



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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A Monthly or Bimonthly Newsletter

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News in this edition tells how IMCK is providing medical care and teaching in partnership with organizations around the world. Yet the partnerships are replete with acronyms like CPC, PCUSA, CMCO, MBF, ROW, UPC, MPPC, FIMCK, ASHA, and DFID. The reports here try to inform you about these vital partnerships, to break these bureaucratic sounds down to accountability and to human stories of hardship, help, and hope. Still, IMCK struggles under the burden of medical service and teaching in an economy of poverty; sometimes IMCK falls behind two or three months in paying the doctors and nurses! The next newsletter will tell about the partnering of many churches and individuals in the USA with IMCK, such as FPC Knoxville with 5 people going there to visit this month. FPC of Knoxville has been supporting mission work in Congo, and especially medical work there, for sixty years. The next newsletter will tell about St John's Church in Camas, WA, which has long partnered with IMCK. Their donation to IMCK in November provided help in paying salaries of doctors and nurses. The note they sent with the donation said, "The people of St. John's continue to save mission funds for IMCK and to pray for your work and people at IMCK." St John's mission statement is "Celebrating the Gospel...living it to the world." Submitted by Charlotte White

1. Congo Protestant University Staff visit IMCK:

As part of their partnership, IMCK was honored by a visit of five professors from Universite Protestante au Congo (UPC) November 28 – 30, 2013. They came to supervise their 14 medical student Interns (MS) and also five Medical Residents (MR) assigned to IMCK. The visitors were: 1. Professor Philippe Noki, Chemist and Internship Coordinator of medical student interns. 2. Professor Richard Matanda, MD (ENT) - Academic Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine. 3. Professor François Lepira, MD Internist 4. Professor Joseph Bodi, MD Pediatrician 5. Professor Simon Kutoluka, MD Surgeon. The four physicians rounded, seeing patients with the medical students, residents and staff physicians of HBB or Good Shepherd Hospital . They also hosted conferences in their respective fields with the doctors and with students of ISTM Tshikaji . They also consulted with referred patients.

2. Three members of Medical Benevolence Foundation visit in November.

The IMCK also received a visit by three members of Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF), Mr. Bill Simmons, Mr. Jack Muthui and Dr. Jack Benjamin, a retired pediatrician. Bill and Jack spent several hours discussing MBF/IMCK partnership with the IMCK management team, emphasizing the preparation and submission of project reports and financial reports to MBF and the necessity for IMCK to maintain close communication with MBF. Dr. Jack Benjamin spent his time photographing many different departments and IMCK entities (the Good Shepherd Hospital, PAX Clinic, ISTM and ITM Schools, the dam) to help in the MBF campaign for IMCK funding. They also made a plane trip to Moma more than 200 km from the city of Kananga. Bill Simmons also attended the IMCK Board meeting as a consultant and interpreter.

3 . MPPC Visitors in November:

IMCK also received two members of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC), Charlotte, NC. Mr. Mike Clement attended the IMCK Board meeting as a delegate of the PCUSA and Mr. David Ibsen came to visit Congo Presbyterian Community regarding a project with them on education. He visited the school "KUPA KUA NZAMBI," newly built with funding from MPPC. He also visited ITM and ISTM Tshikaji, which are education branches of IMCK . Submitted by Bernard Kabibu



Professors from Protestant University of Congo visit with 5 medical residents and 14 medical students at IMCK.

Antonio Martinez sends a report on the progress of the renovation of the PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga:

Phase I, the laboratory, resumed construction in early November and is about 95% complete; it should be operational by February 10th. In February, a Worldwide Laboratories representative will visit PAX Clinic to train our lab technicians at PAX on the use and upkeep of the new equipment.



Work on the lab at PAX. The lab should be completed in February.

We also installed a new solar panel system for the lab, the main entrance/stairway, and the emergency room. I also installed a small system at the maternity for lights and charging cell phones.

Phase II, the dental clinic, began mid December and is about 50% completed. Without delays, we should be finished by the end of March and operational in April. However, there are usually surprises. We have exhausted all of our funding for the construction and are looking for other fundraising opportunities to help cope with the surprises. Phase I was delayed 8 months because of a lack of only a few thousand dollars. I am designing the solar panel system for the rest of PAX this month and will be installing that the first half of the year. Unfortunately, all the existing solar equipment is in disrepair and needs to be replaced.

Phase III, the women's center, will commence when the dental clinic has moved out of that space, probably in April or May, and when funding arrives. That project will cost around \$100,000 and take around 6 months. Submitted by Antonio Martinez

***Editorial note:** Antonio is an architect, who is a volunteer living there to supervise the renovation of PAX and also to provide other architectural service to IMCK. To help with this project, make a donation to Myers Park Presbyterian Church and designate *For Congo IMCK PAX Project*. Mail to: 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, NC 28207. Call them at (704)927-1281/Laura Leroy for questions.



Congo food security coupled with poor nutritional knowledge puts children like this child at risk.

A Nutrition Center Needs to Re-open: The child above needed to be referred to the Nutrition Center of IMCK. This center, started in the 1980s by Dr John Miller, has been teaching mothers how to feed their children with locally grown food to counter the lack of animal and vegetable proteins. Mothers, who bring their children to the center, should be equipped with a hoe to work in the garden center to produce vegetables, beans, maize, and peanuts to help feed their child. They will continue to do the same when they return home after the rehabilitation of their children, so the child does not relapse.

In the past year, IMCK had to make severe cuts in their budget and closed this center called Tudisha Bana Bimpe (Let's feed the Children Well.) Charles Johnson, an elder in Northwood Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, is raising money to reopen this critical facility of IMCK. After visiting Congo, he created a web site for donations to various Presbyterian medical projects. Donations are made through Rivers of the World, <http://www.row.org>, a 501C3 Christian ministry program. Go to this specific site to see how Charles is raising the money little by little to reopen the IMCK Nutrition Center. (Cont'd pg. 3 - Nutrition Center)

IMCK Endowment Update As of December 31, 2013, the IMCK Endowment total stood at \$195,236. However, we know of at least \$5,000 more in donations that had been submitted by that date but that were still in process when that report was prepared. Therefore, the endowment has now broken the \$200,000 ceiling. In the future, capital gains from the endowment will be used to support the IMCK expenses, such as indigent care.

On January 6, 2014, the Friends of IMCK (FIMCK) Board held its monthly teleconference & took the following actions: 1) Initiated steps toward a more active engagement with Presbyterian Women, 2) Approved a draft revision of FIMCK charter, pending final legal review, 3) Initiated steps for better coordination of publicity with PC(USA), 4) Received reports on the progress of a General Assembly overture from several presbyteries in support of the FIMCK endowment effort, 5) Took steps to diversify the endowment among three different Funds, 6) Began writing a magazine article on the endowment & 7) Started a process to expand the Board of Directors & bring in fresh new talent & insights.

2014 begins as an exciting year in which we have a goal of reaching \$500,000 - the Good Lord willing & with all the help we can get from YOU! Submitted by Bill Rule



Child at IMCK, who had an amputation. The endowment is to support medical care or education programs.

Nutrition Center - Continued: When operating, IMCK Nutrition Center serves 15 children three healthy meals a day with a cost of \$2/day. Their total monthly operating cost is about \$974.

Recently, Charles wrote the following report about helping this center: People have begun to answer the call to help reopen and operate the Tudisha Bana Bimpe Nutrition Center at IMCK/ Good Shepherd! So far, nine people have made recurring monthly donations, that total \$155.00 per month. While this is a good start, we are a long way from being able to fund the needs of 15 malnourished children at a cost of \$60 each per month. Please make a \$10.00 (or more) recurring donation to support the operation of this much needed program. You may do so by going to this link: <http://www.mattressesforcongo.com/donate---good-shepherd-nutrition-center.html> Be sure to check the box to make your contribution a recurring



IMCK staff member shows how moringa tree leaves are ground for use in food. This plant grows quickly and the leaves are extremely high in protein.

one. By the way, \$10.00 per month is about the same as foregoing one Starbucks per week. Think about it. Submitted by C. White and Charles Johnson

Report on IMCK Board Meeting - November 2013:

The board members, who attended this meeting, are listed on page 4 under the heading Board Members of IMCK. Also at the meeting were IMCK administrative consultants and interpreters. This board meeting essentially addressed the budgets of the Good Shepherd Hospital, PAX Clinic and ISTM, the college. The ITM High School and Dental Clinic budgets have already been reviewed, amended and approved. The action plan prepared by IMCK for 2014 was also presented and approved. This plan consists of 11 projects to be implemented by the IMCK in 2014 and lists possible funding sources:



1. Provide better water flow at Good Shepherd Hospital and Tshikaji - Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF)
 2. ITM and ISTM Schools - acquisition of equipment/materials - Presbyterian Church USA
 3. Supplies for neonatal room - Unknown
 4. ISTM - construction of dining room and ITM renovation of dining room - ASHA Grant (read more about this below)
 5. Pax maternity relocation/renovation - Myers Park Presby C
 6. Good Shepherd OR recovery room supplies - IMCK
 7. Construct an incinerator - ASSP/DFID (read more below)
 8. Renovate Tshitudilu Building to be turned into a dormitory for continuing education - IMCK
 9. ITM & ISTM Schools acquire computers - ASSP/DFID
 10. IMCK Director take English lessons - MBF
 11. Annual maintenance of Hydro - MBF
- (Cont'd pg. 4 Board Meeting in November 2013)

Picture of Patient last month: Remember the picture of a young girl with a tumor on her leg? Here is more about her from IMCK. "She is fatherless and in a family of 6 children. When she arrived at IMCK, she had suffered the past six months. Her family had consulted several health centers without success. They even applied a traditional treatment known as kalunga (a form of traditional plaster), also without success. At IMCK, Drs. John Fletcher and Pepe Banza Kalenga surgically removed the mass. The wound healed quite well with daily dressing changes. [With no pathology,] the physicians cannot say whether it is cancer or not. I must say that this girl was not taken to the hospital by a family member. She was taken to the hospital by a woman who is not the family. She is attended to at the hospital by her little sister aged 8-9 years." No one has paid her bill yet. This is an example of IMCK charity medicine. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu



Board Meeting in November 2013 - Continued:

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) is an organization within USAID and provides grants. Read more at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Schools_and_Hospitals_Abroad. MBF <http://www.mbfoundation.org> plans to apply for a grant for IMCK's goal #4 above. MBF must provide 20% of the grant. So if ASHA provides \$200,000, MBF must provide \$40,000 of that in cash or in kind donations. MBF has previously been awarded ASHA grants for IMCK and other medical centers.

DFID stands for Dept. for International Development and is a program of Britain. DFID has been providing significant grants for health projects in Congo. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu

The IMCK website is a great resource. Go to www.IMCK.org or type it into your browser. Write to FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com, if you want to advise or help us with this newsletter or any other projects in partnership with IMCK service.

Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News:

www.imck.org & <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> & www.mbfoundation.org & <http://www.congopartners.org/> and www.facebook.com/ (search IMCK Congo) & <http://congohelpinghands.org/> & <http://www.row.org/congo-kasai-2009-update/>. IMCK, PCUSA and MBF sites have lots of information about Congo and IMCK. Learn about the Congo Mission Network meeting, the next groups going to Congo, Helping Hands work, ROW work. To join Congo Connections, write Annette anwash@centurylink.net. Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo and the need for certification. Learn about Congo at www.wikipedia.org/. Learn; read; get involved.

Board Members of IMCK at the Nov. 2013 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative
Dr. Mulumba Edmond - State Medical Inspector
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
Fr. Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
Dr. Patrick Kebeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative
Mr. Alexis Mayambai Nzamba - IMCK Representative

Current IMCK Administration:

IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambai Nzamba
Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 140 bed facility, and at PAX, with 20 beds. General medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, pediatrics, gyn/obstetrics, dental services, radiology and lab services are provided. This faith based organization has been in operation for almost 60 years.

How to make a donation to IMCK:

To give to **IMCK endowment**, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> & follow the directions. Or write a check to Friends of IMCK & write For Endowment. Send to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090. (Friends of IMCK is part of MBF.)

To give through the **Medical Benevolence Foundation**, a validated mission support group of PCUSA, go to <http://www.mbfoundation.org/index.php>. Designate on line "For IMCK Congo." Or send a check to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 2009. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line.

To give **directly to IMCK**, make check to IMCK. Send to Wells Fargo Bank (www.wellsfargo.com): Account number: 2000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai. Send an email to Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (above address) informing him of the amount and designation, so IMCK can manage it appropriately and also so they can acknowledge the gift.

To give through **Presbyterian Church, USA** (PCUSA), go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/E320202/>. Or write a check to Presbyterian Church USA; send to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Put "ECO#320202 - IMCK" on the check.

To give through **Rivers of the World-Kasai** Chapter, make checks payable to ROW & write FOR IMCK. Send to 3640 Hewatt Court, Snellville, GA 30039. Or go to www.row.org & donate. Follow instructions to designate the gift to Congo-Kasai / IMCK. Give in honor of someone, if desired.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month:, Gibende Hippolyte, Charles Johnson, Bernard Kabibu, Antonio Martinez, Bill Rule, Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at CRuleWhite@gmail.com. We welcome your contributions!