



## UPDATE Sept 10

### Dear Friends,

Winter is finished and the weather is starting to warm up. October is our hottest month at a steady 35-37 degrees. Everyone is then waiting for the rains to arrive around December to cool things off a little.

### Dalitso Play

We are currently running 2 morning sessions where mothers/care givers learn how to play with their children. Equipment is provided in the sessions (most of which could be reproduced or adapted in their homes) to enable mothers to learn/use skills during their own time with their children.



Shapes and numbers

Each session conforms to the same Early Learning Goals you would find at any nursery in England as there is no standard strategy in Malawi. A session typically involves singing, a bible story, free play activity and focussed play led by one of the team. Items are brought from their homes to see how the things around them can help their children

learn. When they do not have much at home it is a real challenge, so we use very simple things like leaves, clay mud, flowers and stones and think of creative ways they can be used. (see the photo)

### Dalitso Leaders

September sees the culmination of the year long Follow Me and Follow Me 2 courses. 31 leaders graduated from Follow Me and will soon start FM2. We had a wonderful graduation ceremony and George Rogers was able to share his experience of leadership and present the certificates.



FM leaders with George

Mwesa who graduated writes *'In Church I have been serving in many positions, but never gone to any leadership training. I came in Jan 2009 so could only do half the course. I started again and will now graduate in September. What I want to say - FM course opened my eyes to know true leaders and true leadership and my family is changed. I really know Christ and I came to the Lord.'*



Wives supporting husbands' study

Well done to Medson who headed up the course with Limon – you both did an amazing job.

Follow Me 2 graduates at the end of the month and thank you to Fiona, the certificates look fantastic! Follow Me 3 written by Bill Dixon is translated and ready to go. We will soon have 5 classes covering FM, FM2 & FM3 – WOW! For many leaders these will be the only certificates they ever receive – so what a privilege that they feel able to come and develop their gifts.

### Dalitso Health – Chippo's bit

Hi, a lot is happening in CHE and I believe in life you do not expect only good things, also challenges are there and that is exactly what is happening with us.



Husbands proud of their wives study

### Community CHE

In Mbanga some villagers who do not believe in CHE are trying to discourage those who are working very hard with us. This has made some stop coming for CHE lessons.



Symon discussing a CHE topic

We have lost the family of Chibise who I mentioned a few months ago. Samson's wife Eda died recently of Malaria. They were both very active in CHE; we were having lessons in their home, Samson was the best encourager and became a role model in the village. In our culture

you are chased away if your spouse dies and it is not your home village – we are sad because of this cultural practice and that he was forced to move.



*Chibese and his wife Eda*

The wife of Chief Chimaimba told me that *“Before I was going to the toilet in the graveyard. It was not good as I now know it spreads disease; also there is no respect as you can meet other people there, which is not good. I was bathing at night down by the marsh. We now have a toilet, a bathroom, a refuse pit and a dish drying rack. We are learning things we never knew before.”*

The 8 health visitors we trained have started home visits. They are encouraged to visit 10 families and have started very good. The healthy lesson which they have started teaching their neighbour is the cause of malaria. We thought of malaria to be the first lesson because of Eda’s death.



*Dish drying racks in use.*

In Ndumira activities are going well too, but we are facing a challenge with the committee chairperson not doing his responsibilities. Malawians are not used to doing development themselves, but like people to do it to them. It needs a

lot of encouraging for those who are involved in CHE because it is a new thing to develop yourself. Help us in prayer that we handle this with wisdom without harming anybody. Next week the CHEs will start home visits so we are pleased activities are still going ahead.

We have also seen many deaths in this area recently and our work has been very disrupted. Mthali approached the Chiefs to allow people who are close to the funeral to go, but releasing others to work and develop themselves. This is counter culture; it was a risk and too much brave to ask. We are surprised that the Chiefs welcomed the idea, but want to develop it slowly as people may not understand as they have been used to one system for a long time.

### **Family CHE - healthy families creating healthy villages.**

Three families that we are working with have the challenge to teach others what they have learned. They have hesitation and I do understand this for 2 reasons.

1. The information is power and this can be used positively and negatively.
  2. Doubting themselves that they can pass information without faults
- The family of Staiford have two families there are visiting and sharing with, but the other families need an encouragement to keep doing it. *Chippo.*



*George Katombo, who oversees FM, sharing at the graduation*

## **Staff**

We say goodbye to Limon as he leaves for a new job. He has been an asset to the Trust and we have seen him grow and develop his skills and character. We look forward to Cecil arriving to work with us in November. We were pleased to have one of the Trustees – Sue Bennett with us at the time, so she was able to take part in the interview process.

## **Books**

If you’d like to understand poverty and different ways of working cross culturally, the following link has some great book recommendations. We are currently enjoying reading ‘When helping hurts’.

[www.chenetwork.org/reading.php](http://www.chenetwork.org/reading.php)

## **Highlights**

‘I am so proud of the team to stay focussed on the CHE vision, even when things are hard and it would be so easy to revert to handouts and quick fixes, which do not work long term.’ **Tom**

‘Hearing the testimonies of closer relationships between mothers and their children and Rhodess witnessing the transformations in home settings has been such an encouragement to me.’ **Ali**

## **Thank you**

- 1) This month over 50 leaders graduate from Follow Me
- 2) Local Chiefs accepting CHE and working together with challenging new ideas.

## **Requests**

- 3) Successful CHE home visits
- 4) Protection for the whole team and especially the team’s health in Malingunde.

*Tom and Alison*

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