

## IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital Newsletter May-July 2017

DMH continues to provide care to all those who require it. The Doctors' strikes in Kenya have now ended, but unfortunately government nurses are now on strike. The DMH staff have continued to do their best to provide good quality services at the point of need.

The maternity service continues to be extremely busy, with our two full time Doctors working around the clock to ensure that the mothers can safely delivery their babies. We have been so full that we have had to sleep people on mattresses on the floor. Although this is not ideal it is better than having no access to the required care. It is very common for mothers to turn up in labour from the village; they have never had an antenatal appointment and often only come to hospital because their labour is difficult. This month we had a nice surprise when a mother came into DMH needing help in labour, she was assessed and taken to theatre for immediate delivery. It suddenly became clear that the mother was pregnant with triplets - a rare event indeed! An hour later 3 healthy little babies were born. They already have 3 brothers and sisters and come from a poor background. All three babies are over 2KG and are doing well. We have signed them up for insurance to make sure they don't have to pay to health care and thanks to your donations we cleared their hospital bill. We will review them every 2 weeks and do our best to ensure they are fed and have all the correct immunisations. This family are likely to need ongoing support so, if anyone would like to help please do get in touch.



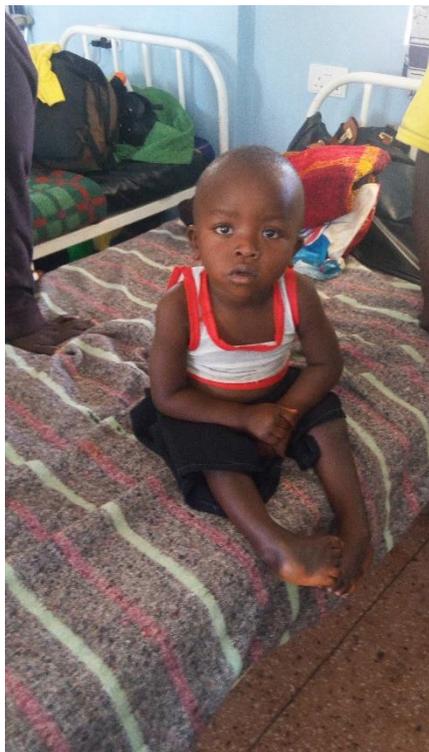


The increase in patient numbers has meant there has been real need for beds. The top floor of the isolation ward is now built and the downstairs ward is equipped. We opened the ground floor this week to patients who required isolation and will open the whole ward for private care during August. In the initial phase this will give us 10 beds that can be used flexibly as private and isolation beds. Once we have equipped the top floor a further 10 beds will be made available. As well as the private ward the new physiotherapy gym and the isolation ward are progressing well. A new staff house is awaiting planning permission and will be built as soon as this is confirmed. As a hospital, we will aim to use these facilities to allow the poorest children and families to have access to care that



they otherwise would not have the ability to pay for.

One such child that will benefit from the orthopaedic centre is Yusuf. Yusuf is 2 years old and comes from a family of seven. There is often a lot of hope and pressure put on sons in the family, as they are expected to provide for their parents in old age. So when Yusuf was born with clubfoot at a local dispensary, it devastated the family. In rural areas, clubfoot is still seen as only treatable for the rich. Indeed, when Yusuf's mother, Rose, visited the nearest hospital for advice, it became clear that they were never going to be able to afford surgery. The paternal extended family were very negative towards Yusuf, advising he be abandoned. They felt that Yusuf would bring shame upon the family name. But Rose could not give him up, and her husband stayed with her. Eventually, Rose was reached by a DMH mobilisation outreach organised by Mellan. Within three months, Yusuf had surgery on his right foot. Rose was so pleased. She thought it impossible, but



thanks to the service the surgery came at no cost to her. This will be life changing for Yusuf. Already people's attitudes are changing towards him and Rose. She's been greatly encouraged by other patients attending follow ups who are now living normal lives post-surgery. In September Yusuf is due to return for surgery on his left foot. He has shown good progress already after his first surgery, so it looks promising that he will make a full recovery. Rose has shown great joy and thankfulness to God for this surgery, and prays that Yusuf will grow to recognise the grace of God in his life, and serve him in whatever he does. Yusuf will attend the new clinic in the orthopaedic centre from October.



It is not only children with club foot that benefit from the special surgery offered at DMH. Thanks to our partnership with Smile Train we can offer free cleft and palate surgery to children in need. Cleft lip often comes with a lot of stigma; children also find feeding difficult and many are seriously underweight. It is not uncommon for families to abandon their children or try and leave them at the hospital. Rose one of our community workers gets on her motorbike and makes it her goal to find as many children or adults who are in need as possible.



Once found we aim to provide food via a specialist nutrition programme run by Miriam and also incentives such as clothes. One such child is Ambrose. Ambrose was brought to the Hospital 1-day old by his mother after having been referred by a local dispensary. His Mother seemed fine when she came and Ambrose was put on the feeding programme. However, a couple of weeks later in December, we received Ambrose again now with only his father. His mother had run away to be with another man. We learned that Ambrose was born out of wedlock. His Father, Simon, came and wanted to give the baby to us. He felt overwhelmed, having no idea how to look after the child.



After a lot of counsel, with chaplain and staff alike, Simon agreed to care for Ambrose. We gave him NAN Formula (replacement to breastfeeding), enough to keep Ambrose healthy for surgery in March. Simon would return every other week to see the matrons, who had really taken to their situation. Every time Simon was given counsel, and he was growing into the difficult role of single parent. It is unheard of for a man in this culture to do such a thing, indeed many mock it as shameful. The DMH staff tried to take Simon under their wing.

When Ambrose's time came for surgery, Simon was very nervous. Agnes made sure he knew what was happening, and that she would look after Ambrose.

Now Ambrose looks great. Everyone was delighted, and proud of Simon. He said he had also grown in the process, and will not fail to look after Ambrose despite what the culture says. Ambrose has completed his feeding programme. We've encouraged Simon that we are always available should he need advice, but are assured that he has female friends in his community who are looking out for him. How life changing that is for Ambrose, who was almost orphaned but now has a family.



As well as doing the surgery our wonderful cleft lip surgeon and his wife walked the coast to coast to walk this "summer" to raise money for DMH. They experienced everything from gale force winds, to thunders storms to 35 degrees! They have raised enough to buy us a delivery bed!-Many thanks team Giles!

All other inpatient and outpatient services continue at DMH. We regularly see 150-200 patients daily and we are likely to see over 40,000 patients this year. We are so grateful to everyone who makes this possible.

If you know anyone who would like to come and work with our staff we always welcome volunteers, good accommodation is available!

We would also be grateful if you could share this need within churches, hospitals and communities that you are part of or connected with. Becky and Mike recently spoke in Norway at an amazing youth event, it was fantastic experience and we are very grateful to all involved who helped us raise such a huge amount of money.

We are extremely grateful for all the support, prayers and encouragement we get. The hospital continues to have a significant impact on this community. If you would like to visit, to help financially, to pray for the hospital or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us. The best way is via email: [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org) or by calling +44 (0) 161 408 0850. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Thank you again for all your support

God Bless,

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie

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

If you wish to donate:

Visit [www.justgiving.com/icFEMDMH](http://www.justgiving.com/icFEMDMH), or

Text IDMH99 followed by the amount (e.g. £10) to 70070.

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