



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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A Periodic Newsletter

Issue No 37 - August - December 2015

FROM THE IMCK ADMINISTRATION:

Kananga, December 14, 2015
 Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 I greet you warmly in the Lord. At this time, when the world is preparing to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace and the new year 2016 is looming, I write to thank you for your involvement and especially the interest you continue to manifest in the health ministry of Christian Medical Institute of Kasai (IMCK).



ITM Students in nursing & lab



In 2015, IMCK continued to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through its health ministry, training health professionals and providing medical care to the population of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in general, and especially through Kasai. This has been done by our qualified medical and paramedical staff, who are dedicated and committed to health promotion. But it has also been held up with your constant

spiritual, material and financial support. The visits to our country by some of you have been of great comfort and encouragement.



Six of the 11 medical staff.

It is thanks to your financial support that we have been able to execute some of our projects in order to achieve some of the IMCK objectives:

- Rehabilitating and renovating the laboratory
- Building the intensive care unit at the Good Shepherd Hospital
- Renovating and relocating the dental clinic at the PAX Clinic
- Building the Founders Chapel of IMCK
- Training staff (as in the case of Mr. Jean Batena)
- Granting scholarships to 44 students of the Medical Technical Institute (ITM) and 10 students of the Higher Institute of Medical Techniques (ISTM)
- Providing charitable medical care to poor patients
- Supplying the hospital and Pax Clinic with medicines, lab supplies and radiology
- Nutritionally rehabilitating children at the Nutrition Center
- Ensuring maintenance of the HBB and Pax,
- Installing a new accounting system

These are to name a few.

It is through you that we have also received donations in kind to include: two EKG machines, forty patient beds, a gynecological table, two Dopplers, stethoscopes and otoscopes, and accessories for the morgue. (Continued on page 3 - Letter from IMCK Administration.)



Dental Clinic



Newborn baby born at PAX

Young boy treated for TB

IMCK is a tertiary or referral hospital, where fistula repairs are performed : One hundred vaginal fistula surgeries were performed at Good Shepherd Hospital in October. Dr. Leon Mubikayi, a specialist in this surgery, visited IMCK under the support of SANRU (Congo rural health program, supported by IMA) and performed the surgeries during an intensive two-week surgery period. About 50 of the patients came from Kananga and the surrounding areas, another 50 came from distant rural regions.



Dr Leon Mubikayi



Kapinga Annie

Nurse Kapinga Annie administers the maternity, gynecology, and prenatal care division at IMCK. She reported that fistulas develop in women mostly during childbirth. Many women in this repair program birthed their babies at home in rural areas. When complications caused them to stay in labor for multiple days, the baby died and their bladder or other organs were punctured in the process. Others went to deliver at a health center, but the center and staff were not equipped to deal with the complications. Five of the cases treated were fistulas received during surgery; [unfortunately, all countries have a small % of incompetent people in medicine!]

The surgery to repair a fistula may require multiple surgeries, depending on the complication. For example, a woman named Lusamba went to the health center to deliver her first pregnancy. She was in labor 2 days before they referred her to the nearest hospital, where a C-section was performed. By then, the baby had died, and she had a large fistula. Her husband left her because of the shame she brought on him, always smelling from leaking urine. Now, 7 years later, she has had 3 surgeries and the fistula is finally completely repaired. She praises God and is overjoyed for this repair. Of the 100 women treated, 38 had been living with a fistula more than 5 years. One patient was a 13-year old girl, impregnated by her brother-in-law. She delivered the baby, but with severe complications and a resulting fistula.

Nurse Kapinga said this project required extra hospital effort to provide materials and staff for this intense period of surgeries. Dr. Mubikayi brought equipment, medications, and materials donated for these surgeries. The staff changed the patients' bedsheets twice a day and washed their clothes, to ensure a sense of dignity from cleanliness and minimal urine odor. Additional beds were added in the ward. Still, some patients were placed two to a bed for recuperation. Dr. Mukendi, a staff doctor at IMCK, also performs fistula surgeries occasionally, but the added experience and expertise of Dr. Mubikayi was helpful for the volume and degree of some complications.

We are grateful for the significant impact in the lives of these women, achieved through the partnership of several organizations, including IMCK. Nurse Kapinga said that the need for fistula surgeries in Kasai continues to be high, and [she knows that the SANRU and ASSI programs continue to enact preventive measures, such as more training and materials for remote areas and more public education.] We pray that these women who have found physical healing will also now be accepted back into their communities and families after many have lived for years in isolation and shame.

Submitted by Kristi Rice/Edited by C. White



Nurse Kapinga with women who had fistula repairs at IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital .

Editorial Note: Usually, I send an IMCK newsletter every two months. My sincere apologies for this lapse of five months. There is so much news to give at this point, that I pledge to send another newsletter in January with news about many aspects at IMCK, on such things as IMCK renovations, the many student programs at IMCK, the November 2015 board meeting, progress for the IMCK endowment and more. Here at the end of the year, consider making a donation to the ROW retirement fund or the Friends of IMCK endowment fund, or any number of special projects through Medical Benevolence Foundation. Every donation, large or small, is a noble gift for work in Congo. May God bless us each and everyone. Charlotte White

Cont'd Letter from IMCK: This means that your support to IMCK is so large that it is difficult to accurately assess its true value. We thank you with all our hearts.

We wish that the patients who received your donations could themselves thank you. Be assured your donations were used to benefit patients. And all the time when you have given these things to IMCK to serve the poor, it is to HIM you gave. (Matthew 25: 38-46). We ask you to pray for IMCK & our ministry, for yourselves & for organizations, churches & individuals listed below for their support to the Ministry of Health of IMCK during the year 2015. (Many others gave thru PCUSA, MBF, ROW and FIMCK!)



He is thankful for your help.

1. Presbyterian Church USA
2. Medical Benevolence Foundation
3. Rivers of the World
4. ASSP (Public Health Program supported by IMA World Health)
5. Friends of IMCK (FIMCK)
6. Central Kasai Provincial Government
7. Rotary Club of Woy Woy, Australia
8. First Presby Church of Newberg, OR
9. First Presby of Colonial, Sheridan, WY
10. First-Scotts Presby Church, Charleston, SC
11. Mineral Presby Church, Mineral, WA
12. First Presby Church, McMinnville, OR
13. Gwynedd Square PC, Lansdale, PA
14. First Presby Church, Canistota, SD
15. Mars Hill Presby Church, Athens, TN
16. Westminster Presby C, Medford, OR
17. Bethel Presby Church, Columbus, OH
18. First Presby Church, Cranbury, NJ
19. Eastminster Presby Church, Colombia, SC
20. Davidson College Presby Church, Davidson, NC
21. Wytheville Presby Church, Wytheville, VA
22. First Presby Church of Hilton Head, Hilton Head, SC
23. First Presby Church of Danville, Danville, KY
24. The Presby Church of Dover, Dover, DE
25. First Presby Church of Knoxville, Knoxville, TN
26. Eastminster Presby Church, Indianlantic, FL
27. John Knox Presby Church, Indianapolis, IN
28. Oakmont Presby Church, Birmingham, AL
29. Sinking Valley Presby Church, Tyrone, PA
30. Trinity Presby Church, Greenwood, SC
31. Broad Street Presby Church, Columbus, OH
32. Mr. & Mrs. Grier White, Lewes, DE
33. Ms. Lois J. Silva, NJ
34. Rev. & Mrs. Leonard C. Beenken, Streator, IL
35. Mr. Scott A. Sorenson, Casper, WY
36. Rev. & Mrs. William C Washburn, Bland, VA
37. Mr. & Mrs. Kent Stephens, Dublin, OH

Our prayer is that the Lord continue to bless you in all that you undertake for your development and that the year 2016 will bring you peace, happiness and prosperity.

Your brother in His service,
Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu, IMCK Administrator

Numbers of IMCK Staff are retiring: At the IMCK Board meeting in May 2015, the board recognized that six leaders and other IMCK staff were at the point of retirement, but that IMCK did not have the funds for their pensions. This is due to operational problems when the staff had not been paid salaries and the current salary needs superseded retirement coverage. Rivers of the World (ROW) has agreed to try to raise \$130,000 in pensions for those who have served IMCK faithfully through many years. The appeal for this fund was sent in September, but for more information, go to the IMCK web site. See <http://imck.org> The new accounting system for IMCK addresses ways to prevent this problem in the future.

Jimmy Shafe reports in early December: "The loving response has been strong to help provide for the retirement pensions of six key leaders from IMCK, along with many others who have served many years as cooks, nurses, aides, any other roles. Since the campaign was announced at the end of August we have received just over \$50,000. The total need is \$130,000, so we are at 38%. **To donate, please send to: ROW-Congo, 3640 Hewatt Court, Snellville, GA 30039 Mark the donation IMCK retirement.** Note, ROW is doing this as a favor to IMCK and 100% will go toward the retirement pensions. Thank you and God bless you, Jimmy Shafe"

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 anwash@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. Its 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 Bimvulu, Kristi Rice, Jimmy Shafe, and Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write CRuleWhite@gmail.com. We welcome your contributions!