is a new thing, which has never been done in Malawi. I arrived with 2 children and now I have 3 - a little boy called



Peace. We chose that name as it demonstrates how we feel as a family, living and working in Malingunde. For 2010 our vision is

to train health visitors (CHE's) and for them to start visiting their neighbours to do home visits. By the end of the year I hope to see both committees working well and at least 35 CHEs ministering in their community.

Mbanga and Ndumira committee members finished their training in December. We really saw that these people had a heart to learn, we thought some may drop out, but they carried on even when the rains started. As a training team we were tempted to rush this part due to the weather, but we chose patience and our decision has been rewarded. The committees have selected 50 people in their village to be trained as CHEs. This training starts on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> for around 6 months. After 15 lessons supervised home visits start to encourage a neighbour. Not to go in a critical way but to observe and help. CHEs will teach a health lesson and at the start encourage a healthy home. A healthy home in Malawi

looks like this; having a dish rack, rubbish pit, clean area around the house, ventilated pit latrine, sleeping under mosquito nets, a place to bath, a place to cook, children vaccinated and living in peace in the village.

These things are not common, so this is where we start. The whole process will take time and will need to develop much trust. People in villages do not really trust each other as people often think people will use witchcraft against them. If you are sick or have a bad harvest - maybe your neighbour cursed you?

My last news is that I have been invited to a CHE founders meeting Nairobi at the end of February. Thank you to Nick and Fiona for sponsoring me though Dalitso Health. This meeting is so that I can learn from other people doing CHE and build relationships so we can share what is happening across Africa. I want to hear people's vision and I have been asked to share about overseas partnership in the work and how can expat visitors interact with CHE." **Chippo.**

## Crunch

A big thank you to people who responded to our Trustees appeal for funds, we received £3,830 in gifts and several people have taken the initiative with fund raising activities. This has helped see the Trust through a very tight squeeze. On that note we want to share that Tom may seek a temporary part time job here in Lilongwe, to ease the situation further. This is not concrete, but we want to share our heart with you.

*We do still need to increase monthly income and would be pleased to hear of any ideas to help in this area. Please refer to the last update for more details. - Trustees*

## Visitors

Christmas was a quiet time for us and the team had a well-earned rest after a very busy, fulfilling year.

## The Husbands Family

Why not visit our family blog at <http://husbandsfamily.blogspot.com>

## Highlights/Challenges

"January saw a team restructure. Everyone responded excellently - an encouraging start to 2010." **Tom**

"Beginning 'Happy Faces' and being in Malingunde once a week." **Ali**

## Thank you

- Safe arrival of Peace, a son and third child to Chippo & Janet.
- Recent donations and messages of support to carry the Trust through this difficult time.

## Requests

- Safe travel for Chippo to the CHE conference in Nairobi.
- Successful Training of Community Health Visitors (CHEs)
- Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde.

## Tom and Alison

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

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**The Dalitso Trust Team at their Christmas Meal**

*Medson, Lipende, Simeon, Bisifat, Tom, Rogers, Ali, Rhodess, James, Limon, Chippo, Patterson and Symon*