



Interchristian Fellowships' Evangelical Mission (IcFEM Mission)

Accelerating Community Transformation

Holy Living & Hard Work

The Director's speech on the occasion of the official opening and dedication of IcFEM Dreamland Medical Care Centre- Kaptola – 5th July 2003

Brethren, Ladies and gentlemen, the people of God.
Greetings in the glorious name of our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ.

Health is a factor in human livelihood and science. Man's endeavour to achieve good health especially in the rural areas continues to bear little fruit. Evidently, gaps do exist in strategies aimed at managing the negative effects of poor health amongst the people. Many are the challenges afflicting the physical status of the people including, the menace of incurable conditions and diseases such as HIV /AIDS, Ebola, Malaria and later entrant, SARS.

Inadequate access and affordable services in the community, eroded purchasing power, and resistance to drugs are additional burdens. Moreover, ignorance, noxious traditions and customs such as superstition, witchcraft, imbalance in diet and poverty continue to dog the health sector.

The impact of these challenges has far and wide ranging consequences. For instance one out of every 13 new born babies in Kenya will die at birth while one out of every 9 children will not live long enough to see their fifth birthday. When you add 700 deaths caused by AIDS daily the situation is grave indeed.

These factors have further contributed to economic strangulation precipitated by reduced productivity through lose of man-hours and slowed down national development directly resulting from sickness.

This has severely reduced the chances of achieving goals targeting poverty therefore keeping down standards of living.

It is with this scenario in mind that IcFEM, through her approach of integral mission of Evangelism with Welfare and Community Development gave priority status to health. Not surprisingly our Lord Jesus Christ, the teacher of Wholistic Development tied the gospel with healing. In both Luke 4:18 and Mark 16:15-18, Jesus is emphatic on the healing of both the flesh and the soul.

At this juncture I would like to provide a historical perspective linking IcFEM and this place. When the Lord called me into ministry in 1987, He audibly told me that He had chosen me for the healing of His people. While further seeking the Lord on this command He did direct that we move to Kimilili, where he had decided to put the base of the work. In 1993, Mzee Ibrahim Nambilo the former owner of this farm began to receive instructions in a dream to vacate the land for what the voice claimed as "healing of my people". At the same time

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IcFEM was looking for a house for some volunteer members, of the pioneer staff when as if by coincidence we met Mzee Nambilo who was troubled by the recurring dream. On learning that we, were Missionaries Mzee Nambilo brought us here where we again heard God's confirmation in a still small voice, that indeed this was the land God had set aside for this work- the healing of His people.

Subsequently Nambilo handed over most of the land in the full view of the public, without receiving even a penny, though later God provided for us to pay him. That is how this place earned its name- DREAMLAND.

As IcFEM we understood the "healing of God's people" to mean restoring people to good health or to enable people become sound and whole. This is what God wants for us all. Being well physically, mentally and spiritually was and is always the god intention of God – the owner of Dreamland.

How do we achieve this?

Ours is a double- prong –approach strategy, aimed at providing intervention at the community level as well as at institutional level.

At the community level: We believe that the cheapest way to achieve good health is through health education information in the following areas.

1. Personal hygiene, proper disposal of waste and clean environment,
2. Intervening in harmful traditional cultural practices such as circumcision and funeral rites.
3. Immunisation- MCH, Vaccinations, Antenatal clinics
4. Drinking clean water without pathogens, protecting sources, safe storage and handling.
5. Nutrition

To this end IcFEM has been involved in a massive campaign to provide information to 1570 people in all villages of Kimilili Division. As a result many villagers have taken serious the biblical command of digging pit latrines as contained in Deuteronomy 23:12-14, which says that you stand a chance of missing God's visitation if you have no latrine, or your environment is not clean.

Last year we conducted a successful campaign during which 2700 boys were circumcised here, through the **Circumcision intervention Project**.

The aim of the project was to provide an alternative method of initiation which is medically safe, economical and spiritually positive. By asking for Kshs 100 only for every circumcised child we helped the community both in Kimilili Division and Mount Elgon District to save over 60 million shillings.

Other benefits included; Reduction and control of the spread of HIV/AIDS, protected children from abuse due to the affliction of having to be cut without benefit of anaesthesia, reduced school dropout rates due to unwanted pregnancies, and reduced incidences of loss of life due to poor rushed cutting by medically unqualified circumcisers, among others.

We however are not satisfied that we have done enough in the community because many mothers are still unable to quickly and conveniently access immunisation for their children due to having to travel long distances. Some mothers are still giving birth at home, which is also contributing to increased infant and maternal mortality. We wish to extend services to areas within our operation, which haven't been reached yet and beyond.

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The following are the gaps we hope to contribute to seal.

For the Community Health Services

1. Making immunisation easily accessible to every mother in those areas we serve in Bungoma and some parts of Mt Elgon that have no access to this service.
2. We realise that Health Information and Education has to be an ongoing exercise, which should spread out to reach every home.
3. To provide a community Pharmaceutical services network to intervene in the misadministration and misuse of drugs. The main objective here is to improve clinical diagnosis of commonly manifesting diseases such as Malaria and gastro-intestinal tract and urinary tract infections. The pharmaceutical kiosks will provide services of a nurse laboratory technician and pharmaceutical technician.
4. Regular strategic interventions in health management practices at grassroots levels (there in the villages). Counselling and Biblical spiritual outreach will be part and parcel of the Mission.

At institutional level – the hospital will endeavour to provide a back up service to the work. It is for this reason we are calling it a comprehensive outpatient medical care centre. It will provide

1. Clinical diagnosis and treatment of various conditions, and general clinical practice
2. Specialised services – eye health care, oral health, including dental surgery, physiotherapy, ear, nose and throat clinics among others.
3. Technical services – x-rays and scanning
4. Consultation services in various fields of medicine
5. Laboratory services, MCH, family planning and antenatal with gynaecology
6. Some in-patient facilities comprising of about 100 beds for children, 50 for females and 50 others for males.
6. Dreamland funeral home- Mortuary for institutional and community needs

Conclusion

Today we are here to celebrate in advance, the opening of this wonderful provision of Phase I, which will mainly be the OPD section. In advance because people who have played a key role in the development of the hospital will not find chance to be here later when the hospital is complete and ready for use.

Therefore we wish to have this function today when they are here so as to appreciate their contribution and to thank them. Dr Jane and your beloved husband Dr Simon I on my own behalf and on behalf of the whole Mission and the people of Bungoma and Mt Elgon express our heartfelt gratitude and really many thanks to you both for all you have done. We therefore thank all of you for finding time to come to celebrate and pray with us and to help to finalise the achievement of this enormous and noble task.

Thank you and may God bless you richly.

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