



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI



## Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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**A Monthly Newsletter (Usually!)**

**Issue No 22 - November 2012**

**Medical Benevolence Foundation supports new IMCK College:** When the three year old IMCK college, ISTM, began their new school year in September, 181 students were enrolled. 26 students are enrolled in the first three years of midwifery. 69 students are enrolled in the first three years of health management & administration. 86 students are enrolled in the nursing pediatrics program, started 2 years ago.

While state inspectors have already visited ISTM as a new school, ISTM anticipates two government inspections this next year. One inspection in February 2013 is to verify the records of the 24 finalist students before diplomas may be issued. The other will be in April 2013 to review the curriculum, clinical work, media center and library to enable ISTM to have definitive licensure for the school.

To prepare for these inspections, ISTM is renovating an older depot facility into a classroom and trying to improve computer and library facilities. Recently, Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) sent a donation for ISTM, of \$30,000 for scholarships and \$5,000 for beds in the girls' dorm. Thanks to MBF for this donation, which will help in the long road for ISTM to create a college with high standards. Submitted by Alexis Nzamba & Charlotte White

### **War in eastern Congo:**

The biannual IMCK Board November meeting was cancelled just days before members were to travel to Kananga for that meeting. Escalation of war in eastern Congo, and especially the recent capture of Goma by the insurgent group M23, increased risk for an insurgency that could sweep west from Goma. War in eastern Congo, rooted in efforts of other African countries for territorial expansion to grab the mineral riches of Congo, has been going for over ten years. 500-plus miles and terrible roads lie between Kananga and Congo's eastern war. But containment of the insurgents/Congo borders depends primarily on two things: the strength of the Congo government/army/police to maintain eastern Congo and the influence of the international community in advocating peace.



So life goes on for the people of Congo. And IMCK's work continues with people needing medical care, doctors seeing patients, surgery schedules, a campus busy with students in many fields of medical service, and the constant struggle to administer medical and teaching programs with minimal material. News comes, even as this newsletter is about to go out, that the US Senate unanimously passed an amendment

to impose sanctions on those providing financial, material, or technological support to the M23 rebel group in Congo. <http://t.co/Vb7j5oCB> It is about time. And today there is news that M23 has pulled out of Goma, but not out of the area. Congo's political turmoil continues. Meanwhile, partnerships of IMCK with churches, other medical institutions, and NGOs, both inside Congo and beyond in the international community, help support the medical work and

(Cont-pg 2-War)



First Year ISTM students in Management and Administration

### **IMCK Chapel construction progress:**

Phase one of the building of IMCK Chapel at Tshikaji is completed. Pastor Simon Kabue writes, "The work of the construction of the chapel began with the the foundation, which is completely finished. The height of the walls began with some materials that were left after the foundation and it stopped pending funding of the second stage. Members of the Tshikaji congregation are very happy, for this project was a dream that today is going to happen. It is true that much remains to be done outside of the funds that the PCUSA can do for this work. The dream is to put the tiles on the floor, pulpit, glass, toilets, all office equipment, benches, etc.. I believe that given the high number of the Tshikaji population, this chapel will be extended and enlarged in the future."



However, having a chapel as it is is a great joy for the whole community (students, workers, accompanying the sick, etc..) In this environment, where houses on the station are made of durable materials, we want the house of God to far surpass those for humans. We continue to pray that the Lord still raises goodwill, which can subscribe to the implementation and completion of this good project. Glory be to God alone. Simon Kabue"

Bill Rule, working with IMCK and CPC to build the chapel writes, "We are happy to report that PC(USA) has received a financial report & pictorial evidence showing completion of the foundation and a portion of the walls for the IMCK Founders' Chapel. There appear to have been minor changes in the plan from those previously published in this newsletter and we are awaiting an updated copy from CPC/IMCK, which we hope to publish in the next issue. In the meantime, we have requested that PC(USA) release the next funding increment of \$11,349 for completion of the wall phase of the structure. Please join us in rejoicing over this wonderful progress."

To contribute to the building of this chapel, send donations to PC(USA) by writing a check to PC(USA) and mark the gift for **ECO#862737/IMCK/Chapel**. Individuals mail it to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Notify JoAnn Saunders of PC(USA) of your donation by writing her at [JoAnn.Saunders@pcusa.org](mailto:JoAnn.Saunders@pcusa.org)  
Submitted by C. White

**Cont'd - War in East:** teaching of this vital faith-based institution. And what is the definition of partner? Partner - a person/organization which takes part in an undertaking with another or others, with shared risks or profits. Consider the risks and profits of IMCK partnership, of Christian partnership, of human partnership. We are in this world together. As the song goes, "It's a small world, after all." Editorial by Charlotte White

### **Marcia Murray on her way to IMCK!**

Marcia Murray, who plans to teach at IMCK for a few years as a Congo Presbyterian Church/IMCK guest and volunteer, arrived in Kinshasa a week ago and is staying at the Methodist Presbyterian Hostel, while her DRC visa for staying in the Congo is processed. Her email is [marcia.b.murray@ttu.edu](mailto:marcia.b.murray@ttu.edu). She will be teaching math and other courses at Tshikaji for IMCK and is fluent in French and Tshiluba. By C White



### **MATTRESS NEWS:** Charles Johnson writes:

Hey Folks, By now Mattresses for Congo has purchased 375 brand spanking new hospital mattresses and started shipping them in batches [from Kinshasa] to the Kasai. Ruthie Bobb Schaad and Simon Ntumba have been instrumental in getting this moving ahead of schedule. Originally, we hoped to have them delivered to the hospitals by March 1, 2013, but with their help on the ground in Congo, we now hope to have them delivered by Christmas! Can you think of a better way to honor the birth of our Savior!

But we need your help to finish meeting our goal of \$50,000.00 by Christmas. There are twenty three days remaining until then, and we lack \$5,045.00 to meet our goal. I know we'll make it, but not without some help from you. I know that there was probably some skepticism about whether we could pull this off when we first began this effort on June 6, 2012. What a remarkable response to help the folks served by the mission hospitals in Congo! But we can't let up before the finish line.

As we approach Christmas day, I hope you will think about this cause in relationship to the birth of Christ and his teachings about loving our neighbors as ourselves. Wouldn't a new mattress, which costs \$57.45, be a great way to honor a loved one for Christmas? May the peace of Christ be with you.  
Charles



Red vinyl covers for the new blue mattresses going to hospitals.

To Donate, go to: [www.crowdrise.com/mattressesforcongo](http://www.crowdrise.com/mattressesforcongo)

**Travel to Congo; are you interested?** Charlotte White is leading a two week trip to Congo, departing about Jan 30 and returning around Feb 14. The focus of this trip is to gain more information for groups in America to partner with IMCK or to support some of the major projects of IMCK. Needed are any of the following:

- Dentist or dental hygienist to assess IMCK dental service for needs and ways to strengthen their program.
- Ophthalmologist or optometrist to assess the ophthalmology service. Optician also welcome.
- Health administration person to consult on the clinics, computer system or supply system.
- Representative of a church or program that is interested in partnering with IMCK on some projects.
- Person with skills in public relations/marketing to consult with staff or give presentations.
- Person with skills to work with computers and to create some follow-up visually compelling stories of IMCK.
- Person ready to commit to some follow up work in writing or telling the story of IMCK.

Total trip costs - \$3,000 to \$3,500. The international ticket must be purchased by mid Dec. If you want to learn more about this trip, write to Charlotte - [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Participate in a remarkable program for remarkable people! Submitted by C White

**The Friends of IMCK** project to raise \$500,000 for an endowment for IMCK requires phone conferences and work each month. In November, emails have been sent to presbyteries/churches interested in a fund raising project for the IMCK endowment. Some endowments for IMCK are being formed that are named after a particular person to be honored. If you wish to know more about this, go to <http://www.imck.org/>



The IMCK website is a great resource. Go to [www.IMCK.org](http://www.IMCK.org) or type it into your browser. Write [FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com](mailto: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://www.imck.org) & <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> & [www.mbfoundation.org](http://www.mbfoundation.org) & <http://www.congopartners.org/> and [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/) (search IMCK Congo) and <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 [anbwash@centurylink.net](mailto:anbwash@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/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Read, learn, get involved.

**Board Members of IMCK at the May 2012 meeting:**

- Dr. Larry Sthreshley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
- Rev. Barker Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
- Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
- Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
- Mr. Laurent Camisole Kwanzaa - CMCO Representative
- Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
- Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
- Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
- Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. Patrick Kebab Tshibemba - CPC Representative
- Dr Blaise Ndandu - IMCK Representative

**Current IMCK Administration:** [imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr)  
IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Zambia  
Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu  
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- Legal Representative

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](http://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](http://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 Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Bill Rule, Jo Stewart, Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.