



UPDATE April 11

Dear Friends,

The rains are tailing off and it looks like Malawi will enjoy a good harvest. We were really blessed with the gift of Christmas in the UK and enjoyed seeing many of you. We have a new website www.dalitsotrust.org Please have a good look around it either on your computer or phone. We can't always rely on the internet or electricity here to update it, but it is our heart to effectively communicate the life of the Trust.



Staff

More change! We now have a second intern called Martha – she was a leader a few years ago in the youth work programme that we ran. She

left to do some study in Lilongwe and is now back, so has joined the team for one year.

Annis received her new posting at a government primary school, but it is in Salima which is about 2 hours away, so we hope she will receive a transfer to a local school soon.

After 8 wonderful years we say goodbye to Symon who has played a vital role in the Trust's journey. He resigned to dedicate more time as a Pastor and to expand his farming. We remember the early days when the office was in our bedroom and team meetings where we only had one chair. Since then we have learnt so much that has shaped us and helped

reveal the uniqueness of how we work. We have always tried new approaches, as we realise most 'work' here does not work. Through everything our values are still the same-to invest ourselves in rural Malawians and see lasting change through education and discipleship. See our staff video profiles on the new website.

As a team we continue to work through the excellent Growing Leaders course www.cpas.org.uk Medson 'I am glad because I am doing more in inspiring and participation among people through my leadership style, this is due to what I have learnt from Growing Leaders.'



Pioneering Education Play and Parenting Skills

Dalitso Play - Ali

Our morning sessions continue to be popular. These will change slightly as we move the groups around to have specific age range sessions. We have children who have been part of Happy Faces from the very beginning and we are seeking to extend the knowledge of both the children and their mothers.



Rhodes telling a story during Happy Faces

When we first began, the main focus was to teach the mothers how to play with their children, provide an opportunity for that and also show how they can continue at home. This is no longer a necessity as the mothers now play very naturally with their children, a skill they have learnt and our challenge is to now prepare the older children for school in a way

that is effective yet culturally authentic. As this style of child education has not been done before in Malawi, we are really pioneering the way and have no model to follow. All who have come and seen or heard about Happy Faces both highly qualified professionals and friends have commented on how much this is exactly what is needed and are delighted at the results we have seen so far. I am enjoying the challenge of this whilst at the same time quite daunted at the amount of work involved in writing a curriculum from scratch!



Mentoring and Equipping Local Leaders

Dalitso Leaders

Follow Me; FM2 and FM3 continue to run. We are just about to start work on editing and translating FM4. The rainy season is a challenge as everyone on the courses is a farmer. When the rains come it can make roads impassable and cuts areas off as streams become rivers. We have struggled to get George from Lilongwe due to motorbike problems. The positive side of this has been to see Medson have more responsibility for the courses.



What do we like in leaders we know?



Healthy Families Creating Healthy Villages

Dalitso Health – Chippo

Hi, we have enjoyed a variety of different challenges and progress in CHE. Thank you to Kevin, Erica and Jeanet from '360 Transformation' in Cape Town. In March they came and led us in the 3rd CHE training course. We learnt more about management, evaluation and discipleship. I was encouraged once again that CHE is not a project, but discipleship and there is no rushing because it is about relationships.

Community CHE

The 8 CHEs in **Mbanga** continue to do the home visit to their neighbours. This is a brave thing as we are not normally free to share with each other. We have been talking a lot of how to build trust and to invest in people – this really is a new thing for.

We did much teaching on pit latrines and how to have a healthy home when we trained the committee and CHEs. Mbanga has 74 families and in the beginning there were 10 toilets, most people were using the bush for their toilet. We are very proud to say that with no bribes, people have responded to the teaching and there are now 40 toilets! People did not have toilets because they did not know why they are needed and the benefits to their family. Many people believe disease is from witchcraft, not poor hygiene. We expect a few more to be built as the health benefits are seen, but it is unlikely to reach a toilet for each family as unfortunately some people will never change.

School has also been a recent topic as Mbanga prided itself on being in the 'old ways', so the chief did not like the children to go to school. A by-product of our presence in the village has stirred this issue as people see the benefits of education and want a

different future for their children. We are sure this will be sorted in a good way as the chief is showing more and more interest in our lessons.

The water project is going well and we have helped the village access a government water scheme. If the village raises £60 and they will receive a borehole, the money is then used to maintain it. So far they have raised £25 which is very good, as before there was no community trust or vision to improve their lives.

In **Ndumira** CHEs have been doing excellent home visits. This has encouraged 3 to return to the work so we now have 8. The multiplication of knowledge is amazing so that we will soon see the fruit of the work in peoples' lives.

Family CHE

The Mazinga family have taken a break as their children have left home meaning they have needed more time to do their farming. We hope they will resume after harvest time.

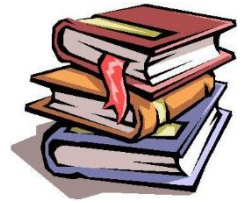
Staiford family are stirring much interest in their village as they share their new found knowledge with their neighbours.

The family model is designed to lead to community CHE as interest grows and more families get involved. We are still the only organisation in Malawi doing CHE but more and more individuals and organisation are asking us about our work and experience.

From the 3rd course we have new tools to evaluate and will start a process to plan the future for CHE in Dalitso Trust. Which model should we concentrate on and which is the best fit for Malawi culture? - we are too much excited about the future! *Chippo.*

Books

If you would like to understand poverty and different ways of working cross



culturally the following link has some great book recommendations. We enjoyed 'African Friends and Money Matters' by D. Moranz.

www.chenetwork.org/reading.php

Highlights



The Third CHE Course What Makes a Good Leader?

'A fantastic landmark to complete the 3rd CHE course and a 300% increase in Mbanga's toilets - Wow!' Tom

'Seeing Rhodess flourish in her leadership role at Happy Faces, by initiating new ideas and acting upon them which is very unusual in Malawi.' Ali

Thank you

- 1) Symon's service to the Trust
- 2) Kevin, Malawians Erica & Jeanet to visit in terrible weather/driving conditions to further equip the team'

Requests

- 3) Continued successful CHE home visits and building community trust
- 4) Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde

Tom and Alison

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