



# Dreamland Mission Hospital

**DMH Newsletter  
October 2018**

Welcome to our new look Newsletter! Please read on to hear the latest news from Dreamland Mission Hospital.

The work at DMH continues to progress well, and we are very grateful to everyone who has helped to sponsor families to have medical insurance. Ben's Mum even swam 5km in the cold UK open waters! The insurance makes a huge difference to families involved, including people like Patrick.

Patrick was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate at a County Hospital, leading to urine retention and as a result he was suffering from severe discomfort. It was bad news for him and his wife, Lusinda, who came from a humble background and they had no health insurance. The cost of surgery would have been about £700 - nearly as much money as Patrick earns in a year. Such a cost was out of his reach and so he was advised to register for health insurance. However, it would take 3 months for him to be able to benefit from the cover, and he was told he needed to pay for a year up front (£60). He could not even afford this and urgently required the surgery.



Thankfully, Patrick was referred to DMH through a friend at church. Thanks to the sponsorship program we were able to pay a whole year's NHIF for Patrick's whole family, and also to speed up the registration process so that he would be fully covered in under a month. Patrick underwent a successful prostate operation at our facility, and was amazed and relieved at how quickly it was all resolved. Four months later, Patrick attends the Hospital each month for checkups, which are all free and covered by the insurance. He was very unwell when he first visited the Hospital with many complications. He suffered from a stroke, has high blood pressure and had malaria, all requiring stays as an inpatient. These were all covered by his insurance, ensuring the family were not left out of pocket and could still buy food and pay their rent. He's now doing better and his blood pressure is under control, attending our free

CHAK-funded hypertension clinic. With a beaming smile, Patrick said "I am so thankful for this Hospital. They have saved me actually. I had no hope, but they have given me back my life. I'm now even farming in my shamba! [small holding/garden] We thank God."

Our orthopaedic programme has continued to grow. We are very grateful to have been given funds to allow us to insert nails and pins without charging the patient for the metal work. Using a combination of insurance funds and donations we are now providing both children and adult surgery in orthopaedics. This is a huge move forward for DMH. A broken leg requiring metal work could cost a patient well over £1,000 to fix, and some patients have to take their children out of school or sell land to pay for the surgery. The partnership between us, donors and insurance should also allow the hospital to gain more general income, helping with sustainability.

Mary is one of the adults who has benefited from this surgery, She is pictured here sitting outside her house. Mary is in her 80's and was knocked off a motorbike taxi, causing a very bad arm fracture with a dislocated elbow. She was in a lot of pain but went home from the accident as she did think she could afford the treatment. However, Mary's family were told about DMH, and she was assessed, signed up for insurance and had surgery to insert a pin into her arm. Mary now has free treatment at DMH for a year, so is having physiotherapy and her condition continues to improve. Her family are so grateful that Mary is pain free and nearly back to being independent.





For many, surgery really is life changing, Rose had been tirelessly searching for money to afford Charles' surgery for his club foot. Poverty was preventing Charles from surgery, and Rose was becoming depressed. She saw how Charles longed to be like other boys and to play with his friends, and she felt helpless as if it was her fault. The family live around a 3-hour drive from DMH in a very rural area, but the news reached Rose of the Orthopaedic service. She responded quickly, praying that it was true. Within 3 months Charles had successful surgery, and today is walking for the first time, in new shoes! We visited Charles and Rose to check on their progress 3 months after surgery. We were delighted to find a growing boy playing with his friend, Moses. Rose spoke to us about the life-changing affects of this surgery:

*"I've never seen Charles so happy. I have never been so happy! I am able to work again, growing and selling vegetables. It will change our lives. Thank you!"*



Alongside surgery, DMH provides physiotherapy and equipment to our patients. Some of these are post surgery patients, whilst others are people who have a chronic condition. We are also grateful to everyone who has raised money to help us buy equipment, crutches and wheelchairs. These are not free in Kenya but are essential for rehabilitation and good outcomes to surgery. Jackson is one of these patients who were given insurance under the needy patient scheme. He has a spinal injury and received a donated wheelchair. He had suffered with pressure sores and bad muscle spasms, and he now gets free physio which has really helped him. He can transfer independently and goes to church every Sunday.



If you would like to help needy patients pay for insurance, please donate via <http://www.icfem-mission.org/donate/> (please make sure that you select Dreamland Mission Hospital on the dropdown menu).

### **Have your friends or family lost touch with us?**

If your friends or family say they are no longer getting updates from DMH it is because we did not get a reply to our previous newsletter asking to be kept on the mailing list.

If they wish to re-added please ask them to email [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org) or fill in the form at the attached link # <http://eepurl.com/dtVLrj>

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If you would like to support us please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/IcFEMDMH>

If you would like more information about the hospital please contact the team at [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org)