

NEWS April 2018

Dear Friends,

The rains finished well, so we are hoping for a reasonable harvest. Much of the country will soon be busy reaping their crops as they finish drying.

This month we are highlighting our Happy Faces (HF) work, which is a 6 and under stay and play project. We currently have families coming from 5 different villages. The work is hard, being willing to teach and interact with children at eye level is very counter cultural. The following testimonies show a glimpse of the fruit being produced.

Dali 'I am the Mum of Praise and have I been so pleased with her progress. At HF she has started to write and count. I am really encouraged by her learning and the ability she has, I will never stop coming here.'

Recent lessons have included learning numbers, letter sounds, learning parts of the body through singing and making patterns.

Lydia 'I was concerned that my daughter was not speaking and in the back of my mind thought that school might not be possible for her. I was worried and didn't know what to do. My neighbour invited me to HF and I have learnt how to be a teaching Mum. I do teach her much of the time while we are together at home. There is a big improvement and I have no doubt she will start school on time.'

Mr Phiri 'Since my daughter started coming to HF, I can see many positive changes. This is not just in Mary, but in her Mother too. They are both changed and my wife is now teaching Mary at home. I am so encouraged to see this teaching and learning, we are blessed to have this good foundation in our lives.'

Home visits build relationships and the team encourage families to continue learning in the home environment. Health lessons are also given, tailored to meet the needs of the family. Recent lessons have included; family hygiene, how to prevent common accidents, treating and preventing Malaria and how to take care of your harvest.

Kindness 'Diana my daughter was in HF 4 years ago and she is now at school. HF gave her such a good learning foundation and I am here again with my son. I have seen a big difference in his learning and behaviour. He is now able to play and share with other children, which was a huge challenge initially. I am thankful the fighting has stopped. I do encourage other Mums to bring their children, so they can be sharpened for their futures too.'

Theresa 'I am a single Mum and was recently feeling quite isolated and lonely. I was beginning to see my child as a burden and I was separating myself from her. The HF group has helped me improve my relationship with her. I now delight in her friendship and take enjoyment as we talk, listen and play together. We have become busy learning together and I see this as a special gift. Thank you so much to have this opportunity and allow us to live in a new way.'

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

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors, The Dalitso Trust



Parachute Games



Playing Games



First Time To See A Swing



Counting With An Abacus