

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter April to June 2015

June saw DMH break records for the number of patients seen in one month! The specialist services combined with the 'Malaria' season has meant that the hospital has been full to capacity most days. We are delighted that funds were provided to convert some of the upstairs space into new wards, with a new bathroom and toilet being built. 9 extra beds have been added in total, meaning that DMH can now routinely sleep over 50 patients. The huge number of patients has also meant the new kitchen will be put to excellent use. The building is now finished, with final painting and interiors being completed in the next few weeks. Gladys and her team will be moved in by the end of July, meaning that cooking over 150 meals a day will be much easier! Thank you to everyone who has helped with the kitchen building.



Left: The outside of the new kitchen building Right: Gladys and Consolatta with the new 'smokeless' stove

In April, DMH welcomed two HIV specialists from South Africa. They spent two weeks training the counsellors and clinical officers who are based in the Comprehensive Care Centre (CCC). The aim of the CCC is to provide a 'one-stop-shop' for patients diagnosed with HIV and TB. Thanks to the funding DMH has, these patients receive all the required blood tests and medications free of charge. This has been a huge blessing to the community and means that patients diagnosed with HIV at DMH no longer have to travel to other hospitals.



*Lynne Wilkinson and Dr. Tom Boyles
with our CCC team, Esther, Bridget,
Agnes and Duncan*

The other specialist programmes are continuing to see a vast increase in numbers. The orthopaedic surgical programme now has a large waiting list, with children being brought from all over Bungoma County. The team are operating on about 30 children a quarter; one such child was Elizabeth. Elizabeth badly burnt her left arm when a kerosene lamp she was carrying exploded. Elizabeth was taken to a nearby clinic, but after first aid treatment received no other medical attention. She developed a severe contracture of her left arm, rendering it almost useless. After surgery Elizabeth and her Mother were delighted, she has almost full range of movement and says thank you to all funders and staff. Her Mother says she praises God for the service, because without God and the free service her child would still be disabled.



*Left: Elizabeth's arm before surgery Middle: Elizabeth day 1 after surgery
Right: Elizabeth 6 weeks after surgery*

The Fistula surgery programme has now started at DMH. This is a trial project, providing free surgery to women who leak urine or faeces, repairing damage done during labour or after FGM. Dr Matasi has been employed to do 12-15 surgeries. Fistula has a huge taboo in Kenya, with many chiefs and village leaders not been keen to announce the project at public events. The DMH community team have gone door to door advertising the service. Many women go for years without being able to leave the house, they often are thrown out of the family house and tend to be extremely poor.



Mama Julia was one of these patients. She has agreed to tell her story because she wanted to tell others and say thank you. Julia reports that she has been incontinent of urine for years, which she thinks started after giving birth to her last born child. She heard about the operations through the IcFEM local unit and was shocked there was a solution. She said before surgery she had to miss church meetings, could not go on public transport and could not visit family because of the leaking. She felt totally socially isolated. Having had the surgery she said she is delighted and has even been on public transport in Nairobi; she

says she followed the Doctors instructions and can't believe she is now leak free. She says she can go to church for hours and praise God. She would like to say thank you for making her 'normal' again.

We also had the delight of welcoming back some of the cleft lip patients that we operated on 6 months ago. In October 2014 the first Smile Train surgeries took place at DMH. We now have further clinics booked for November 2015 and March 2016. It was a pleasure for the DMH team to see healthy, well fed, smiling children coming through the doors.



The photos above show Meshack, who had both lip and palate surgery in October 2014. Meshack stays locally to DMH, with his Mother and older brother. His Mum said she was very upset when she saw Meshack had a 'funny' lip. Meshack also had a hole in the roof of his mouth meaning he could not feed well. She was told by the traditional birth attendant that the condition could only be dealt with at the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, and she could not afford this. She said she could not imagine there could be such free surgery to assist her son. After surgery she was very excited and happy to see her child looking well. She looks forward to Meshack having a bright future and says this has removed shame from her side since people were laughing at her around the village which made her very upset. She said she would previously hide the child from people and visitors, but now the minds of those who laughed at her had changed and now they are able to know that there is solution for such conditions. She says this is good for the community. Meshack is doing very well and weighs 8.5kgs compared to the 4.8kgs that he weighed when he had surgery.



Other services at DMH continue to be busy. Kiprop was delighted to receive the donation of a new biometry machine allowing him to assess patients for the correct replacement lens during surgery. He is now using this equipment on all his patients, giving even better results than before. The gentleman in the photograph could only see a light shone in his eye before his surgery. He can now see the third line from the bottom of an eye chart! Kiprop also completed his 200th solo surgery at DMH.

We are delighted that he is part of the team and is providing such an excellent service to the community.

DMH continues to grow, and alongside the need for excellent specialist surgical care we also need excellent medical care. DMH are currently recruiting for missionary Doctors to join the team. There is excellent accommodation and substantial living allowance available. We

would be grateful if supporters could consider advertising this role with friends, family and in churches. For more information please email the hospital.

We are extremely grateful for the support that you give to DMH to allow all these services to continue to grow. If you wish to have any further information about any of these services then please email dreamlandhospital@icfem.org.

If you wish to donate, we are in particular need of new theatre equipment and to put curtains around the beds in the wards. Visit www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH or Text IDMH99 followed by the amount (eg £10) to 70070

If your church, company, women's group or anyone else would like a talk or update on the work of the hospital please feel free to contact Becky at becky.nightingale@icfem.org.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers, do feel free to pass this newsletter on to other interested parties.



Kiprop with his 198th - 201st solo surgical patients!

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie

(On behalf of all the DMH management. Sister Margaret, RCO Kiprop, Sister Jael, Sister Agnes and Claire) and with thanks to all the patients who agreed to tell their stories.

(Please note our UK office address has changed to 12, Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staff, ST7 3TD, UK)