



The HUSBANDS Family, June 2013

We want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Vineyard for those who are new and to update those of you who already know us.

We, Tom, Ali, Jack (9) Joel (9) & Grace (6), returned to the UK a year ago after living in Malawi, East Africa for 10 years. Although we have never lived in Birmingham we felt God call us here. Thank you for welcoming us and in many ways it feels like coming home.

The transition has been very challenging and we have felt God's hand on us as a family. Alison has been working hard looking after us all as the children adapted to a new country and schools etc and Tom was seriously ill for 6 months with a liver parasite he brought back from Malawi. It was a very stressful time, but thank you to everyone for your prayers and practical support.

Our 'Malawi story' started back in 1999 with Bill Dixon who many of you know from VNC. We went on a mission trip for 3 weeks and that eventually birthed a vision and a ministry we started called The Dalitso Trust. As directors we have the privilege to equip and resource a team of Malawians that serve rural communities.

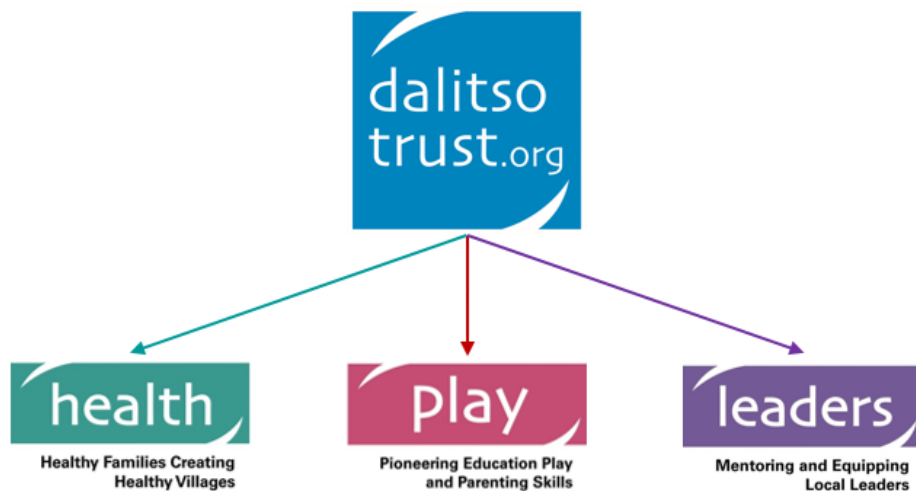
We love people serving with us in our work and we believe the whole church has so much potential to engage in overseas mission. Partnerships for us, centre around people bringing their gifts and talents to help fulfil the vision of The Trust. The thread of VNC has continued as Bill Dixon passed his oversight and advisory role to Simon & Keely Bateson as a 'mission partnership' developed with the church. Another example of this teamwork within the church has been with Nick and Fiona Harding in helping us research and resource the Trust's Community Health Education project.

As a family we are all enjoying being part of the Birmingham Vineyard. We love hosting a cell group and the children are thriving in Discovery Zone. Tom is studying again and has completed his first year of the VLI theology course. We have also been attending the Hub sessions at Leicester Vineyard.

On our return to the UK we did not know the timeframe of our stay and had not heard God speak about our future steps. We now feel called to stay in the UK for at least the next 5 years and outwork our calling and passion for Malawi from here. We are excited to put down some roots and have been looking at buying a house.

We feel God is prompting us to expand the work of the Trust in its 3 areas – Dalitso Play, Dalitso Leaders and Dalitso Health. These umbrella names each have a specific project to equip and empower rural Malawians.

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Ali and I go to Malawi for the first week of July and ask that you would pray for our trip as we meet with the team to encourage and equip them.

We love mission and seeing people equipped and released into their God given calling. If we can serve you in any way regarding overseas mission please let us know. If you would like to know more about The Dalitso Trust please look at our website or chat to us on a Sunday morning.

Tom and Ali

Prayer Points

Family

- For God's grace as we continue to adapt from Malawi culture to UK culture.
- Tom's liver would completely heal over the next year.
- That God would provide us with a family home in the UK.
- For God's guidance as we run The Dalitso Trust from the UK and seek to expand the team and work.

Malawi

- God's hand on our communication and relationship with Chippo who leads the team in Malingunde.
- Protection over the team and their families health.
- The team would continue to trust each other.
- God would raise up new leaders through our intern programme.