

## NEWS April 2019

*Dear Friends,*

The rains finished well so we hope for a good harvest in Malawi. The country is currently in the midst of election fever. The general election takes place on May 21<sup>st</sup> and we hope that a free and fair election is able to take place.

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 following testimonies show a glimpse of the fruit being produced.

Mary *'At first I wasn't sure what my daughter and I would learn together through HF. We have been taught so much about love and encouraged. I now know how to love and teach my child, not just in the sessions, but at home too. I am so happy that I have become a nurturing Mum who can actively care for her child.'*

Recently we visited Chaponda and Mowa villages to talk with key leaders in their community about HF and what it could look like in their village. We continue to chat and to model HF to them, hoping to see HF replicated in our surrounding area.

Christine *'My daughter died in childbirth, so I am raising my grandson for her. I wasn't interested in HF until I saw the change in the children who started coming. James can now mention the letters, mainly the vowels as he is still very young. HF is the best foundation for primary school, so we will continue to come and encourage others too.'*

Princess *'My daughter was very shy to talk to other children and even to play with them. I was stuck as I did not have any skill to change the situation. HF has changed these things and given her a new freedom to play and chat. I am so happy to be a part of HF.'*

Home visits build relationships and 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.

Ani *'Peter can now count from 1 to 20 and Clive 1 to 10. I am so grateful to the team for their patience as they never tire of helping and equipping us. Teaching my children, but also teaching me to be a Mum who can teach her children. I never thought I could do this, but with so much encouragement I am making it.'*

Juli *'I joined HF at the end of March and I heard about Jesus. I had questions about Him, so I asked one of the team to tell me more. This helped me open my heart to Him. My heart changed from feeling burdened, worthless and now I feel loved and free.'*

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

*Tom and Ali*

**Tom & Ali, Directors, The Dalitso Trust**



A community meeting about HF



Practicing the Letter S



Story time



Learning to hold a pen