

IcFEM Mission Dreamland Medical Care Centre Newsletter September-November 2011

Dear Supporters,

As we sit at our desk writing this newsletter a grader is busy running up and down the Dreamland road. For anyone who has visited DMCC, you will know that the mud road to us is almost impassable when it rains. This road has become a really problem over the last few months and after years of prayer it seems that work to fix it has begun! We pray that this work continues down the whole road so that DMCC becomes more accessible for all.



Murram being spread outside DMCC,



Kamtiong market to DMCC a highway!

The road was a huge subject of conversation at our September eye camp, it rained all night and made it very difficult to reach DMCC. Despite this and thanks to a lot of hard work by the whole IcFEM team, Sabatia Eye Hospital, some good 4 wheel driving over the 3 days and the eye screening programme, we assessed approximately 390 patients and did 67 operations. All patients were given back the gift of sight at a cost that is affordable to them. We are currently in the process of setting up our own eye theatre. We are pleased to say that our operating microscope arrived this week, other equipment is on order and we are hoping to run the first theatre list before Christmas. Sister Jael has been trained by Sabatia as an eye theatre nurse and is busy ensuring our theatre is up to the required standards. This new eye service will allow patients to have better and more regular access to eye surgery at DMCC.



The road on the day of eye camp



Eye surgery at DMCC

It is not only the eye theatre at DMCC that has grown, the final stages of the work to upgrade DMCC from a medical centre to a hospital has been completed. Dr Simon has worked with his team to develop a modern sluice room, a designated laundry area and turn a goat shed into a mortuary! The final inspection by the Ministry of Health is due next week. This is a major step in the development of DMCC from a small dispensary to a mission hospital.



Sister Margaret in the new laundry



The goat house turned into a mortuary!!

Other activities at DMCC are progressing well and normal outpatient services have continued throughout the buildings works. Dr Simon has done many ultrasound examinations, including a demonstration for fourth formers from Teremi High School as part of a physics lesson.



RCO Kiprop and Sister Jael doing an ECG



Dr Simon teaching 4th formers ultrasound

As well as routine outpatients being treated at DMCC, emergency cases have started to increase. One such child was a 2 year old boy called Gladness who was badly burnt one evening after a pan of boiling milk fell on him He was rushed to DMCC where he was seen as an emergency by clinical officer Japheth and nurse aid Naomi. He was quickly treated with pain relief and silver sulphadiazine cream to prevent the burns getting worse or infected. He was discharged 2 days later with a full follow up programme. We are pleased to say he has fully recovered, has no scars and no problems with mobility of his arm. It is thanks to our supporters who help to sponsor DMCC staff that we can run this 24/7 emergency service.



Gladness at DMCC



Gladness fully recovered

The orthopaedic department has had a busy few months, we are extremely grateful to the donors who are paying for the new free club foot service. We are now able to offer treatment for club foot using manipulation and plastering followed by splints to correct the problem, allowing a child to walk normally and be free from disability. Mellan and Martin have had extra training in Nairobi to allow them to do a minor tendon release in our theatre at DMCC, this prevents the child having to go on 5 hour round trip for the procedure. There is often a belief that club foot is caused by evil spirits. Mellan and Martin have worked hard to educate and mobilise the community, more work is needed but it is an encouraging sign that every Wednesday there is a huge queue outside the orthopaedic clinic room!



LEFT: Bilateral club foot being treated with plaster. MIDDLE: Mellan at work RIGHT: Rayl, whose parents could not afford to finish her club foot treatment. Now she has been treated at DMCC and is walking with corrected feet. She will wear splints for the next few years.

DMCC and Bethesda Pool departments welcomed 3 students from the Hague University, Netherlands. They made a huge impact, designing a hand bike that can be made locally and helping us to restore wheelchairs for individual patients. One such patient was Cheryl a 10 year girl who

following meningitis had been unable to roll, sit or walk. Her communication was very poor, she was having constant seizures, and received little rehabilitation or stimulation. She was treated by RCO Kiprop and physio Martin with the correct medication and rehabilitation. A chair was specially adapted for her to use. Once sitting in a good position she made a remarkable recovery and is now walking, talking and going to school. Last week she ran down the corridor with no aid at all, to sit in DMCC morning devotions reading the words and singing at the top of her voice! It is children like this who really benefit from the team work at IcfEM and the many different supporters from different parts of the world.



Left: Cheryl in wheelchair Middle: Rehab! Right: Cheryl walking with her teddy!

In other staff news we are very pleased to announce that Claire our accounts clerk gave birth to healthy little boy at the end of August .This week RCO Kiprop welcomed Kiprop junior into the world! We are pleased to say all parents and babies are doing well!



Kiprop and Esther with their son- Salvador Kiprop (aged 5 hours old!)

On behalf of DMCC thank you for your support which we appreciate so much,

Becky Nightingale and Dr Jane Daniell

p.s if you would like any further information on the work mentioned in this newsletter please email beckyg1983@hotmail.com. There are also two short DVD of previous eye camp available, and one about the running of the hospital, have a look on the website <http://www.icfem-mission.org/gallery.htm> or email Becky for a copy.