

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter January to March 2015

Growth at DMH has continued this quarter. The number of patients choosing to use DMH as their hospital of choice continuing to rise, to the extent that there have been numerous occasions where we have been scrambling for extra beds!

The eye service has been a key part of the hospital's development. Kiprop is now operating without supervision and has a daily clinic as well as weekly theatre list. We praise God for Kiprop; the skills he has acquired over the last few years have allowed him to really serve the community. Every Thursday 10-12, usually elderly, blind people are helped into DMH. They are normally guided by relatives as they are unable to see where to walk. They are admitted to hospital and on Friday morning Kiprop gets to work restore their sight; by Saturday morning the patients are discharged, smiling and able to see. It is a delight to watch them walk independently out of the hospital with big smiles on their faces! Both Alfred Wafula and little Ezra (pictured below) are recent beneficiaries of the eye service.



Alfred says he was born without any disability and never imagined becoming blind at some point in his lifetime. Having been born in a humble family of 15 children, his parents managed to educate him to primary school level but he was not able to attend secondary school. He says he has been hard working since his teenage years and through this was able to buy some land. He worked for a local business man in Bungoma town for 20 years until 2012 when he started losing his eye sight; and by the end of the year he had to resign from his job. Despite this he continued to sell coffee beans from his farm at home with a hope to build a collection of livestock, but he says his dreams were completely shattered when he realised that he had totally lost his eye sight. Although the loss was gradual, he will never forget the day he woke up in the morning and realised that he was a blind man. Before the operation he could only see hand movement in both eyes, but after having surgery on both eyes he could see 6/18 on the eye chart (4th line down). Alfred says that "he can't believe he is seeing again". He says he is now a happy man and will work for the Lord because He is the one who has healed him. Having lost hope he had given up with life and felt he had no meaning on this world anymore, but he says he has resolved from today to work both day and night to restore the lost days. He informed us that he is not only healed physically but his soul is also at peace.

Ezra is a class five pupil from a family of 7. Ezra's family brought him to DMH in October for an X ray following an accident, and whilst at DMH they learnt about the services the hospital offered. This information was key to saving Ezra's sight just a few months later.

Ezra says he was sent by his mother to buy some goods in the nearby market. He normally ran to the market and this day was no different. He set out on the route he knew well, but before reaching the market he was struck by a stick in his eye. He says he fell down helplessly in pain and feels if it was not for a good Samaritan that was passing by, then he could have died. His Mother says she was very surprised on hearing this but whilst rushing to the scene she remembered DMH as the only option to save her son's sight. She says her son was in agony and could not open his eye. He still had part of the stick, stuck in it. Kiprop was called in as an emergency to try and remove the stick and rescue his sight. Kiprop says the stick had punctured the eye but had missed vital parts so with careful surgery he was able to remove the stick and repair the eye. Kiprop is confident that Ezra will have near normal sight and that he will not require any further surgery.

It is not just the eye service that is progressing well. The orthopaedic service continues to grow with surgeries happening every 4-6 week and the Ponseti technique clinic taking place weekly. Ashley who was photographed in the last newsletter has now progressed to wearing splints and is starting to get up and about on his feet. The hospital has also been donated a small fragment set meaning that children and adults who required metal work such as pins and plates will be have their surgery at DMH. We hope the first surgeries involving metal work will take place by the end of April. Mellan and Martin are working to run the clinic alongside Protus who joins the teams for busy clinic days. The hospital continues to run other specialist services. The cleft lip team are due to return at the end of this year and are planning return visits every 6 months. We have recently started admitting more malnourished cleft lip and palette children on the feeding program. Belinda the young girl in the last newsletter is progressing well and is booked for surgery in November. She is now nearly 9kg and is standing and starting to walk – a huge difference from the seriously malnourished little girl of 6 months ago!



Above LEFT: Monica our theatre tech with the new pins and plates set

Above RIGHT: Belinda trying to take some steps!

As we sit and write this newsletter, we can look out of our office window and see another building emerging in the hospital grounds. Gladys and the whole catering team are delighted that the money has been raised to start building a new kitchen. Gladys and her team currently cooks for the increasing numbers of patients on an open wood fire, which is both becoming impractical and bad for her health. The aim is to have the kitchen finished by mid May. We are still raising funds for the cooking equipment to go inside the building!



Above Left: The builders in a morning prayer meeting before work



Above Right: The Kitchen progressing

Other services at DMH continue to grow. In the last newsletter we explained the need for funding to grow the HIV and TB services. The hospital has now set up a comprehensive care centre (CCC) which already supports 80 patients and the numbers are growing every week. The CD4 machine arrived in February meaning that patients no longer have to travel or wait for this blood test. They can have an HIV test and if they are positive get a CD4 count and counselling, and are started on appropriate treatment all within about an hour! The service now has regular funds to provide all the patients to access viral load testing, CD4 counts and some routine blood tests. The patients get all their medication free as part of the service.



Derek, Agnes, Jael and Duncan with the new portable CD4 machine.

We are extremely grateful for the support that you give to DMH to allow all these services to continue to grow. If wish to have any further information about any of these service then please email dreamlandhospital@icfem.org. If you wish to donate you can also visit www.justgiving.com/IcFEMDMH or Text IDM99 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.

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie (On behalf of all the DMH management. Sister Margaret, RCO Kiprop, Sister Jael, Sister Agnes and Claire)