

## NEWS February 2021

Dear Friends,

We are thankful for good rains this growing season, so we are expectant for a good harvest which will be such a blessing to the country.

2021 is proving to be challenging in Malawi as Covid cases started to rise rapidly in early January. This is mainly in urban areas and it seems that rural areas like Malingunde are not too affected. A national emergency was declared and schools closed again. We are really proud that the team have adapted so quickly and carefully so all our work continues.

### Education Fund

As the Trust matures in age so does our team and their families. Some of their children are due to start secondary school (some are free, some have fees) and start college. We are starting a designated fund to be able to assist with these school fees. We want to honour the team and typical fees of £1,200 a year are way beyond the reach of rural wages. Our aim is to raise £2,500 this year rising to £3,500 in 2022. We are currently helping 2 children at secondary school and this will soon be added to by 2 college students – Doreen and Christian. If you would like more details and potentially partner in that way with us please email [info@dalitsostrust.org](mailto:info@dalitsostrust.org).

### Our New Building

We are moving! We are so pleased to be in a time of transition as we have moved some things over to the new building. This is so we can start preparing the old one to be taken down. The new building is almost finished, it just needs painting and the ceiling boards attaching. The boards have not yet been fixed as we are waiting for the dynamite blasting of the new dam construction to finish. The contractors have been diligent in repairing rooves damaged by rock debris. We are within the blast radius and can monitor our new roof much more easily without the ceiling in.

### Happy Faces

To follow the new government guidance we stopped our Happy Faces gatherings in January. These sessions have been replaced with more home visits as these can be done safely outside.

Abi *'I was so happy that as we started HF my shy daughter started talking with other children. At home I had many challenges as I had never received any help or training to have knowledge and confidence. Through HF home visits I have learnt how to care for my children physically, emotionally and spiritually. I am so encouraged to be part of HF and tell all my friends to get involved too.'*

Kasi *'A few months ago I was sick and given medication from the doctor. As soon as my body was feeling fine I stopped the course, then I got sick again. It is only now that we have learnt about taking the whole course of medicine I realise why I became ill again. I am telling my friends and neighbours to finish the whole course of medicine so they can be well.'*

Miriam *'I was living in stress as I was just surviving, things were very tough financially for my family. In my mind I thought that you need lots of money to run a business. I was privileged to participate in the lessons of small business. After the lesson I raised a very small amount of money and began to bake local cakes for sale. This is how my small business started and the stress in my life is much reduced. Thank you so much.'*

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

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors, The Dalitso Trust

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Chippo & Janet with Christian who is finishing secondary school



Rhodes with Trevor at secondary school and Doreen about to finish



Front of the new building



Back of the new building