

The IcFEM Journey

Solomon Nabie grew up in a poor rural family in Kenya, one of nine children and many more stepbrothers and sisters. His parents regarded education as important, giving their children the chance to find good jobs to help support the family. A gifted and highly intelligent young man, Solomon became a Christian and eventually trained and worked as a teacher during the early 1980s. Solomon began seriously praying and asking God what he should do with his life. Soon the answer came to him and it was to change the whole course of his future in a remarkable way. In 1987, while he was at a prayer meeting at Ng'iya Girls' High School, the preacher suddenly stopped and announced that somewhere among the group was a man whom God wanted to anoint for His work. One of the accompanying evangelists stepped out among the people and when he came to Solomon, he touched him and said, "it is you that God is calling for the *healing of the Kenyan people*." Deep within, God spoke to Solomon to reveal this calling to him and at the same time the Holy Spirit was seen to anoint Solomon in a most powerful way.

This calling lead Solomon to forego all the security of his esteemed Governmental teaching job, to set up the Rural Evangelical Mission. At the same time he married Ruth, a secondary teacher of mathematics from Kakemega. Together Solomon and Ruth dedicated their lives to God, working first among local youth groups, setting up informal fellowships to quench a real thirst for God among a whole new generation of Christian students and young people. By 1989, Solomon and Ruth and a small team of brothers were working among nearly 200 different evangelical fellowships across a wide geographic area of Western Kenya.

Some time later, Solomon came with his team to work in Kimilili. He and Ruth rented a house there and it so happened that the owner of the house also owned some land nearby. This man told Solomon that he had been having a recurring dream in which God told him he was to give the land away; for the land would be used '*for the healing of the Kenyan people*'. As Solomon and the man walked around the land praying, it became clear to them both that the land should be set apart for God and the man decided to give it to the mission. After this the land became known as the 'Dreamland'. Solomon later discovered that some years previously, this land had been the site of a particularly bitter tribal conflict where much blood had been spilled. Now amazingly, the land was to be dedicated to God's work and the mission was to have a permanent base. In 1995, IcFEM (Interchristian Fellowships Evangelical Mission) was launched as a non-denominational Mission, under the motto, "Holy Living & Hard Work". The work focussed on village Christian fellowships, churches and para-church groups in order to reduce hardship and foster self-development.

Since that time, this small Christian Mission under the leadership of Solomon Nabie, supported by the prayers of many Christian brothers and sisters in Kenya and the UK, has continued to grow and blossom and reap a harvest in rural Western Kenya. On the 'Dreamland', there now stands a large rural hospital as well as an education centre; IcFEM is at the forefront of providing a Christian response to the AIDS epidemic in the locality; local agricultural and business enterprises enable families to have a livelihood and enjoy the benefits of being self-supporting. Through these and many other IcFEM programmes, many thousands of lives are touched and reached for the Kingdom of God. God has worked miracles through the hard work and example of his servant, Solomon Nabie. There is a sense in which the work is only just beginning.