

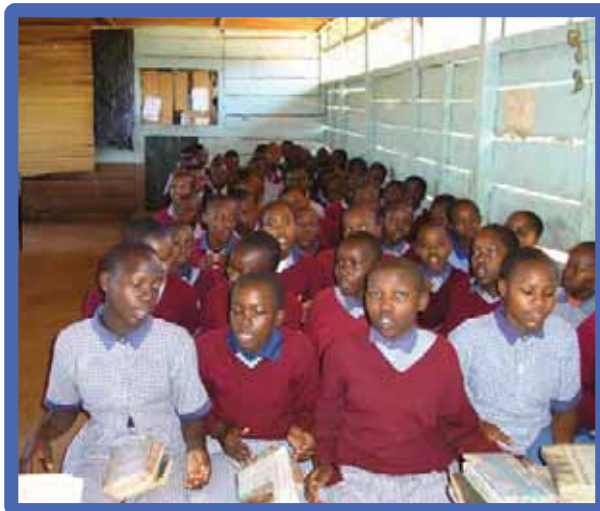
Newsletter Spring 2010

DEC - Impressive End of Year Exam Results!

The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results for pupils at Dreamland Education Centre (DEC) are impressive! At the end of last year, 91% of the pupils gained an average of over 60% with 13 at over 70% and 7 averaging more than 75% (2 managed 80!)

IcFEM has a scholarship fund for promising young children from needy families to attend DEC. The fund is used by DEC management to the greatest benefit of the local communities, and scholarship places are not offered solely on ability but also according to the family's need.

The six scholarship students in Class 8 achieved an average of 69%, ranging from 60% to 76%, in their KCPE, and with the new school year under way, they have all been placed in secondary school within the IcFEM sponsorship scheme. Sponsorship of individual primary school children is not offered, but regular donations to the fund are always needed. The number of new pupils who can be taken on each year depends on the funds available. We thank God for some generous donations recently, but we still need to find a further £500 to meet the DEC's budget for a new intake.



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed."

Luke 4:18



Accelerating Community Transformation

Secondary School– Our new Sponsorship Coordinator

We have a change of sponsorship coordination here in the UK. We are most grateful to Martin Oram who has been looking after it for a while and are very glad to welcome Sue Holt, who lives in Cheadle Hulme, near Manchester. Sue has now taken over from Martin, and some sponsors may already have heard from her.

53 sponsored students continue in the new school year. 8 students finished their fourth year last November, when they sat their KCSE (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education). KCSE results should have been issued in February.

The IcFEM team in Kimilili is now working on the lists of new applicants for sponsorship from 2010, so that a good balance of need, ability and home community is achieved.

Schools in Kenya generally charge the majority of the year's fees in the first term; so this is a time of particular financial strain for families. Student sponsorship can make all the difference, and this is why IcFEM always has a queue of hopeful students at this time of year.

As IcFEM's community transformation work reaches further and further out into Western Kenya, the calls to help destitute families with the childrens' education increase. So, if you know of anyone who might be able to give towards the DEC Scholarship Fund, or to sponsor a secondary school student, please do send their name and address to the IcFEM-Mission (Europe) office in Salisbury, and we will send them the necessary forms – or we can send them to you to pass-on.

Ministry to Elderly People

This is one of the ministries within Community Transformation Services. Each of the 10 IcFEM Local Transformation Units (LTU's) is charged with appointing and training a committee of volunteers with specific responsibility for the elderly people in their 40+ villages.

Old people can often be abandoned by their families, especially where the children of wage-earning age have died of AIDS. IcFEM's aim is to teach the communities that they need to be responsible for the poor and frail elderly within their midst. Where particular needs are identified, e.g. new or improved housing, or new bedding, are identified, these can be reported to the Mission, who will help as far as resources enable them.

Building houses for elderly people is a popular activity for IcFEM's Gap year students. Such houses are the traditional mud houses. The local community is required to provide the materials: wood, roof sheets, and mud from a locally created pit, and to construct the frame. IcFEM may provide the corrugated iron roof sheets. The average cost of such a house is equivalent to about £200.

These photos, taken in the area of the Naitiri LTU, shows an old house, outside and inside, which has become uninhabitable for the old lady, and the lady in front of her new house.



School Teachers Exchange

Rosemary and David Woodward have again taken a party of 20 teachers from primary schools in the Staffordshire/Shropshire area for a week's visit to Kenya. Some of the teachers went out last May when, with the help of IcFEM, they were linked up with primary schools in the Kimilili area; and this year they have been able to get funding for an exchange of teachers, with the Kenyan teachers paying a return visit in April. Some of the English schools have already been raising funds to help their Kenyan linked school; for others, it is an introductory visit and we hope new links will be formed.

In partnership with the Harambee Foundation of Holland, IcFEM continues with building projects for local schools – here are some pictures of the various stages in three of the six projects now completed.



New Website!

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Simon Daniell, and the technical assistance of Geoff Anderson, we now have a new, updated, website, which can still be found at www.icfem-mission.org. You will find masses of information there about IcFEM's work, and we expect to be adding more photographs and video clips and updating the information as time progresses.

For the very latest snippets of information and photos, please visit the IcFEM blog at www.icfem-mission.blogspot.com.

Be Updated!

www.icfem-mission.blogspot.com

New Year letter from Solomon and Ruth

Our dear friends, Christmas is fast approaching, in fact it may have passed by the time you receive this letter! Perhaps it is good to take a minute and reflect on what the celebration of the birth of Jesus means to us. Many people throughout the world are rushing around in a frenzy, spending what little money they have trying to find the latest gadget in order to satisfy the desire of some friend or family member. In contrast to this, Jesus, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, was born in a stable. He lived a life of servanthood and finally gave His life that we might live. How many people around us know the full story that Jesus was born to die for us so that we may receive the free gift of eternal life. See if you can share the story with someone.

Our family news may not come over in the relatively organized fashion of previous letters but here it is anyway! The work on the garden done during my leave seems to be doing well. Dennis completed his Diploma course at Masinde Muliro University, and graduated on the 6th November. Now he is doing a degree course in International Diplomacy. Isaac's studies have taken him further away. He has always taken a great interest in aircraft and has started a Telecommunications course at the East African School of Aviation in Nairobi. It seems hard to believe that Naomi has completed her schooling and is waiting for the results of her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), which arrive sometime in February. Miriam enters her final year at school taking her KCSE at the end of 2010. At present, she is enjoying the Christmas break at home. Chris has completed his primary education at Dreamland. We await the exam results, which will determine the choice of his secondary school. Chris has his ideas but God's will must come first!

Ruth continues to be the wonderful wife and mother and of course support to me. She like many of us has been busy in her various roles at work. A good time was had by all when she accompanied a large group of students from DEC on a trip to Lakes Bogoria and Baringo. For the children it was quite an experience for them to see the sulphur springs. The school bus made it all the way there and back, praise God Ann, as some of you know, spent a good two months in the UK. Although as some say a change is as good as a rest, Ann will say that in her case it was not so! She spent much of her time travelling up and down the country visiting friends both personal and Mission. Ann spoke on 17 different occasions. Thanks to God for travelling mercies and good health while she was away. Lesley and Trevor travelled to New Zealand to visit their daughter and grandson. On the way, they had two nights in Brisbane where they met up with Maggy Sikulu, who is studying there. Lesley had the opportunity to present a PowerPoint on IcFEM at the church Maggy attends. Lesley and Trevor also met up with family and friends in France and UK before returning home.

As for me, God continues to provide work mixed with challenges, blessings and opportunities to meet a number of very interesting people who inspire and encourage me. My trips to Nairobi open some useful doors. We do appreciate your prayers and so if you can, please pray for the following.

For Dennis that, as he continues with his degree, he will remain focused on his work and keep God at the centre of his life. For Isaac that he will maintain his enthusiasm for

New Year letter from Solomon and Ruth

his course even during tough moments and that God will lead him to a good church. For Naomi, that she will make good use of her time while waiting for the next stage of her studies. Pray also that she will take time to reflect and seek God's will for her future. For Miriam, that she will adjust to school life without her sister around. This final year will be a tough one for her. Pray she will stay well and that she will sense God's real presence in her life. For Chris, since the start of this letter exam results were good and he was second overall at Dreamland. However, it is God alone who knows the right school for him to attend. Please pray along with us... For Ruth. Praise God for her good health, enthusiasm and energy! Having said this, please pray that she manages to find some time to unwind. In addition to this may God continue to watch over her as she travels between Dreamland, HQ and around the Community.

Solomon. For me, thanks to God for protection wherever I've been travelling. For inspiring and encouraging me even when there have been challenges God has been at hand to guide me. Please pray for continual wisdom and discernment in the many decisions that always have to be made. Pray that when my mind seems to go into overdrive I will remember how to slow down! If Jesus needed time to rest then I should follow His example.

Well friends, Christmas has passed so we as a family would like to pray that God will bless you all throughout 2010.

Solomon and Ruth Nabie

'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...'

Matthew 20:28



Acknowledgement

Many thanks again to Withington Girls School in Manchester for printing this newsletter for us.

Harvest Festivals



Harvest Festivals have been held at Local Unit centres, with Headquarters celebrating on 4th December. This has been a time of rejoicing and praising God for the wonderful harvest He has given this year. Thanks to the help of James Guard, visitor with the Dignity team last year, IcFEM was able to help the coffee farmers achieve a price of KSh 40/kg for their beans as compared with KSh 10/kg previously. They are hoping for a fair price for the maize crop.



Wallington Missionary Mart & Auctions

WMMA sells donated antiques and most household items, and gives the proceeds, after expenses, to Christian charities which can be nominated by the donor at the time of the donation. IcFEM has benefitted from this and we wanted you to know in case you might wish to help us in this way. WMMA can be contacted at 105 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9AP. Tel. 020 8669 3495 or 020 8647 8437.

Email

auctions@wmma.org.uk

Website

www.wallingtonmissionary.org.uk

New ways to donate and raise funds for IcFEM via the internet

We are now registered with both MyCharityPage (mycharitypage.com/IcFEM) and Justgiving.com (www.justgiving.com/icfem).

We prefer MyCharityPage because it makes no charge to the charity, so donations via our new website are now made through them. Each provides a similar service to encourage giving and fundraising for the work of IcFEM. For example, if you are having a special birthday and don't need all those presents, think about creating a page on one of these sites inviting people to make a donation to IcFEM instead of a present, and then include the donation link in your invitation.

DMCC Eye Clinic – Paul Stephens reports

An Eye Clinic was held at Dreamland Medical Care Centre (DMCC) from 9th – 12th of December, sponsored by a “UK church” that wishes to remain anonymous. This had been carefully planned by Dr Jane Daniell and the hospital team, who all took a full part in the work that followed. On the first day, the team of surgeon (Dr Leonard Wanyonyi), four nurses and their driver, arrived from Sabatia Eye Hospital and were greeted by the DMCC staff who were being assisted by Co-ordinators from three Local Transformation Units. People were soon arriving by foot, boda bodas (bicycle taxis) motorbikes, matatus (PSV Nissans) and cars – 98 patients were seen and ten were operated on that day.

The next day there was already a queue at 8.00 am and the team faced a 12 hour day with 148 patients to be seen and operations and treatments to be carried out. This continued into Friday, and Friday and Saturday brought the excitement of patients who had their bandages removed and found that they could see. Medication and aftercare instructions were given.

In all, 74 operations were carried out, 69 for cataract. The visiting team expressed their

gratitude for the support and care they received both at DMCC and at the Mission guesthouse where they stayed.

People of many different ages were treated – one 72 year old man, who had been blind in both eyes for 5 years was brought to the clinic by a Good Samaritan who also paid for his surgery. He is now very happy that his sight has been restored.

A young man of 23 had been injured in his eye from a collision during a basket-ball match, and rejoiced in having his sight restored – and looked forward to playing basketball again.

A lady of 56 had been blind since 1997. She is overjoyed that following the surgery she can see again. This will change her life, she has hope again! Her family were against her coming as they feared that she might die whilst in theatre. She could not wait to return home to share her joy with them.

The clinic has had a big impact on the community; people are amazed and grateful, commenting on the wonderful love and care the patients received at DMCC. One Mama asked if she could stay – she didn't want to go home!



More Stories from Paul...Can you See, Mama?

I gave a lift to another Mama on Saturday morning after the clinic. We passed her son-in-law on the way and I stopped the car so that she could greet him. When asked “Can you see me?” She replied that she could see him very clearly. She can now identify others by sight instead of relying on knowing their voices. She said that she wanted to be the first in Church when she goes home to testify and to thank God for what He has done for her.

New Volunteer Arrivals!

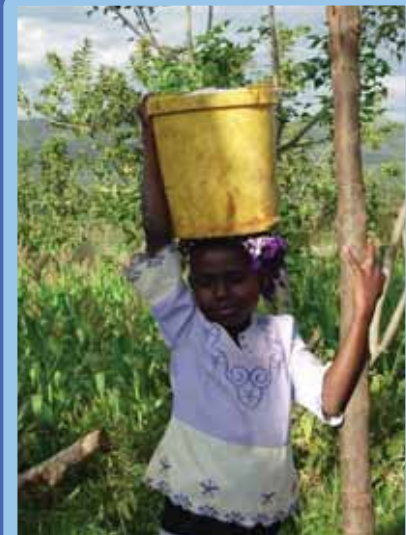
Welcome to Jo Finlay (seen here with Rose Ambooka), who has already made a great contribution to IcFEM in her special project of producing and selling the delightful Christmas Cards last year. Jo will have gone to Kimilili in February to help run IcFEM's Gap/Volunteer Programme. Jo is fundraising for her personal support through www.justgiving.com/JoFinlay.

And to Mike and Becky Nightingale – Becky is a physiotherapist who came into contact with IcFEM through Wheels for the World. As soon as she gets to Kenya, Becky will be taking an exam to enable her to work as a physiotherapist in Kenya. Mike hopes to use his management and sports development skills. They will be spending a year with IcFEM. Becky (Rebecca) is fundraising for their personal support through www.justgiving.com/beckyandmikenightingale.



After Thought...

Do you find it difficult to park your car at the supermarket and fit in all the shopping and your baby? Try this as an alternative!
Or ask your children to help!



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