



## UPDATE Dec 11

*Dear Friends,*

**Happy Christmas** from the team here in Malawi and our UK Trustees!

Malawi is in uncertain times, it appears that the country is bankrupt and this is creating many day to day challenges. Foreign donor support to the Government has stopped. If and when the IMF give the go ahead, resources may flow again. There has been very little electricity and very long fuel queues when it is in stock. So in every problem there is a way forward and an opportunity. Having very limited fuel has meant less supervision, this has allowed team members to thrive with more responsibility and encouragement. Chippo has done wonderful work in leading the Malingunde team. 2011 has been a year of fruitful work and seeing continued small successes after several hard years of just sowing in to leaders, families and villages – we are very proud of the team and how they have matured and grown in their skills and abilities.

### Trustees

Our heartfelt thanks go to Pete Barrett for his wonderful service to the Trust for over 10 years. Thank you for your encouragement and drive to see the Trust continually moving forward. We are pleased to welcome Nigel Morris as a new Trustee. Nigel has many talents to bring to the team, alongside the important area of contextualisation as he has been to Malawi twice to see the Trust's work first hand.



**Healthy Families Creating Healthy Villages**



*A CHE discussion - slow but authentic work*

We continue to work in 3 different approaches – all aimed at engaging the community. The rains will soon arrive and many families will be busy farming – that is their main activity as they hope to grow enough maize for the coming year.

We will keep visiting families and gathering the community, but we are realistic that due to the nature of farming and the weather that the wet season is not about moving CHE forward, but maintaining and reinforcing the progress that has been made. This will be a testing time to see what families really believe about education.

*When work needs to be done in the fields will the family that recently decided that their children should go to school, still let them go?*

We will be in the background giving encouragement and continuing to ask questions which provoke discussion and thought – we never give direction as CHE is built around discussion led learning. We would have fast success giving instruction, but the heart would not change – this benefits no one if truth is told.

### Community CHE

Well the village of Mbanga is rejoicing and they have been dancing as the government came with a big drilling rig to provide a very deep, clean borehole they had raised money for – evidence of a developing community spirit which was previously missing. We now wait for the pump etc, so it can be in use – we are so pleased their dreams have almost been realised!

*Cecilia from Mbanga says 'I was born in this village, but I do not know the year, maybe early 70s. It was hard for people to work together for the common good without being forced. The coming of CHE has helped us to voluntarily love, care, trust so we can work together for the benefit of our community. Mbanga is becoming a safe and peaceful village to live in, before I lived in fear.'*



*Ndumira Healthy Home Awards Nov 2011*

In Ndumira we were becoming discouraged with the CHEs but are now encouraged to see 22 of them modify their homes and receive 'Healthy Home Award One'. A family can receive this certificate if they meet 5 criteria such as having a refuse pit, dish rack, clean water storage, children vaccinated, a vegetable garden, pit latrine and taking part in a bible study. 3 families received 'Healthy Home Award Two' meeting 10 criteria – this is excellent work and a real determination to be healthy! We hope that in 2012 a family might achieve award number 3.



Chippo and Medson give out HHA certificates

We had a ceremony for the certificates – it was wonderful! We also had 4 people testify to their friends of how CHE has changed them physically and spiritually.

Luza said *'Every week someone in my family of five could have diarrhoea, but with this problem we did not really know what was happening. Through CHE diarrhoea is now an old story to my family. I would like to encourage all of you who are here, to modify your homes to be a Healthy Home because we will decrease a lot of preventable sickness.'*

Happy Christmas from us all in Malingunde!  
**Chippo.**



**Pioneering Education Play and Parenting Skills**

### Ali and Rhodess

As you may remember, September heralded the new format of Happy Faces. Thirteen 5 year olds are spending once a week taking part in more focussed activities to prepare them for the beginning of school. These sessions are attended with such eagerness by both the children and their mother/carer who are themselves learning new literacy skills. At present we see such a buzz in the room. The mothers/carers are feeling empowered to play an important part in the development of their children by learning new skills.

Below are 2 encouraging testimonies since our last update;

*'My children had a problem to be with other children – they were shy and would cry. But now I see an improvement as I have learnt how to encourage them, how to speak together and how I can spend time with them'* Mwesa

*'I have 2 children at Primary School and 2 at Happy Faces – The youngest 2 are developing differently because of what I am learning at HF. When the older 2 were younger I could not help them because I did not know how to.'* Fadiness



**Mentoring and Equipping Local Leaders**

### Dalitso Leaders - Medson

We had a wonderful graduation ceremony in September! Leaders from 3 Follow Me courses showed great character and determination to finish their courses – well done!



It was wonderful for Symon to visit us and be part of the ceremony; he worked very hard to serve these local leaders before he left in April to follow his own calling as a Pastor.

*Symon encouraging all the students*

We are now running 4 different FM courses and 15 leaders have started FM1. Thank you to Bill Dixon for writing Follow Me 5 and we will soon be editing and contextualising.

### Visitors

Thank you to Nedra Miller for your recent visit and helping to equip the Happy Faces team with lots of ideas and skills for art activities.

### Books

If you'd like to understand poverty and different models of working cross culturally, this link has some great book recommendations; we have enjoyed reading 'Multiplying Light and Truth' by S. Roland.  
[www.chenetwork.org/reading.php](http://www.chenetwork.org/reading.php)

### Highlights/Challenges

*'Although the country is facing many challenges the team is incredibly focussed and passionate!'* Tom

*'To see the work in Malingunde being unaffected by serious fuel and power shortages is a real testimony to the sustainability of how the Trust works.'* Ali

### Thank you

- Graduating Follow Me leaders and everyone on the 4 courses currently running
- 25 CHEs receiving their 'Healthy Home' certificates

### Requests

- Malawi would remain peaceful as it develops its democracy
- Protection for the whole team and especially the team's health in Malingunde



*Tom and Alison*

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*Follow Me graduates 2011*