

# Ileho Community Centre for Social Services

***Compassionate, holistic care and counseling for women and youth in western Kenya who are struggling with homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence and HIV / AIDS.***

Mental Health Counseling - Pastoral Counseling Services - Counseling Services for Women and Youth at Risk of HIV/AIDS - Domestic Violence Counseling and Support - Peace Building - Basic Health Care - Peer Education and Support to Combat Drug Use and HIV / AIDS

## **Pastor Oscar Siema Mmbali, Director**

Beatrice Mwavishi

Edidah Sechero

Alfayo Muranda



The Ileho Community Centre for Social Services (ICCSS) is a rural organization with an absolute purpose to provide holistic development through services offered to the homeless, women, widows, youth and especially those living with chronic diseases including HIV/AIDS.

ICCSS provides counseling, health care, social work and social care. Currently, the counseling department enjoys serving the community through four counselors. With both a pastoral and psychological approach, *Director Oscar Siema Mmbali*, a graduate of St. Paul's UTC University and Friends Theological College provides a unique response to crisis through counseling.

Presently the ICCSS is working to establish a health clinic for special responses to HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases as well as malaria, fever, and typhoid. The Ileho Centre for Community Services is also working on a model to provide childcare. In this spirit of caring we welcome all women and youth to the **Ileho Community Center for Social Services**.

**MISSION STATEMENT: MATTHEW 12:32**

*'I have compassion on this people...And I don't want to send them away lest they faint on the way.'*

# Ileho Community Centre for Social Services

## *Staff Biographies*



**Director Pastor Oscar Siema Mmbali** was born in Kakamega, Kenya to a peasant mother. At six his father, a former army officer, died. This marked the beginning of a struggle for the best. He experienced a lot of hostility against women who were oppressed by cruel owners of farms. Health problems, low wages and sometimes no payments were the order of the day.

In his youth, he experienced his sister's divorce because of persistent illness. Her former husband was not ready to accommodate a wife with chronic illness. Later his sister recovered. Oscar sees this as a common practice against many women in Kenya.

The two stories are key because they provide a scope in which the suffering and struggling of women is perceived. Pastor Siema Mmbali founded the **Ileho Community Centre for Social Services** to help relieve this suffering.

In 2003, Oscar became a pastor. In his work at the hospital, he encountered many women who were dumped in the hospitals. There was no one to pay for their hospital bill. Some were given work to do for the payment of the bills. To others, it took fund raising to help them out. Despite this, the future of their health was in question since they would not return to hospital however severe the problem became.

Most of the women he visited in the homes did not go to get medication. This was because they lacked finances. Some decided to take care of the children's health at the expense of their own. He remembers most of them saying: "I have lived my life and it is over. What is important now is my children. Just let my child live."

Most of the burial services he has experienced are of women. Even as he leads burial services, he faces an inner provocative quest for the life of this women. Why did they die? What is the future of their children? In fact in Africa, to be left with a helpless mother and life is safer than to be left with a wealthy father.

In his training, he realized the significance of the health of women. To him, humanity is beyond religious imagination and requires a more meaningful approach. The community is key to him and its health solely depends on the strength of a woman. He also heads the department of public lectures and debates at St. Paul's university.

### **Beatrice Mwavishi**

Was born in Ileho and grew up as an orphan. She was able to complete her high school education but could not continue due to funds. She later got married to a police officer and became a great leader of women's groups in Ileho. Beatrice is a prominent leader of women with extra-ordinary gifts. She has two daughters, one son and five adopted children (three girls and two boys)

### **Edidah Sechero**

Was born in Ileho and lost her father while in high school. Her family began to experience serious difficulties. She later trained in early childhood education and development. She teaches in a church nursery school and is also a leader of women in Kambiri Interdenominational Fellowship. We celebrate her gifts in leadership and care for women and children.

### **Alfayo Muranda**

Was born in Ileho and grew up a peasant boy. He later became a pastor. He has been in service for more than eight years and has become a wonderful servant of the community. He is in his final year at Friends Theological College at Kaimosi. He is expected to begin his degree studies late this year.

*"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another"* Romans 12:10

U.S. Contact - Cynthia Abatt  
cydabatt@yahoo.com  
www.cydabatt.com