

**Dear Friends**

**June 2014**

It is the dry season, an excellent time for community learning and projects as people have more time, now the harvest is finished. The Trust has three areas of focus. This month we are highlighting **health**, through **Community Health Evangelism (CHE)**.

CHE is grassroots health work, where our team trains local volunteers to be health visitors to their neighbours. It does not work in every village, but thrives where people have not been disempowered by well-meaning projects, which have given out a lot of resources. With training, these villages can develop vision and drive to make changes in their own lives.

After five years of working in Ndumira village, CHE is being phased out. Chippo and the team have tried their hardest, but people in the community have been promising volunteers we would eventually pay them. Initially CHE was stopped for a while and re-launched, but the community can't get past this stumbling block as employment and money are huge issues in a country full of poverty. A lot of great work has been done; we are so thankful for all the education and lives that have been changed, such as Mr Frank's *'Before CHE came I was not knowing the importance of a toilet, rubbish pit or bathroom. Now I know they are important to stop disease spreading, keep flies down and water drainage to reduce mosquitoes. Our village is now looking smart and our health is improved.'*

A recent effect of CHE is that power structures are being challenged. As rural people learn to ask questions and education removes lies and fear within the culture, leaders struggle to control people in the old ways. Mbanga is in this position as Chippo reports: *'We have been having discussions due to the many challenges. Talking with the Chief about how he can serve the community rather than the community serving him - which is the traditional way of thinking.'* This is such positive progress as the gospel reorders how communities live together and reflects the hard work of the team.

*'I was elder of Gule Wamkulu (witchcraft). When I attended CHE lessons, my mind started thinking less about my position in the village; I was not considering my life because I have no husband - therefore nothing to live for. I learnt that God knows my ways and everything I do. I believed that many sicknesses came from being cursed through witchcraft, but I have learnt that they are preventable and mostly come from poor hygiene. You can come to my home and see the new toilet I made and share with two other families. I am not getting tired to be a light to other people because CHE has opened my mind and heart.* Melu

This is an amazing testimony touching so many strongholds of poverty & fear, which cripple Malawi.

*'Since CHE started, relationships in the village improved and we began to trust one another. I had peace of mind, the community was developing very fast and now we have a clean water supply'* Sisilia

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

*Tom and Ali*

**Tom & Ali, Directors**



**New CHE Bikes**



**Recent CHE Training Course**



**Mbanga Chief with his wife**



**Team photo taken in May**