

Giving someone back their sight is one of the most rewarding jobs I can think of, says Willy.

### Showing the way in Kenyan Eyecare - Willy's Story

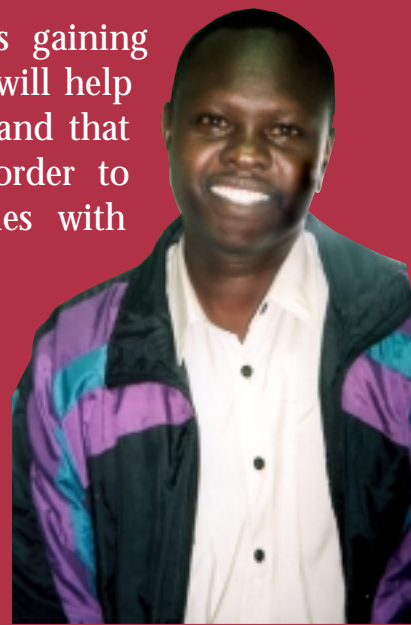
Willy Komen is demonstrating the impact that one person can have in eliminating avoidable blindness and low vision. Willy is a 42-year-old Kenyan who has set up the first eyecare dispensary in Kenya. With the support of ICEE, Willy will provide vital services and basic eyecare to a district of 25,000 people.

Eyecare in Africa is in crisis. While in developed countries there is one eyecare practitioner for every 10,000 people, in Africa there is one practitioner per 500,000 people, and in rural areas there may be no caregiver at all.

Willy established the eyecare dispensary at Kerio Valley. Having identified a community with serious eye problems, he sat with the community leaders and together they decided to build a dispensary, with community funding participating in the building process. Willy then went to the Kenyan government and requested he be posted to the new dispensary. Impressed with what Willy had achieved, the government allowed him to work full-time at the dispensary.

Willy believes that the skills he is gaining through the ICEE training program will help him to better serve his community, and that these skills will be passed on in order to expand the number of communities with access to eyecare services.

*"A New World of opportunities opens up for someone once they can see clearly. I hope my work in Kenya will provide these opportunities to many people."*



### Facts & Figures - The Scale of the Problem

- ◆ Estimated 45 million blind people worldwide (WHO)
- ◆ Up to 135 million people with visual impairment (WHO)

#### Studies show:

- ◆ Refractive error causes 62.5% of blindness in children in Chile (Maul, 2000)
- ◆ Refractive error causes 75% of blindness in children in China (Zhao, 2000)
- ◆ Uncorrected refractive error causes 25% of blindness in the Australian adult population estimated (Taylor, 1997)

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### Country Wrap up

	Australia	Zimbabwe
<b>Total Population</b>	20 million	15 million
<b>Land Mass sq.km</b>	7,692,030	386,670
<b>Per Capita GNP (US\$)</b>	12,638	636
<b>No. of Ophthalmologists</b>	750	25
<b>No. of Optometrists</b>	3,100	50
<b>Ratio of Optoms to Popn</b>	1 : 7,000	1 : 250,000

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Preventable blindness is one of our most tragic and wasteful global problems.

### Message from the Chair

"Preventable blindness is one of our most tragic and wasteful global problems. Blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error can be completely eliminated by an eye examination and a pair of glasses. All we need to do is train sufficient numbers of eyecare personnel and make them, and glasses, available to those in need."

Professor Brien A Holden OAM  
Chairman of ICEE

Prof. Holden in Tanzania, February 2002.

### ICEE Challenge

Founded in 1998, with its headquarters at the University of New South Wales Australia, ICEE - International Centre for Eyecare Education is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation that is committed to delivering a solution. ICEE's mission is to eliminate avoidable blindness due to uncorrected refractive error by developing sustainable solutions for communities in serious need of eyecare.

### Our Strategy

Our strategy for achieving sustainability within communities hinges on:

- ◆ Eyecare Service Delivery - providing eye examinations and glasses to those in need
- ◆ Human Resource Development - training and equipping optometrists, eyecare personnel and their teachers
- ◆ Infrastructure - supporting and developing Eye Clinics, Schools of Optometry and Centres of Excellence

### Key Strategic Program - Train the Trainer

The birth of ICEE's 'Train the Trainer Program' began in 1999 in Durban, South Africa. ICEE provides refraction training to staff within existing health service networks. The dedication and professionalism of ICEE's Educational Training Coordinator, Palesa Dube is key to our ongoing success. The program is well structured with measurable outcomes. The trainers receive five weeks of refraction and eyecare skills training, and four weeks of teaching, computer and communication training. Upon their return - based on prior agreement with their employers - they are allowed to begin refraction, and set up a training program of their own.

The program is open to trainers from throughout Africa, and to date trainers from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe have been trained. Trainers are also provided with clinical and educational materials to take away. Training the local trainers will ensure that the eyecare education can be delivered locally and be sustainable.

Our program is accessible to health personnel throughout Africa. To date we have trained 22 trainers and 73 trainees. In 2002 our target is 21 trainers and 164 trainees.

### Staff in Profile

Palesa Dube grew up in the North West Province of South Africa. She qualified as an Optometrist at the University of the North in 1998. Having initially worked as a resident in the Department of Optometry at the University of Durban-Westville, Palesa became the Educational Training Coordinator for ICEE Africa in mid-2000. Her chief role is running the Train the Trainer program. This role sees her teaching in the classroom, mentoring in the clinic, offering support to trainers she has trained and evaluation of their programs across Africa, negotiating with Ambassadors, Government Officials and Hospital Superintendents, and collating data on all these initiatives in order to fulfil the mandate that ICEE has set itself. She lives in Durban with her husband, an electrical engineer.



very fruitful.....

### What Do Our Trainers' Think?

"The course is indeed very fruitful to us and our country. The standard of education we are obtaining is extremely very high." Khumbulani Ndlela, Zimbabwe

"The course so far is good, the only thing I need is practice!" Zodwa Maudlazi, Swaziland

"The course is a real instrument wonderful.... Willy C Komen, Kenya"

