



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI



Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

B. P. 205 Kananga, Republique Democratique du Congo ; Email: imckbusiness@yahoo.fr

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 14 - December 2011



A THANK YOU FROM KANANGA:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” during this period when we await the celebration of the birth of Him who loved us first.

The year 2011 is coming to an end. Through our combined efforts (yours and ours), the IMCK has survived to this day. By our field work and with your support, financial, material and spiritual, we have continued to serve the people of this part of the country. To do this, we want to take this opportunity to mark the end of 2011 and the beginning of a new year by thanking all of you (pastors, mission committee members, presbyteries, congregations, Friends of IMCK) with all our heart for your support, your encouragement and your prayers.

Over the years, we have been encouraged by your interest and willingness to continue to assist IMCK. You have often reached out not to receive but to give your

different gifts. We emphasize here the particular and constant involvement of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Bethel Presbyterian Church, Rivers of the World, Presbyterian Church USA, Charlotte Rule White and Mike and Nancy Haninger, not to mention all those who work at IMCK.

One thing that remains true is that we all need to continue a joint effort to help IMCK to effectively accomplish its mission: to train professionals and provide health care for the sick. People often ask IMCK to demonstrate self sufficiency; we all truly want this. But it would be hard to believe in these times that IMCK could completely finance itself. Everyone knows that the Good Shepherd Hospital is a rural hospital. For example, some of the fees are set based on the number of cassava plants (the staple food) a woman can sell to buy one medical consultation. Good Shepherd treats many indigent patients. Even some more affluent people, in bad faith, refuse to pay their bills by claiming that IMCK is a charitable institution. This makes it difficult to attain self sufficiency in a world of poverty.

At the same time that much of the population has trouble accessing medical care, certain IMCK programs are growing. For example, since IMCK opened ISTM, the new college for degrees in nursing and health administration, the enrollment has doubled in one year. The PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga is in such demand that the IMCK Board has prioritized modernization of the PAX lab and revitalization of the clinic. This will increase activity and improve the quality of care. In the midst of all this activity, we cannot give up our efforts to do good.

Over the past year, we have been comforted by your visits, including Myers Park Presbyterian Church and Rivers of the World. But we invite others of you to come see for yourself the work being done here.

Thank you greatly for your help in all we have been able to accomplish this past year, and we count on you for years of working together. On behalf of the Christian Medical Institute of Kasai (IMCK) and those who have benefitted from your donations, I wish you a Happy Feast of the Nativity of Christ and a Happy New Year in 2012.

Your brother in Christ,
Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu



AIDS patient served at PAX by IMCK nurse.



Children whose families could not pay the bill. Your money helped



Sewing school built by Rivers of the World for women post fistula surgery.



Above: 3 of the choirs of the Ecumenical Parish of IMCK Tshikaji: one of the ladies', ITM students and children's'.

The Ecumenical Parish of IMCK Tshikaji:

The Ecumenical Parish of IMCK was founded April 8, 1984 in order to accompany spiritually the IMCK workers and their families, the students of ITM and ISTM (high school and college level schools in various medical programs) and all people living in the villages that surround Tshikaji. [Because IMCK was founded by Presbyterians, Mennonites and Methodists and later served by personnel from many denominations, the Parish took the name "Ecumenical". Since its foundation, congregants have met for worship and meetings in the dining room of the IMCK nursing and lab school.]

The parish of 508 members includes 87 men, 154 women, 132 youth and 135 children and is directed by the presbytery composed of 9 elders and 8 deacons. [Rev Dr Simon Kabue Mbala serves as the minister at this church.] Six choirs serve the church, each with a different name: ITM, Good Seed, Choir of Angels, Social, Alukilayi and Ecodem. Church services are every Sunday morning. Youth meetings are every Saturday at 5 pm and the women of the church meet every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Seven groups meet for lay Bible studies. Adults hold Sunday School at 8 am and Children's Sunday School is at 10 am. 24 children were in catechism class in 2011.

Church projects include a restaurant, assistance to the needy, a community project to grow peanuts and pistachios, making hand made soaps and evangelization with Christian film. Future church plans include the construction of a church, establishing a mill, building a home for the aged, micro credit projects, more material for music and making bread.

For December, Rev. Kabue Mbala gave sermons on the theme: "Prepare the way of the Lord." (Mark 1:1-2). This Advent season allows members to remember the promise made by God to save the world. While Christmas is the celebration of the fulfillment of this promise, it is for each Christian to review his or her relation with God in view of real reconciliation. Submitted by Rev. Dr. Simon Kabue Mbala

Two men serving on the IMCK staff, who attended the ITM high school at IMCK: IMCK was founded for the purpose of providing medical care and a teaching facility by a Christian organization. The nursing school, founded in 1954, is called Institut Technique Medical de Tshikaji or ITM. Today, ITM is a high school from which one can graduate with a degree in nursing or lab technician. Last year, the school Institut Superior Technique Medical (ISTM) was founded to provide a college degree in aspects of nursing or medical administration. Here are two men who graduated years ago from ITM, the high school, & serve at IMCK in positions of responsibility:

Dr. Alex Mvita Kanda (nicknamed TonTon) was born in Ndemba in the Kasai Occidental. He attended several years of high school in Katoka but transferred to the Tshikaji School of Nursing or ITM. After graduation from ITM in 1987, he worked as an anesthetist at IMCK until 1996. From 1996 until 2005, he attended the University of Lubumbashi, graduating from medical school. From 2005 to the present, he has been the physician in charge of pediatrics at IMCK. He is married to Simone Katujudi, also an IMCK nursing graduate, and they have four children. Dr. Mvita says that he loves to champion telling



the truth and to fighting against injustice.

Submitted by Bernard Kabibu & Gibende Hippolithe

Hypolite Lulua Lukadi works at IMCK as an ophthalmology technician. He was born near Tshikapa in Kasai Occidental. He received a good early education there. He is married with many children. Because he wanted to enter medical studies, he came to Tshikaji near Kananga to enter ITM. There he received his diploma in nursing Level A2 (high school degree) in 1991. He was trained by Dr. Ralph Shannon and Dr. Kasonga Lemba Lemba, two IMCK ophthalmologists, to be a technician for that department. Since 1991, he has remained working in the ophthalmology clinic of PAX, now for 20 years. In 1999, he went to Kinshasa to complete a course at Centre Ophthalmologigique d'Afrique Centrale (CFOAC). He obtained a certificate as a Superior Technician in Ophthalmology in 2002. A tip of the hat for his long service at IMCK! Submitted by Bakatusenga Buledi



John and Gwenda Fletcher have been mission coworkers serving at Tshikaji and write the following in their latest newsletter. Contact them! Invite them! "We will be in the States from mid-January through Aug 2012 on Interpretation Assignment. That means we will be available to share with anyone who invites us about what God is doing in the Congo. If you would like us to visit your church, presbytery, synod, Sunday School class – whatever – let us know (fletchers@imck.org). PC(USA) still pays our salary while we're on IA but unfortunately, their budget doesn't stretch to travel expenses. Since it can be expensive for a single church to pay for our travel from our home base (which will be New Bern, North Carolina – where our daughter Rachel and her family live) it usually works best to coordinate with other churches in the same area who may be interested in splitting costs. We'll do what we can (drive, ride the bus, take a red-eye flight) to keep costs at a minimum and if you're interested in having us visit but can't swing the costs, let us know and we'll try to find a way to make it work." Submitted by Charlotte White

Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> & www.mbfoundation.org & <http://www.congopartners.org/> and www.facebook.com/ (search IMCK Congo) and <http://congohelpinghands.org/> & <http://www.row.org/congo-kasai-2009-update/>. 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, Woody Collin's Congo work, ROW work. To join Congo Connections, write Annette 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/. Read, learn, get involved.



The new organization, Friends of IMCK (FIMCK), was formed in 2011 to help sustain IMCK's care of indigent people and to support IMCK in the goal of training people of Congo to serve in various medical fields. To do that, the first goal of FIMCK is to raise \$500,000 for an endowment program. Since the start of this organization in September, the

response has been profound. In January, we will announce the amount raised to date and the names of churches and individuals who have joined FIMCK. To join FIMCK and support this worthy project, Checks can be made out to the Medical

Benevolence Foundation (MBF) with "IMCK Endowment Fund" on the memo line and mailed to Medical Benevolence Foundation/ FIMCK, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090. To donate **On Line**, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> and follow the directions. Submitted by Charlotte White

Board Members of IMCK

These were the representatives at the Nov 2011 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative (Presby Church USA)
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative
Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Representative
Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion - IMCK Representative
Ms. Jo Stewart - PCUSA Representative
Dr. Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
Mr. Simon Ntumba Tshitenge - IMCK Representative

IMCK Administration: imckbusiness@yahoo.fr

Interim IMCK Director - Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion
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 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 50 years. To help with supplies needed, please contact Charlotte White at CRuleWhite@gmail.com.

How to make a donation to IMCK:

To give to the Friends of IMCK, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> and follow the directions or write a check to Medical Benevolence Foundation and write For Friends of IMCK. Send it to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090.

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 checks to IMCK. Send to Wachovia Bank/Wells Fargo (www.wachovia.com): Account number: 20000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai; c/o Worldwide Ministries Div- Zaire. Then please send an email concurrently to Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (above address) informing him of the amount and designation, so IMCK can manage it appropriately.

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

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: Bakatusenga Buledi, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Simon Kabue Mbala, Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at CRuleWhite@gmail.com. Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.