

Dear Friends

July 2016

We have had a series of health challenges in our team over the past 6 weeks, hence no June newsletter. We have had numerous serious illnesses in Malawi and with Tom here in the UK too. We are sad that Veryson died at 3 weeks old and baby Daniel too was very sick, needing to be resuscitated. We value your prayers as we continue to strive forward to bring change to Malingunde and Malawi.

We have 3 areas of focus in Malingunde and this month we are highlighting Happy Faces (HF). This is an under 6 stay and play session. Sessions equip mothers with knowledge to interact and teach their own children through play. Families also receive home visits with health lessons and encouragement.

Tom *'It is a privilege to see HF flourish. The early days were very hard for the team as the community could not understand the 'stay and play' model. To see a waiting list of 16 families and an invitation to start HF in another village is a wonderful response to the team's vision and hard work'*

19 children recently had their graduation ceremony as the older group move on to Primary School in September. It was a wonderful celebration with 8 local Chiefs and the Primary Headmaster in attendance to give out the certificates.

Malia, *'I thought that taking my two-year old child to HF would be a waste of time, but I have discovered that my daughter is really learning. We have both grown and our love for each other has grown too. This love has spread across our family to all our children.'*

Mrs Khumalo *'At HF my son Elijah has learnt to count numbers, play and share with others and many other activities. It is so encouraging and I am really pleased with him. HF is for both children and their mothers. I was behind in helping my children, but now there is a big change in him and in me.'*

Mary *'My daughter now counts and knows the alphabet! I am amazed to see how the teachers in HF can teach the children and the Mums at the same time. I am so encouraged and have learnt a lot.'*

Recent home visits have included lessons on; family hygiene, family planning, home safety, how to handle miscommunication and how to have a strong marriage.

Zione, *'I don't how to read or write so we had no family learning at home. Then I met the HF team and they encouraged me to ask and be interested in what my children are learning at primary. In the past I was stuck, I did not know how I can help them, but now I am interested in their learning and we play counting games together.'*

Lizzy, *'When I brought my daughter to HF she would cry and not play or take part. Weeks passed and her behaviour started changing to make friends. She really is now a changed girl having friends and being calm. We are now able to enjoy spending time together at home, continuing the lessons we learn at HF'*

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

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors

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Happy Faces Graduating!

