

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter October to December 2015

We would like to thank you all for your support and prayers this year. 2015 has seen a remarkable amount of progress at DMH. We are so grateful for all the support we have received. We now have 70 staff, including Doctor Hannington who is settling in well at DMH. His presence has meant that the hospital is now able to provide emergency maternity care, and improved medical cover for a range of sick patients.

It is a real blessing to the community not to have to travel far to other hospitals for emergency procedures. The result is that the hospital facilities have been utilised more than ever before. This year has seen over 23,000 appointments at DMH, 3000 X-rays, 400 eye surgeries, 200 corrective surgeries, 2500 eye assessments and nearly 10,000 lab tests. The number of inpatients has grown significantly. In fact, the team admitted more patients in 2015 than in 2009 - 2013 put together. However, the impact of DMH is not just in the large numbers treated; the individual patients bring some remarkable stories of true miracles.



Belinda was 11 months old when she was brought to DMH, weighing just over 3.5kg and seriously malnourished. She had bilateral cleft lip and palate, meaning the holes in her lip and roof of mouth were so huge she could not eat. In November 2014 she was assessed by the Smile Train team. Since she was too unwell for surgery she was put onto a feeding programme, initially being fed 10ml every 30 minutes because her tiny stomach could not cope with large amounts of food. She got malaria, had chest infections and was very unwell, but the staff and Belinda's parents worked around the clock to keep her alive. She was prayed for every morning and slowly she started to

put on weight. 2 months later she was discharged from DMH with a home feeding programme and regular follow ups. Her parents faithfully brought her to every appointment, overcoming the 4.5 hour round trip involving motorbikes, buses and long walks along muddy roads and paths. By October this year she weighed nearly 10Kgs and was ready for extremely complex surgery. Our expert team took her to theatre and after 5 hours of reconstruction she looked like a different girl. Just look at the result below!

Her Father came to pick her up from recovery and weeping he said, "It's a miracle, a miracle".



Belinda with her Dad after surgery



Belinda on her day of discharge from DMH



Belinda has now been discharged home to recover, along with the 34 other children who had cleft lip surgery this year. They will be eating normally, smiling and recovering their speech. Luckas who featured in the last newsletter did very well on the feeding programme, and he also had surgery this November with excellent results.

The Smile Train programme will continue next year with surgery booked for March and November.

It is not just cleft lip surgery that has taken place at DMH this quarter. The Eyes and Orthopaedics teams continue to provide a service to the blind and disabled, transforming lives for community members both young and old.

One such children is Lizzie. Her mother went missing shortly after her birth followed then by the death of her father. She was taken in by grandparents who said in the in the midst of all the despair Lizzie's deformity had been overlooked. Lizzie then started to become very unwell to the point she could not stand. Sadly her Grandfather then passed away, leaving her Grandmother to look after Lizzie and her family. At her Grandfather's funeral, someone noticed Lizzies condition and suggested they went to a large referral hospital, only for that hospital to discharge her as she was unable to pay the cost of the treatment.

Lizzie's Grandmother then heard about the DMH services from a member of the public. She walked for hours, carrying Lizzie in her arms, and upon arriving at DMH she shared her story with the staff. The Chaplain was on hand to offer his counsel. Lizzie was very shy and fragile, not having stood up on her own for over three years. Upon assessment, it became clear that Lizzie also had meningitis, a potentially deadly disease. The Hospital was able to treat her for this and - once medically stable - started the process of correcting her foot deformity.

Lizzie had surgery in August and spent 8 weeks in plaster casts. Finally, the day came for Lizzie to have her casts removed and her splints put in. Lizzie was apprehensive at first at the prospect of standing up on her own. She had very weak legs but after some encouragement and physio she managed to stand for the first time in three years. Her delight is so evident in the photo. Her Grandmother immediately got on her knees to praise God; an emotional moment for all who had followed her story. Lizzie's future looks so much brighter and her Grandmother has received more support from the family, particularly from Lizzie's Uncle. She is still learning to walk but the team are confident that she will soon be running around, fit and healthy for the first time in years.



Lizzie recovering from her illness and awaiting surgery



Lizzie 3 months later standing without help for the first time

DMH continues to grow and with that comes the need for extra space. Over the last 3 months the team have been busy building a paediatric ward, and two on-site Doctors houses and a laundry. The buildings are progressing well. The laundry will be open in January, the paediatric ward by the end of March and the Doctors houses by April. The total bed capacity of the hospital will increase to 70. Thank you to everyone who has made this building work possible. We will need to raise further funds for equipment in these buildings, so if you would like to enable more children like Belinda and Lizzie to be helped please see the link below. As well as the new buildings, the eye theatre has been re-tiled and painted. Kiproop is delighted with his new theatre that allows him to keep doing his surgeries in a safe and clean environment.



Work in progress on the Doctors houses



Kiproop and Winnie in action in the new eye theatre



The whole team 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.

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



Happy Christmas and have blessed New Year,

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie

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

If you wish to donate:

Visit www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH, or

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