



UPDATE March 12

Dear Friends,

The maize is high in the fields and Malawi has had plenty of rain, but very little fuel and foreign currency with which to import anything. In a land locked country that is just about everything!

Despite this, the peaceful nature of Malawians comes shining through as they wrestle with their democracy which is less than 20 years old.

Once again we admire our team who are serving the rural community where commodities are in short supply and inflation is now well into double figures.

This update is a little late as there has been encroachment on our land from a neighbouring village. This issue has taken up a huge amount of time; the situation is much improved, but not fully resolved. The relevant Government departments are fully supportive, but civic education and building trust takes time as community meetings and dialogue take place.



Healthy Families Creating
Healthy Villages

Community CHE - Chippo

Mbanga are still rejoicing as their well has been drilled. The village have all contributed towards bricks, sand and gravel. They are now waiting for the Government to come again and build the pump holder and a set of cement sinks that people can use for washing clothes/cooking utensils etc. I am pleased to say that the Chief let the children go to school this academic year and he is still allowing this. Rhodess continues to run literacy classes starting with 20 students and now down to 10 – which is what we expected as many come in the hope of getting something physical. I can now say that Mbanga community has peace and understands they can learn and change their own lives – before they had no hope or self-respect, so CHE has done a wonderful thing.

In Ndumira we had a lot of success with the 'Healthy Home Award One'.



Luza has received training as a health visitor to her neighbours and is shown above next to her innovative way to cover her toilet using a plate and strips from a sack cloth, ensuring a healthy environment for her family.

The CHE meeting we were having was at a central point, but this still meant some CHEs were walking 4 miles. So we have now made 4 different meeting points. This will encourage the CHEs and allow us to modify our approach.

The 3 approaches are still under trial as we are the only organisation in Malawi running the Lifewind model of empowering the poor without damaging them or us.

Each area has different community needs and this has been a recent discovery for us; CHE uses the needs of the people and what they deem as important to drive the education we offer.

The four areas are now;

Kumalindi *learning about soil improvement for their crops.*

Chiyanika *learning to understand what their need is?*

Ndumira *learning about raising healthy goats.*

Chakwindima *learning about raising chickens.*

The CHEs are doing home visits and have seen 3 new families become Christians through their service and witness. 2 men have also put their faith in Jesus and are being disciplined by the CHEs. This is a huge encouragement to the team; we did not do the CHEs work, we do not spoon feed them, but they are taking responsibility for their community.

Alina *'Before I did not care about my home or my children, through CHE I am changed! My home is clean and even the children are now clean and happy'*

Agnes *'I have been facing many problems in my marriage. Since joining CHE my life is transforming. I am now sharing about my problems and have found peace.'*

I am encouraged a lot with what is happening because lives are being changed; homes and health are improving too.

Chippo



**Pioneering Education Play
and Parenting Skills**

Dalitso Play – Rhodess

Numbers are rising again as Mums are not as busy farming. We have been encouraged as the children’s memory is improving. They can now remember more of what they have learnt and even tell this to their friends. Some can now recognise their names written down – which they never have the opportunity to experience at home.

Jogiat *‘At first I did not want to hear my wife is taking our child to Happy Faces – I thought she was just wasting time. One day my son challenged my life as he now recognises letters and numbers. This means I was wrong at first and I hope my child will be different from how other children are here.’*

I have a personal testimony to share from these past 2 years. My 2 children were leaving school and having extra lessons with a teacher. They got home at 6pm tired, so they bathed, ate and went to bed so they had no time to talk to me. Due to Happy Faces I have decided to spend 2 quality hours with them each day from 4.30pm. I did not know that they are the best singers, only because we now spend more time together – so I am not just leading HF, but also a Mum putting it into action at home. My aim is to open up to the minds of other Mums to shape the future of their own children as they are such a precious gift. I thank God for the vision of Happy Faces.

Rhodess

The team at Malingunde and spouses before our Christmas meal.

From Left: Mrs Kalidwe, Mrs Sivileya, Janet Chale, Mrs James, Mrs Bisifat, Bisifat, Mrs Patterson, Rhodess, Sivileyas, Mrs Simeon, Patterson, Cecil, Annis, Simeon, Medson, Kalidwe, Chippo, Bwalizo, Lipende, Elijah and Martha.



**Mentoring and Equipping
Local Leaders**

Dalitso Leaders - Medson

We continue to see encouraging development in these faithful leaders as they brave the weather and go against their rural culture which is characterised by fear and witchcraft. Follow Me 1 has been experiencing very positive attendance with over 20 regular students and 30 people registered – some of these people are from Mbanga where CHE operates and recently came to faith. The following testimonies highlight this stark cultural choice to come along.

Rose *‘I was struggling to come to FM as I was being harassed by people in my village. We do not normally share personal things, but I disclosed to the teachers of FM and they helped me. Through this I have grown in my faith.’*

Petro *‘When I started coming to Follow Me I had 2 wives, I prayed asking God to help me and one lady departed from me, so I now have peace.’*

Felina *‘I have had a lot of challenges to come to Follow Me. I was accused of being a witch so had many problems in the community, but still I come to learn which helps me not to give revenge to what people say or do.’*

Medson

The Husbands Family

We have been serving the Trust for over 10 years in Malawi and feel the time is right to move to the UK for a season. The quality of the work and the team’s dedication to serving the community is very high and as a result we feel the current need for our presence in Malawi is coming to an end. After much prayer, careful consideration and wise counsel from those who know us well, we have decided that, as a family, we will be leaving at the end of June.

Our plan is to move to Birmingham for at least a year. We will still be working, developing and managing The Dalitso Trust. We shall be visiting Malawi frequently and communicating to support and encourage the team. It will be a priority during our time to re-establish relationships with those supporting us, leading to more partnering opportunities and expanding the base of the Trust.

This new phase is both exciting and daunting for us as a family, as we see the team in Malingunde step up and step out of their comfort zones to really embrace the responsibility for their future- a fulfilment of the original vision.

We would love to hear your thoughts and any questions you may have. In real terms the only change to our work is our location; our calling and commitment to Malawi, the Trust and to you remains the same.

Tom and Alison

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