



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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A Periodic Newsletter

Issue No 38 - January and February 2016



Welcome to this IMCK Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster partnerships between IMCK, a Christian medical teaching institution in DRC Congo, and partners in Congo and other countries. This institution, founded in 1954 by Presbyterians and Mennonites, began with a 20 bed hospital and 12 nursing students. IMCK was moved in the 1960s to the town of Tshikaji, outside the city of Kananga. Today this large organization has two campuses. The Tshikaji campus is comprised of the 120 bed Good Shepherd Hospital, ISTM College with 337 students enrolled in nursing and health administration, ITM high school for nurses (like LPNs) and lab techs, 30 medical interns (in their final med school year), a campus with staff homes, a nutrition center and other health services. The other campus is at PAX, in downtown Kananga. PAX has multiple clinics providing OB/GYN, Ophthalmology, ENT, Pediatrics, ENT, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Dental, Lab, X-ray, ultrasound and pharmacy. PAX has a 24 hour ER and a 31 bed maternity unit, where many babies are delivered. Submitted by Charlotte White

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST IMCK BOARD MEETING:

The IMCK Board met on November 12 and 13, 2015. Attending the meeting were 11 representatives of three church denominations, a government representative and 8 people on the staff of IMCK. (See page 4 for names of representatives.) The meeting opened with prayers and hymns. Board President Larry Sthresley thanked members for their dedication to IMCK, and urged them to do everything possible to make IMCK a better institution.

Highlights of Jan. – Oct. 2015 Activity Report:

- To address the retirement of certain staff, IMCK is negotiating with the government provincial health division (DPS) to procure a portion the government has not yet dispensed. IMCK has also asked Rivers of the World to help raise money for the needed retirement funds. A total of \$130,000 is needed.
- The recently installed financial software is partially in use. It will be in complete use for the next Board meeting in May 2016.
- The number of patient visits to the IMCK Comprehensive Clinic called PAX has dropped significantly. The board asked IMCK to review these numbers to secure a correct figure and examine reasons for changes. This is the big city clinic.
- For over 60 years, IMCK has administered a high school (ITM) to train nurses. Five years ago, IMCK founded a college (ISTM) to train nurses. The Board is reviewing whether to discontinue the high school (ITM) that graduates nurses and lab techs and use those facilities for the college level IMCK programs.
- Recently, IMCK has been planning for a Public Health School in partnership with St. Louis Univ. This plan has been halted for now. (Cont'd on pg. 2)

MARCIA MURRAY WRITES FROM IMCK

Marcia Murray (photo to right) grew up in Congo, the daughter of Glenn and Betty Murray, who served as missionaries in Congo. Marcia has had a career in teaching math in many countries. When she retired, she returned to Congo as a mission coworker volunteer and teaches math to the IMCK college students majoring in pediatric nursing, midwifery, and health administration. She serves on the Friends of IMCK Board and writes periodic news from Congo.



When the new academic year of ISTM college started last October, Marcia sent this photo of the staff and reported: "ISTM has 337 students enrolled this year with 193 women and 144 men. There are 112 students in the 1st year, 146 in the 2nd and 79 in the 3rd year. In the pediatric nursing section there are 198 students, in the midwife section there are 107 students, while in the health administration section there are 32 students."



Staff of ISTM, L to R: Fabienne (Sec), Michael (Midwifery Chair), Jacque (Academic Dean), Alexis (ISTM Director), Bijoux (Pediatrics Chair), Albert (Health Admin. Chair), Celestin (Registrar).

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED:

• An ASSP/IMA*** grant gave \$240,000 for renovations at the Good Shepherd Hospital. Phase one, renovation of the outpatient clinic and the lab cost \$50,710; this is just being completed. The formation of an ICU (part of phase 1) was completed with some construction, but now awaits some equipment from USA.

Action Plan for 2016:

- The IMCK Budget was reviewed, adjusted and approved.
- The Women's Center at PAX will be relocated (on the same campus) and renovated. This renovation will cost at least \$90K. More is required to equip it. Myers Park Presbyterian Church is donating a maximum of 90K for this project. Other donors will be solicited.
- The ASSP/IMA Phase 2 grant for the Good Shepherd Hospital is for \$100K. These funds are being used to repair walls, roofing, ceilings, floors, plumbing, and windows. The third phase at \$80K will address renewal of the operating room, guest house repairs, and some rehabilitation of the water system.
- A computer network technician is to be employed. ASSP funds will assist.
- \$5K from ASSP will be spent to clean the hospital and PAX clinic.
- IMCK will continue building two classroom buildings for ISTM at \$248K. This is funded by ASSP and IMCK.
- Plans to rehabilitate the ophthalmology services with \$23K from PCUSA.
- To equip a practice lab for nursing, administration will prepare a proposal and submit to various funding sources, seeking \$12K.
- Seek funding to start a nurse anesthetist program at IMCK.
- Seek \$45,000 in scholarship funds for students at ITM & ISTM.
- Construct a better hospital incinerator, using ASSP funds. Estimate of \$10K.
- Seek funds for charity patients.
- Acquire at least two refrigerators for IMCK labs and pharmacies. \$3K.
- Repair and expand the guest house. \$60K paid by IMCK and ASSP/IMA.
- Pay for the transport of materials for the hydro. These materials are in Germany and ready for shipment. \$5K?

Other Matters the Board addressed:

- The Board asked Friends of IMCK to partner in raising \$33K for the PAX Women's Center, while also continuing to build the IMCK endowment.
 - Committee work during the meeting addressed a protocol for post college scholarships and how those graduates (physicians) are to work at IMCK or reimburse IMCK. The Board also addressed personnel issues at PAX. The Board discussed the need for IMCK to address marketing and publicity.
 - The Board reviewed a plan for when certain IMCK leaders and staff will retire in 2016 and a process for how most of those positions will be filled.
- In closing, the Board President thanked all participating members and thanked the following partners: PCUSA, MBF, ASSP, ECO, FIMCK, MPPC, ROW. Finally, he thanked the staff working at IMCK. Minutes by Bernard Kabibu. Translated and summarized by Charlotte White

***ASSP/IMA -Primary Health Care Project funded by UK AID & Swedish Agency SIDA. IMA World Health leads the consortium for this 5 yr project in Congo, using SANRU (Public Health program in Congo), CARITAS (Catholic organization), World Vision, International Rescue Operations, Tulane University technical assistance, Pathfinder, HISP in South Africa, and Intrahealth International.

BITS OF NEWS:

- **Jack Muthui**, Africa Regional Manager for Medical Benevolence Foundation, visited IMCK in Nov. to consult on projects in which MBF is partnering with IMCK. A future newsletter will tell more about MBF/ IMCK work.
- **Southminster Presbyterian Church** of Birmingham, AL sent a donation to MBF for sutures when they heard IMCK had a critical shortage of sutures
- **Jacque Mpoi**, ITM Director & ISTM Academic Dean, researched locations of ITM graduates. With 60 years of graduates, ITM alumni/ae practice throughout Congo, and in many other countries! More on this project will be shared in a future newsletter.
- **Martha Sommers**, a physician who has served as a PCUSA mission coworker in Malawi, is now studying French in France and will be going to practice and teach at IMCK in June. Read about her at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/sommers-martha/>
- The book, **Milestones in Mission**, tells of early medical work in Congo and the founding of IMCK in 1954. Order the book for \$15 (includes postage in USA) from Barbara Sague at BRuleSague@gmail.com. All the money goes to the Friends of IMCK endowment fund. Very interesting

RETIREMENT FUND: Rivers of the World has raised \$58K for the retirement fund for IMCK staff. To contribute to this fund, donate to ROW - Congo; mark for IMCK Retirement. Mail to ROW- Congo, 3640 Hewatt Court, Snellville, GA 30039 and email Jimmy Shafe, jimmyshafe@comcast.net. This month, ROW starts dispensing that money for individuals to retire from IMCK. Future newsletters will feature those retired.



ISTM student body gathered for a photo by Steve Vail in June 2015 at the IMCK campus at Tshikaji. Students in this IMCK college major in one of three programs: midwifery, nurse pediatrics, or health administration. With future funding, IMCK plans to open a program for anesthetists and for lab technologists. Do you know of a grant to help this happen? ISTM students recently started a school newsletter.

PAX CLINIC RENOVATION CONTINUES:



Antonio Martinez

Antonio Martinez has been living in Congo for several years, sponsored by Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC. He went primarily to coordinate renovation of the IMCK PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga. With arduous experience, he has learned about Congo collaboration on plans (with his architectural skills), to speak French, to find the resources and people for building, and to work with an erratic infrastructure. He has overseen completion of renovation phases one and two. Phase three remains.



Working in the footprint of an old facility in downtown Kananga, **stage one** started with the demolition stage (left) and renovation of the laboratory and pharmacy. See below that photo, the new lab with lab techs, students, and visitor Becky Dwarshuis.



Stage two, required moving the dental clinic to a new site in the building. The next photo shows Dr. Alphonse Kabasele working in the new dental clinic. This took YEARS of work, requiring major rewiring and a long wait for shipping of dental chairs.



Stage 3 is the biggest project, the Women's Center. See photo left of the current PAX maternity area, a three room facility with no running water & intermittent electricity. Plans below are in negotiation for final work. Demolition started



in December. This Stage includes female exam rooms, a waiting area, patient education area, labor and delivery rooms, an OR for C Sections/GYN, and an inpatient area for women after delivery of a baby or for GYN reasons. With changes since the Board meeting, Stage 3 expenses will approach \$200K for renovation & furnishing. Myers Park Presbyterian Church has pledged \$90K. Info from Antonio; summarized by Charlotte White



HOW IMPROVING THINGS CAN MAKE THEM WORSE (AND HOW TO FIX IT!)

We have all been sensitized to the need for local community input into the design of development projects and for bottom-up partnerships instead of top-down direction. But there is another reason why helping can hurt, which is still too often overlooked.

When facilities are built or upgraded and modernized, and when local staff are trained to provide better services, costs for maintenance, salaries and other operating expenses automatically go up. Think about it; it could hardly be any other way. But these increased operating costs may be an unsustainable burden for poor economies and impoverished clients, while donors seldom want to continue paying for them indefinitely. No wonder things fall apart and into disrepair!



Old things - not repaired and never thrown away.

We believe that a necessary component of any responsible development project should be the allocation of some portion of project funds to the establishment of permanent foundations, endowments or trusts that can help to underwrite operating costs indefinitely from gains and earnings alone, while leaving the principal always intact and even able to grow. Eventually the control and ownership of these endowments may be transferred, when the beneficiary institutions attain some predefined level of management integrity and proficiency but even in the meantime, local management should take ownership of decisions on how to apply the trust fund revenue to annual operating budget needs.

These are the core principles we are working to demonstrate by raising an endowment for the Kasai Christian Medical Institute (IMCK), one of the flagship Presbyterian legacy medical institutions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It's Good Shepherd Hospital is a leading venue for medical internships and residencies and the teaching hospital for it's nursing and lab tech schools, reputed to be among the finest in the area. After four years of effort, the endowment is now over \$300,000 with a target of \$2 million by 2020 when distributions are expected to begin. Fundraising is conducted by an organization called Friends of IMCK and investments are managed by the Houston-based Medical Benevolence Foundation.

Find more information about the IMCK and the endowment at www.IMCK.org. Note instructions for how to make donations to the endowment by check or on line, should you wish to join or continue your support for this significant effort. Our target is ambitious and we welcome all who care to help make this a truly living gift to the people of the Congo -- one that will continue giving in years to come. However, if you are committed to other projects in other countries, we hope that you will take our thesis to heart and give serious consideration to establishing similar endowments for the developing country institutions of your choice. Submitted by Bill Rule

IMCK SURGERY/ELECTRICITY/WATER:

Dr. John Fletcher is a surgical consultant to the eight hospitals related to the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC). He works with the hospitals' staffs to improve their surgical knowledge, skills, judgment, and techniques, as well as supervising medical students and serving as a surgeon at the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK). John and his wife, Gwenda, who is an education consultant in Congo, are currently on assignment in the USA to visit and speak. They return to Tshikaji and IMCK in May.

John serves as a physician, but he also has managed the IMCK hydroelectric program that provides vital power and water for the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, for staff homes, and for students at Tshikaji. That program, in operation since 1986, needed renovation. In the past few years, Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) has partnered with IMCK to provide a major renovation, to which many have contributed. Replacement regulators, not available in Africa, are being built in Germany and shipped to Congo. John will return in time to serve as project manager for installation of these major system parts. MBF is also providing funds for various plumbing projects in tandem with this renovation. Follow the work of the Fletchers at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/fletcher-john-and-gwenda/>

Submitted by Charlotte White; photo by Steve Vail



John and Gwenda Fletcher, serving in medicine, education and hydroelectric work.

Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: IMCK info

is at www.imck.org & MBF info is at www.mbfoundation.org. PCUSA sites have Congo & IMCK info at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> Read about Congo Mission Network at <http://www.congopartners.org/> & <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork>. Helping Hands www.congohelpinghands.org/ & Rivers of the World Congo www.row.org work in Congo. Join IMCK face book at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Medical-Institute-of-the-Kasai-IMCK/110759025647158>. To join Congo Connections, write Annette anbwash@centurylink.net. Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo. **Learn; read; act! Be involved.**

Board Members of IMCK at the Nov 2015 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
Rev. Lazare Tshibuabua Dekebele - CPC Representative
Rev. Joly Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Rep (Mennonite)
Mr. Pierre Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative
Fr Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
Rev. Jean Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Mrs. Kristi Rice - PCUSA Representative
Dr. Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
Mr. Simon Ntumba Tshitenge - CPC Representative
Dr. Eugenie Misenga Kangoji - State Representative
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - IMCK Representative
Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba - IMCK Representative

Current IMCK Administration:

IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba
Legal Representative - Rev. Mboyamba Kabala

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. It's services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 120 bed facility, & at PAX Clinic, 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 over 60 yrs.

FIVE WAYS to make a donation to IMCK:

To give to **IMCK endowment**, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/friends-imck-endowment-fund/> & follow 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 many Presbyterian Organizations, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/donate-now/>. 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. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

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. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

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 or memory of someone, if desired.

To give **DIRECTLY to IMCK**, consult Bernard Kabibu at bernardkabibu@gmail.com about how to wire money directly from your bank account into the IMCK BCDC bank (Banque Commerciale Du Congo) account in Congo.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: Bernard Kabibu (minutes), Antonio Martinez, Marcia Murray, William Rule, Charlotte White, Steve Vail. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write CRuleWhite@gmail.com. We welcome your contributions!