



**UPDATE** Dec 12

**Dear Friends,**

Happy Christmas! On behalf of all of us at The Dalitso Trust we would like to say thank you for your continued support this year.

After the elation of a new president Joyce Banda, Malawi is coming to terms with the long hard struggle of sorting out its economic and political situation. Fuel and food prices have soared, fuel queues are common and there are still frequent water and power cuts, in the midst of the food shortages that there always are at this time of year. In some parts there has been no rain so far this rainy season so there is some anxiety as to when and how much rain there will be for the crops to grow.

Rhodess (below) has made wonderful progress with Dalitso Play and the whole team is doing well with Chipppo continuing to lead with integrity, wisdom and increasing confidence. This has been a special blessing, as Tom has been and continues to be very ill; more of that later.



**Healthy Families Creating Healthy Villages**

**Community CHE - Chippo**

Mbanga had cultural challenges due to how much authority the Chief has over everything in the village. CHE is a question led learning process which leads to people questioning and assessing their lives and community.

The result often leads to many challenging questions for those in power/authority as the village learns to ask good questions about why certain things are done. A favourite has been ‘why are our children not allowed to go to school?’ due to the Chiefs wishes.

We are so pleased that the village has resolved their differences peacefully and now they have started working together towards their community holistic development and willingly they have plans to raise chickens for food, commercial and droppings for fertilizer. Mbanga challenge was a lesson to us a training team.

*“I do not want to stop attending CHE because what I learn helps me, my family and the whole community. I am learning how to forgive, love and helping those who are in need. My children are now attending school with the courage of CHE, before I feared to talk to my husband about sending our children to school because my husband likes our traditional culture too much”* **Precious**

In Chanika village where Cecil is working with the CHEs, the second is Ndumira village where Janet and Patterson have been working together and the main focus is for them to build good relationship with CHEs because they are new. We are pleased that we are starting CHE lessons together as a community.

In Chakwindima village where Jonathan and I go together the work is going very well as the village has

not had many relief organisations working there. Due to this people desire to take responsibility for their needs. We follow the community’s choice in learning topics and their need has been lessons about many common sicknesses they suffer from, but do not understand.

We have taught on malaria, back pain, headache, diarrhoea etc. We are now moving to farming and looking at compost manure and raising chickens.

*“I did not go to school and I do not know how to read and write. I thought am nothing because the world needs educated people, but I want to surprise you that I am a teacher through CHE. I am now teaching others health lessons, fertilizer making and am leading Bible study in my community. What a joy I have, CHE has empowered me and my community.”*

**Timothy**

**Chipppo**



**Pioneering Education Play and Parenting Skills**

**Dalitso Play – Rhodess**

I am proud that we have graduated nine children to start primary school! They are now able to associate with fellow children and are able to write patterns, identifying their names and recognize some letters and numbers. All because their mothers came to Happy Faces and learnt how to care for their children in a new way and to spend time with them.

What I have personally learned since we have started Happy Faces is how I can build relationship with children and to stand on truth and persevere as we are focusing on good things.

I have seen parents who were discouraged by other people who say ‘it’s not wise to spend time with children at school or at home’. Thankfully parents kept on coming to

Happy Faces because they are focusing on good things and their children are performing well.



Janet and Happy Face kids



Happy Face Graduates

*"I used to have nothing to do with my children except physical needs only, like washing and feeding them. But now I am reaching all areas of their lives which I was failing to do. Like spiritually, at first I thought that it's the Pastor's responsibility. Intellectually I thought it is the job of teachers, but now I am proud to help my children grow in many ways. My mind has been opened up, by and through Happy Faces."* **Katherine**



The first graduates from Happy Faces



**Mentoring and Equipping  
Local Leaders**

## Dalitso Leaders

Due to issues over our land Follow Me has experienced a bumpy time. Many local leaders have felt pressure to stop coming as they feel it shows the Trust support in an issue with which they want to be neutral. Yet we have over 60 leaders ready to graduate on Tom's next visit – their

request was that they wanted to delay their graduation and wait for him to be better so he can attend the ceremony.

Our new course Follow Me 5 has started, thank you again to Bill Dixon for your hard work in writing yet another course specifically for us. So we now have 5 courses running with Symon and Medson helping the team to deliver the courses.

*'After starting Follow Me 1 I love it too much, So for that reason I decided to start my own group at the church I lead and have 13 participants attending. Chippo has visited our group which was a great encouragement'* **Green**

*"I thank God for calling me to the Follow Me program. As a church leader I found the Bible difficult. After going through 'The Leaders book' topic, I've learned to love to read and study the Bible."* **John**

*"I love Follow Me because I am learning things which I did not learn at Bible College. I was recently challenged that I need a mentor. After going through that chapter I was encouraged to have one to grow my leadership ability."* **Joseph**

## Staff News

Jonathan was with us for 4 months and an opportunity opened up for him to Pastor a church in Zomba. Sadly for us we said goodbye to him in October and we know it will be hard to fill his shoes.

We also say farewell to Rhodess at the end of the year after 6 years of faithful serving with The Trust. Her husband has been moved away with work and therefore the whole family will be moving with him. We shall be very sad to see Rhodess go as she has been a huge asset in developing Happy Faces. It has been a privilege to see her develop and mature. Janet will take over the responsibility of Happy Faces. She has worked alongside Rhodess since the beginning so it will be in good hands.

## Land Issue

The police are still investigating which, being Malawi, takes a very long time and we hope to hear early next year what their decision will be.

## The Husbands Family

As some of you may be aware, Tom has been seriously ill since the end of October with extreme fatigue and a whole variety of symptoms. After numerous blood tests he was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital here in Birmingham and whilst we are still awaiting the final diagnosis it is believed that he is suffering from amoebic dysentery, with complications as it has caused abscesses on his liver.

Whilst he is now home after a 10 day stay in hospital, he will be on strong medication for 2 months with outpatient appointments. We are very thankful to be in the UK to be able to access great healthcare.

Despite this challenging time the children have settled well into their school and are currently enjoying taking part in all the Christmas activities which were not part of school life in Malawi.

We are enjoying being part Vineyard Network Church Birmingham and have been made to feel very welcome.

Prior to his illness, Tom was continuing to manage the team in Malingunde whilst managing and developing the various elements that are crucial to the work here.

Ali's priority has been to settle the children into their new and somewhat alien surroundings.

## Please pray for;

**The team** who are doing amazingly well but were due a visit from Tom earlier in November which was cancelled due to his health. Please pray for encouragement, strength, wisdom and protection.

**Tom.** That his health would continue to improve.

*Tom and Alison*

Tom & Alison Husbands, Founders & Directors  
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