

*Dear Friends*

*August 2014*

Malawi is now dry and dusty as it passes the half-way point of the dry season. The team recently had a visit from Mark, Laura, Tony & Hazel. They spent time equipping the team and also gathered our Follow Me leaders for 2 days of teaching.

The Trust has 3 areas of focus and this month we are highlighting Happy Faces (HF). Happy Faces is an under 6's stay & play group serving local families in Malingunde. Parents stay with their child to learn the different ways in which children can learn through play activities. The sessions educate the parents as well as the children. The team also visit these families in their homes with health and parenting lessons.

The HF team is led by Janet, helped by Rhodess plus 2 of our interns Fanny & Lonely.

Janet *'This year we have had some challenges, but we have turned them into opportunities to help us grow as a team and become better teachers and facilitators. We had a joyous graduation on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, we are so very proud of the children and their parents.'*

The new academic year starts on September the 10<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to the new families who will start. There is 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 that they develop skills & confidence to educate their own children. These testimonies highlight the quality work of Janet and the team:

Mrs Tembo *'I am thankful for the vision of Happy Faces. My older child graduated two years ago and is doing very well at school. Another child has just graduated, so my hopes are high, due to this good learning foundation. I do promise to continue bringing my younger children to Happy Faces too.'*

Mrs Fredrick *'Happy Faces has helped me in so many ways. I love my children more freely now, because I do understand that they are a gift from God. I have also learnt that I am to be responsible at my home and implement the health lessons I have received during home visits.'*

Fanny *'Thank you to our recent visitors, Tony and Hazel. As we were playing games with the children I was challenged by them to be a very active and engaged parent. This is new to me, to be an engaged Mum with my daughter so she can learn more.'*

Alison will be travelling to Malawi next month to run more training specifically for the HF team. We are so pleased that Happy Faces has been accepted by the local community and that families are being blessed.

The new website will soon be finished and we look forward to its launch. Thank you so much to the team at Studio Bonito for your amazing work.

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

*Tom and Ali*

**Tom & Ali, Directors**

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*Graduating Children*



*Happy Faces*



*Team Building*



*The Happy Faces family*