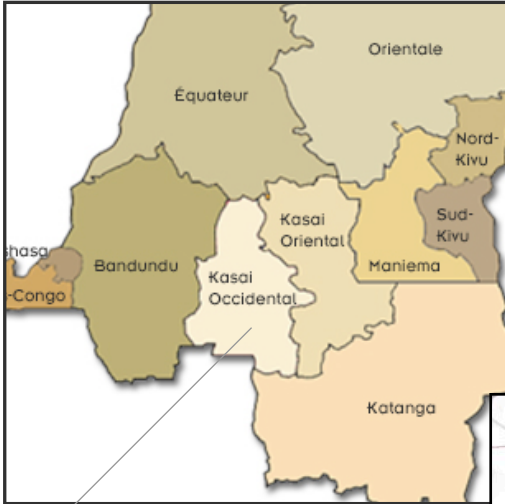




### A Monthly Newsletter

### Issue No 2 - October 2010



Kananga, a city of over a million people and the capitol of Kasai Occidental Province, is a major commercial and transportation center. IMCK provides community health services at Tshikaji, in surrounding rural areas and major city health care through the PAX Clinic.

#### WHY IS IMCK SERVICE IN TWO MAJOR PLACES?

Much of IMCK at Tshikaji (the hospital, nursing and lab schools, emergency service, administration and housing) is 8 miles from the city of Kananga. The PAX Polyclinic is a branch of IMCK located in downtown Kananga. PAX technical and administrative staff provide services including various health clinics, lab, radiology, emergency room, operating room and a 20 bed ward for gynecology and maternity. The PAX services were opened to provide care for the city population, since transportation to Tshikaji is lacking. Few people own cars. PAX services are not in full operation because of lack of supplies and lack of electricity. This newsletter emphasizes the electricity issue.

**Problems with electrical power have been looming at IMCK, at both Tshikaji and at PAX in Kananga, but in September we took several steps towards solutions.**



Nkashama Muyembi (Electrician) and Ntefu Kabemba (Chief of Hydro) regard the G2 governor, where the problem exists.

#### Medical Work Uses Electricity

No commercial power is provided during the day in Kananga (a city of over a million.) So the PAX Clinic is entirely dependent on its generator for all of its operations during the day. Unfortunately, the generator has failed disastrously and needs new bearings, crankshaft, piston rods, etc. The parts are not locally available and costs to repair it were prohibitive, so when Dr. Fletcher was recently in Kinshasa, he obtained a price quote of \$2,400 (plus \$600 for shipping) for a new 18 KW diesel generator. We took a deep breath, dipped deeply into our limited funds, and have now bought the new generator and arranged for it to be shipped immediately. Hopefully, by the

next monthly newsletter, we will be able to report that the PAX clinic is once more fully functional!

Tshikaji has its own Hydro Plant, a miraculous story in its creation. But now it is nearly 30 years old. There are two turbines, so that one can be in use while the other is under maintenance. However, turbine #2 has been down for the past 12 months due to worn out parts and difficulty in getting replacements. Turbine #1 has been running almost continuously for that whole period with very little oppor-

tunity for maintenance. It could fail at any time, leaving the Good Shepherd Hospital and all of Tshikaji indefinitely with nothing but the expensive back-up diesel generator. Fortunately, our friends at the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) have been very active in seeking a means to support the costly repairs for turbine #2. This will involve bringing parts and expert help from Germany where the turbines were purchased back in the mid-1980s. Bill Simmons, Dale Stanton-Hoyle and Bill Kell of MBF have made survey visits to Tshikaji and Bill Kell is due to visit again in October, following some tests that our electrician, Nkashama, has been doing to make sure that Bill's time will not be wasted once he arrives. Some time after that, we are hopeful that the repairs will become possible. Good work, MBF, and thank you!

**IMCK Facebook Page  
Inaugurated**

**(Website Under Construction)**

Thanks to Mike Clement of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C. for setting up an IMCK Facebook page! For those who have or want a free Facebook page, please visit the IMCK page and register your comments. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), log in or sign up and then search for IMCK. Lots of good pictures and information! Mike hopes eventually to provide a link that will allow on-line donations. Another friend from Charlotte, Matt Pedigo, is working with Dr. Fletcher to develop a regular IMCK website which we hope will also provide up-to-date information and a link for on-line donations. We will keep you informed on progress and we hope you will tell all your friends about both sites!

**Visit by Don Fletcher**

We enjoyed a two week visit by Dr. John Fletcher's brother, Don, in September. Don is an expert in computer repairs and operations, and helped us immensely in refining and improving our local area network so that it is more secure and more functional. Thank you, Don. We hope you enjoyed your visit and had a good trip home. Come again soon!

**Finance Committee Meets**

In September the IMCK Finance Committee met and reviewed a proposed 2011 budget. New member, Mr. Alidor Kapuku Muamba Mbuyi, a visiting senior accountant from Kananga, chaired a portion of the meeting and actively posed many insightful questions about the proposed budget as well as other problems in the IMCK accounting operations. The budget was sent back for more work, in anticipation of being presented for approval by the Board of Directors at a meeting being planned for December.

**Agreement Reached With  
Government**

In September, IMCK Administrator Bernard Kabibu visited with the Lieutenant Governor of Kasai-Occidental Province and negotiated an agreement which we are hopeful will help resolve a long-standing receivable account which we have with them for providing medical care to employees of DGRAD (the equivalent of their Internal Revenue Service). It was agreed that IMCK would reduce the rates for their charge account to the same rates as for cash-paying patients – about 50% of what they are currently being charged. They, in turn, will work toward paying down a large and long overdue bill, as well as provide assistance in obtaining a non-profit waiver for IMCK on the burdensome property taxes that it currently owes each year for the extensive Tshikaji campus. Good work, Administrator Kabibu!



Dentist Dr. Kabasela Kabata at work.

**CHANGE IN DENTAL WORK  
SCHEDULE**

The Sandy Marks Dental Clinic was named after its initiator, the late Dr. Sandy Marks, D.D.S., one of the founders of the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK).

The program was originally intended to train dental residents in collaboration with the Dental School of the University of Kinshasa. When that collaboration

stopped, the program was modified to train dental nurses/technicians.

The clinic operates downtown in the city of Kananga where there is no electricity during the day. Its operation has depended so far on the generator at PAX, which is nearby.

Because of the breakdown of the PAX generator and the fact that the National Electric Company (SNEL) does not provide electricity during the day, the clinic has recently modified its work schedule to be from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, especially for major surgical operations that require the use of electrical power. Minor operations (cleaning, post-op, etc.) are done during the day. Thus, the clinic that was running the risk of closing for lack of electricity continues to operate and to survive. This initiative is proof that "all is not yet lost" and that some of IMCK's many problems can be solved.

The only objection to this is that they start late and finish late. It is often difficult to get a bus or taxi back home at 10:00 PM for both the workers and the patients.

The financial report below covers general operations of IMCK medical services. It does not cover special projects such as the moringa tree.

**IMCK Health Operations Services for the  
month of September 2010:**

Number of GSH In-Patients Treated:	224*
Number of Out-patient at PAX	947
Number of Out-Patients @ GSH	364

Opening Operations Balance	\$ 8,191.00
Total Receipts Collected Locally	45,652.00
Total Unrestricted Donations:	1,000.00
Total Operations Expenditures:	43,237.53*
Closing Operations Balance:	11,606.45

Total Debt at Month End:	\$144,278.85**
Debt Increase (+)/Decrease(-):	\$12,562.85

\*Good Shepherd Hospital  
\*\*The debt increased another \$12,562.85 because of some unpaid salaries and some unpaid utilities.

Jeff Baluidi is the Executive Secretary for the management of IMCK. He types the memos, sends the emails, arranges and summons



people to the meetings, manages crowd control in the outer office, reminds people of appointments, ensures key people are provisioned with telephone units, lines up the transportation and generally keeps the place running, even when all other conditions indicate that is should be

broken down in its tracks! And he always has a cheerful smile and a hearty laugh through even the toughest of situations. Thanks, Jeff, you do a great

### How to help support IMCK

If you or your church or organization wish to support IMCK and designate the donation, consider ways to help with the general operating budget either by making unrestricted donations or by designating a donation for medicines, for medical or other supplies, for indigent care, for transportation or for fuel and maintenance. Or write to any of the administrative staff listed above to ask their advice and most urgent needs. If it would be helpful in appealing for donations, they can provide information on quantities and prices for certain much needed duges or information about individual charity cases in need of support.

If you know how to search for and write for grants to aid at IMCK, please help us in that way, for IMCK depends also on that source.

### Board Members of Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai

#### Communaute Presbyterian au Congo:

Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- Chairman

Rev. Tshidinda Mamba

Dr. John Fletcher

Rev. Mboyamba Kabala

#### Communaute Mennonite au Congo:

Rev. Birakara Ilowa

Dr. Gaspard Mahuma

Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga

Rev. Kabasele Bantubiabo

#### Presbyterian Church USA &

#### Medical Benevolence Foundation:

Dr. Larry Sthreshley

Mr. Bill Simmons

Mr. Jeff Boyd

Mr. Bill Rule IV

#### IMCK:

Dr. Blaise Ndandu Mayimona

Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge

### IMCK Administration: [imckbusiness@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness@yahoo.fr)

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#### Crisis Manager:

Mr. Bill Rule IV - [biullnbethrule@comcast.net](mailto:biullnbethrule@comcast.net)

#### Hospital Director:

Dr. Blaise Ndandu - [drblaisendandu@yahoo.fr](mailto:drblaisendandu@yahoo.fr)

#### Legal Representative:

Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge - [CPC\\_improka@yahoo.fr](mailto:CPC_improka@yahoo.fr)

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 142 bed facility and at PAX, with 20 beds. General medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, pediatrics, obstetrics, dental services, radiology and lab services are provided. This faith based organization has been in operation for over 50 years.

### How to make a donation to IMCK

To give through Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), make checks out to Presbyterian Church USA and send to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Write "ECO#320202 - IMCK" in the memo line. Or go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/donate/E320202/> to give on line.

To give through the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group of the PCUSA, make checks to Medical Benevolence Foundation and send to 3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77063. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line. Or go to <http://www.mbfoundation.org/index.php> to give on line.

If you wish to give directly to IMCK, make checks out to IMCK and send to Wachovia Bank ([www.wachovia.com](http://www.wachovia.com)): Account number: 20000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai; c/o Worldwide Ministries Div- Zaire. If using this method, please send an email concurrently to IMCK management at the above address to inform them of the amount and any designation as to its intended purpose so they can manage it appropriately.

### Newsletter Matters

To add or remove a name from this list, write to Charlotte Rule White at [docwhite@hargray.com](mailto:docwhite@hargray.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions to this newsletter.