

Dear Friends

September 2014

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website! Please go to www.dalitsotrust.org and take a look. We absolutely love it and the team at Studio Bonito have been excellent through the whole design process; we can't recommend them more highly www.studiobonito.co.uk.

Our September newsletter is being sent to you via MailChimp. We hope you like the new layout and that you can update your email preferences. Thanks to Brian and Val Marriott who for many years oversaw the mailing of the newsletter through email and the post. Thank you both for all your help and generosity. Brian and Val will be in Malawi next month with the team in Malingunde; it is such a blessing to have wonderful people serving alongside us.

The Trust has three areas of focus and this month we are highlighting **health**, through **Community Health Evangelism (CHE)**.

CHE is grassroots health work, where our team train 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 that have given out lots of resources. With training, these villages can develop a vision and drive to make changes in their own lives.

Chiyajnika village has been doing CHE for seven months and they have been learning about what makes a healthy home.

Anne *'our village has been doing different projects, but nothing lasts. The project materials are used up, broken or stolen and the work stops, so there is no progress. Our village should really be different, but it has not used these opportunities well. It seems that CHE is different and I have hope it will change lives.'*

Patterson leads a team researching three villages against strict criteria to see where CHE can work. This takes a year of research. Poverty and long-term relief work are so damaging that offering education alone will often not work, as communities are used to hand outs.

Jameson *'Mrs Ngalande kept asking us about having a healthy home. We came back the following week and she had a drying rack, a refuse pit and a vegetable patch. We did not tell her to do any of it, we just chatted to build relationships and she saw the benefits.'*

In Mbanga the Chief suspended CHE lessons as the education was making the village more demanding in terms of his leadership accountability. This whole process has taken time to work through and we had been invited back to start again. Unfortunately this is on hold as the Chief was arrested for stealing someone's harvest. We will have to wait until there is peace in the village from this latest incident.

Edina *'In the past I was shy to talk as I thought I could not contribute anything to the village. I have been surprised by CHE and learnt that I am free to say my views and more than that, they are respected.'*

It is a pleasure to see communities thrive on education, learning and discussion where everyone is heard and respected. This is a new way of learning for many people who feel written off by society, due to their gender or being illiterate.

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

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors

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Janet with health volunteers



Using the ground as part of community voting



Bisifat in a health lesson



Patterson teaching