

Dear Friends

May 2014

The Malawi election took place on May 20th and 10 days later Professor Peter Mutharika was announced as the new President. The country remained mostly peaceful as the election process took rather longer than expected.

In May, Tom had a trip to train the team and was once again so proud of them and their work. He was joined by a team from Coventry Vineyard who ran a conference for our Follow Me students. They were great teachers and we received excellent feedback from the students, with many people testifying about physical healings too! *'My heart is changed as I will never forget the story of climbing the mountain with stones in your hands if you are failing to forgive, you give yourself an unnecessary load'* **Janet**
As we continue to transition to life in the UK our primary role is to create a base that will resource and make the team in Malawi sustainable.

The Trust has three areas of focus; this month we are highlighting Happy Faces (HF). The HF team consists of Janet and Rhodess, plus our two interns Fanny and Lonely. Happy Faces is a stay and play group for under 6s. Parents stay with their child to learn different ways in which children can learn through play activities. The sessions are to educate the mums as much as the children. The team also visits these families in their homes as Rhodess explains;

'The home visits are going so well and our relationships are growing as there is now an openness to talk to us about any issue. We have taught health lessons on topics they did not know about, such as prevention of diarrhea, family planning and having balanced food at every meal if possible.

The children and mums come from two different communities; 19 homes in Kapaninga and 12 in Simeon. Our hope is the Mums will really care for their children as they start to believe they are a special gift from God and need to be shown love.'

We are starting to see these two communities changing their attitudes to young children. We now have a waiting list, which has taken time to develop, as parents could not understand why we wanted them to stay for the sessions. They wanted to drop their children off, but in time they have come to understand that it is really them we are teaching, so they can educate their children.

Rural culture tells the mums that because they are not educated, they are not good enough & have nothing of value to share with their own children. Our vision is to train the mums so they feel confident in who they are as a mother and its vital role.

'The mums now know a number of simple activities that can be done at home, so are teaching their own children. Even the local school is commenting on the difference in the children from Happy Faces. The team has worked very hard to encourage and support the families.' **Ali**

The play equipment is now in place with swings and a slide so lots of fun is being had outside now the rains have finished.

On behalf of the whole Dalitso Trust team thank you for sharing the journey with us,

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors



Happy Faces Swing and Slide



Follow Me Conference



The Dalitso Trust Team with visitors from Coventry Vineyard



Happy Faces Story Time