

PRAYER REQUEST:

Pray for the mourning family of Aldrine.

Pray for the mother of Vince and Vince himself. That they can be strong.

Pray that God will send us to the right patients.

Pray for the caregivers who are facing lots of challenges in the ministry.

Pray for God's provision for C&C.

THANKSGIVING:

We thank God for our twinning partners and supporters.

We thank God for the lives that we could touch through the ministry.

Thank God for the good health of our caregivers.

We are so thankful for the rains we received!

Who are we?

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the first newsletter of Care & Compassion! Care & Compassion is part of Christ's Hope International Kenya and we are based in Kisumu. We are different from the other CHI ministries, because we are the only one having the program of Care & Compassion, beside the OVC.

What is Care & Compassion? We visit our brothers and sisters in the slum and villages around Kisumu, who are infected with HIV/aids and/or TB. Kisumu is one of the most affected areas in Kenya. This is due to the poverty and the fish business (no fish without giving your body to the fishermen). Also the lack of knowledge concerning HIV/aids is

a big problem. Beside that there is also a Luo tradition of polygamy and wife inheritance. Luo is one of the tribes in Kenya and mostly living in Kisumu county.



Ibrahim and Joyce on the way to see a patient.

We visit our patients once a week to see how they are doing, if they are taking the ARV's in the right way, we counsel them, encourage them and share the gospel with them together with prayers. We also provide them

of course with food. Many of our patient are struggling to provide three healthy meals a day, due to poverty.

We provide also medical care for them by taking them to hospital if needed, where we pay the tests and admission fee for them. This is of great help to prevent more death.

Even TB is a huge problem in Kenya. Especially by the ones with a low immunity. Often people with HIV/aids are also having TB and have to take heavy TB-drugs for six months. This may discourage some of our patients by taking the drugs in the right way. That is also one of the reasons why we visit them once a week, at home.

Our caregivers

Meet our wonderful and hard-working caregivers.

- (From left to right)
-Hillary Were, the coordinator.
-Joyce Achieng
-Ibrahim Owiti
-Willianne Olweny

- Patrick Odhiambo
-Mary Atieno



Bringing hope and health



The mother is looking at me with big, dark eyes. Wet from the tears, full of fear... This mother of 26 years old is illiterate. Her baby-boy Vince, of 4 years old is sick. She doesn't know what to do anymore. It is giving her so much stress that she tells us she even can kill him, because what kind of life is this?

Vince is on ARV's since he turned one. His body is now covered with some swollen spots, he has a high fever, won't eat or drink anything.

He's weak and not responding well. The mother is not able to take her son to the hospital because there is no money for transport, leave along for the hospital it self.

We tell her to take some stuff so that we can go to the hospital. The mother is so stressed that we help her with packing. Joyce is taking them to see the doctor. It takes some time so we leave and continue with our day.

Finally he received some medicine and is sent home.

The next week we visit them again and Vince is more alive. The mother is so thankful for what we have been doing for them. It changed her life! She is now making stories with and even sharing some other things. She is still so young, but having a great responsibility, she's even taking care of a young boy who is orphan. Next week she will also take him for an HIV-test. Sometimes it seems to be little what we are doing, but for some of them it is changing their life.

The life and death of Aldrine

In 2014 Aldrine came in our program. He was suffering of aids and had cancer. We provided chemotherapy for him, but after one session he left and was hiding for us. We tried several times to visit us, but he didn't want to see us. Until November 2016, when he was very sick and down. In the two years we didn't see him, he also left his ARV's,

which made his case even worse. When we saw him in November he was in great pain. The cancer was spread in his whole body. Due to the doctors strike we couldn't do much for him, until we found out that the doctors in Eldoret were still working. We took him there to get his chemotherapy and meanwhile started him on strong painkillers. The

pain was now bearable. He went twice for chemotherapy in Eldoret. The side effects of the chemo were very strong on his weak body. He was admitted in the hospital the beginning of April. But sadly there was no change. On Wednesday morning 5th of April we were informed that Aldrine passed away on the age of 34 years.

C & C NEWS

Nutritional support

Every week we bring our patients a food bag. What is in the bag?

Fruits; avocado, oranges or bananas.

Vegetable: Onions and tomatoes, every other week they get beans.

Protein: Every other week omena, a local, dried small fish, fresh from Lake Victoria.

Carbs: Rice or maize flour.

Beside that they are getting every week a piece of soap, for bathing/washing clothes/dishes.

We also provide them monthly with a bottle of Waterguard.

They put a small amount of it in the water, so the water is treated and drinkable.

The food bag is not enough for a full week, it will sustain them for some days. On that way the patients are not becoming to much dependent on us because we will only visit them for some months.

