



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 - January/February 2012

The January IMCK newsletter went missing! Between the January power outage at Tshikaji, and my responsibilities with Friends of IMCK, the IMCK Newsletter, Congo Mission Network and work as a Nurse Practitioner, my time management has slipped! But I promise with this newsletter, to return to a monthly newsletter. Charlotte White

“I was blind, but now I see.” John 9:25. In 1972, the **Ophthalmology Department of IMCK** was founded by Dr Ralph Shannon, Ophthalmologist and then Medical Director of IMCK. The service was first provided in the city of Kananga but was transferred in 1975 to the Good Shepherd Hospital at Tshikaji. When the PAX Clinic was started in the city of Kananga in 1980, the Ophthalmology Clinic was moved back to the city and has been at PAX ever since. Since 2001, that program has been directed by Dr Roger Kapembu Kandu, Ophthalmologist, and he is assisted by Mr Hippolithe Lulua Lukadi, Ophthalmology Technician and Mr Samuel Bakatusenga Buledi, who does optician work. This program is partially supported by the Christoffel Blinden (Blind) Mission. It currently has a great shortage of such basic supplies as lens, frames, and powder to make eye drops.

Dr Roger Kapembu Kandu is from Kasai Oriental. He attended primary and secondary school in Mbuji-Mayi and then attended the University of Kinshasa. He graduated from



Dr Roger Kapembu Kandu

medical school there in 1993 and procured a specialty degree in ophthalmology in 2001. He is married to Suzanne Muenier and they have 13 children. His motto is “I do not like violence. I avoid violence.” Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu See PG 2: “I was blind, but..”

ISTM, the new IMCK university level institution, called Institut Superieur des Techniques Medicales, opened in November of 2010. Now in the second year of operation, the university has 118 students enrolled in three different programs: Nursing in Midwifery, Nursing in Pediatrics, and Health Management. The Director of ISTM, Mr Alexis Mayambi, and the Academic General Secretary, Mr Jacques Mpoi Kajingulu, are assisted by 20 contract teachers. Mr Celestin Bimine is Facility Manager of two new ISTM buildings, built with a USAID grant coordinated by Medical Benevolence Foundation. In this new university, note the classroom full of students. Then note the multipurpose room awaiting some person(s) or churches to partner with IMCK for a computer learning center, an area with beds and mannequins, fetoscopes, dopplers and other teaching material. ISTM asks that someone in the US with skills to teach these programs consider coming to help teach these college programs. ISTM asks that some church consider partnering with IMCK to provide scholarships for students in this program. Material, teaching skills, scholarships are needed. Students are coming to this school with so little; yet they are so eager to learn! Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe & Alexis Mayambi Nzamba



Room full of students...



Room empty of computers or equipment.

ANNOUNCING! The new website for IMCK is now on line for the public. Go to www.IMCK.org. If you have trouble linking to it, type it directly to your browser. Please tell others about it. Write us at FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com, if you want to advise us or help us with this. If you have a web site, please consider linking to us. You need javascripts to enjoy the full functionality of the site. By Bill Rule

“I was blind, but now I see.” John 9:25. This statement also applies to the blindness of Mr Crispin Ka Kapemba Kamanga. He sterilizes the equipment for the IMCK Dental Clinic, called the Sandy Marks Dental Clinic of IMCK. He benefitted from the IMCK Ophthalmology service and gives this testimony: “I started having problems with my eyes several years ago. My vision became blurred. I could not clearly see people. I still could not read using reading glasses. I went to Ophthalmology and was told I had a cataract in my right eye. I had an operation in June of 2011 and the operation was successful. Now with the operation and care from the staff, I can see! Of course, because of my age, I need reading glasses. I am so grateful for the service I received from ophthalmology.”

Mr Crispin Kamanga is one of the oldest workers of the Congo Presbyterian Church. After attending years of high school at Katubue and then a year of schooling at IMCK Nursing school, he began work at the CPC Dental Clinic in 1967, under the direction of Dr John Hillsman. In 1991, the CPC Dental Clinic closed. Mr Crispin Kamanga then



Crispin Kamanga

transferred to work in the new Dental Clinic opened at PAX under IMCK. He continues to work there sterilizing equipment and cleaning the facility. Mr Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu, former Director of the Dental Clinic, says of Mr Kamanga, “When he started at the clinic, he was 44 years old

and weighed only 99 lbs, so there was concern whether he was fit for work. But he proved suitable for all work, was hard working and always ready to serve. I never saw him take a sick day off. He had never taken even a single tablet of aspirin.” Mr Kamanga lost his wife, Mbuyi Kasenga, in 1994. He has never remarried and took the name of St Paul. He lives with his four sons and two daughters. He is scheduled to retire in 2012, but has asked to continue working until 2013. IMCK and CPC are thankful for the great service of Mr Crispin Ka Kapemba Kamanga. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

The new organization, Friends of IMCK, continues to have people join in support of IMCK. As of February 15, over 75 people have joined Friends of IMCK (FIMCK.) In addition, donations to the FIMCK Endowment Plan have been coming steadily. As of February 15, 2012, \$69,034 has been donated directly to the Endowment plan. Another \$878 have been donated separately to provide for expenses in raising the money or printing material. This is great progress! The following are names of Churches and people, who have joined Friends of IMCK:*



Rockville Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Davidson College Presbyterian Church - Presbyterian Women

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Karl Benson | Patricia Phillips |
| Harry & Sylvia Bolton | Robert Pruitt |
| John & Linda Coffin | Dr Birch & Peggy Rambo |
| Margaret Connell & Steve Phillips | Matthew Rhodes/Nancy Cole |
| Heather Copeland | Dr Dennis Ries |
| Susan Spooner Copeland | James L Robinson |
| Marjorie Culbertson | Linda Spooner Roth |
| Dr Robert & Dorothy Douglas | Bill & Beth Rule |
| Mr & Mrs Raymond Elkes | John & Kay Rule |
| Dr Hugh & Ellen Farrior | Dr Faye Sinclair |
| Michael & Miriam Gavigan | Bill & Willie Simmons |
| Byron Goodrum | Dr Ronald & Judith Sisel |
| Robert & Mary Gould | Joanne Smith |
| Ruth Hardage | Vanessa Stalkamp |
| Frances Hawkins | Joe & Amelia Sudderth |
| Raymond Huger | Jerry & Lynn VandeGrift |
| Sarah Spooner Jarratt | Dr David & Ruth Ann Webster |
| Linda Dickerson Johns | Marcia Whitney-Schenck |
| Michael & Heidi Jung | Fred Williamson |
| Phillip & Ann Jung | Dr Lamar & Ruthmary Williamson |
| Revs Shannon & Patricia Jung | Steve & Charlotte White |
| Warren B Jung | Jim & Elizabeth Woodruff |
| Rev Edwin & Mae Kang | William Worth Jr |
| J S Langrall | Rev Don & Marlene Wyenberg |
| Dr Mary Sue Makin | *Time between donation & report to this editor is about 2 weeks. |
| Phyllis Goodrum McAndrew | Submitted by Charlotte White |
| Drs Merle Miller/ Alex Maslaka | |
| Rev Elsie McKee | |



ITM Students Digging

Tshikaji Electricity Emergency: On Jan 22, 2012, after a severe thunderstorm with very bad lightning, electricity to the Good Shepherd Hospital was lost. After careful troubleshooting by our electrician Tatu Nkashama and the lead hydro operator Tatu Ntefu and his team, they concluded that there had been damage to the underground high-voltage power lines. Students (both boys and girls) from the ITM (the IMCK nursing and laboratory technology school) did a large part of the work of digging up (Cont'd on page 3)



ITM Students Digging

Electricity Continued: the almost one kilometer long section of cables. Several areas of the cables were found to have burned through. After consultation with volunteer electrical engineers here in the USA (Bill Kell and Jerry Vandegrift), we concluded that a lightning strike had induced a severe voltage surge in the cables, causing them to burn through. In addition, from the information provided by telephone conversations with the operators, the engineers detected damage to a relay and provided a solution. The damaged cable was repaired using splicers that had been obtained when the hydro electric facility was built. Once all the repairs were accomplished, the power to the hospital was restored on Jan 31. Praise the Lord for the well trained staff at IMCK, who were able to do the necessary repairs and for the engineers here in the USA who are willing to give of their time and effort to provide expert guidance. The engineers recommend that the cables in this area be replaced, when possible, in order to prevent further problems in areas where the cable may have been damaged but where damage could not be detected. We request your prayers, that we will be able to find the necessary funds to purchase and ship new high-voltage cable.

Submitted by John Fletcher, who is in the USA at present with his wife, Gwenda, as they travel about to churches and meetings, telling people about their work at Tshikaji as mission coworkers. To invite them to speak this spring or summer, write to them at fletchers@imck.org.

Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: www.imck.org & <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/>. 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. 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.

IMCK Board: Rev Birakara Ilowa Jolie is Vice President of the Mennonite Community of Congo. He grew up near Banga and Ilebo attending primary school there and later attending secondary school (high school) at Nyanga. He graduated in 1984 from the Christian University of Kinshasa with a degree in theology and later procured a second degree in theology from the Protestant University of Kinshasa. He returned to Banga in 1992 where he taught in the Ecole Secondaire or High School, served as the Chaplain, and also taught at the College at Ilebo, Institut Superior de Theologie. In 2004, he was elected Vice President of the Mennonite Community of Congo, which has 335 pastors (at the time of this interview in 2011.) The Church has members in the Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental, Bandundu, and in Kinshasa. He is married to Martine Mingunu and they have five children. When asked what languages he speaks, he listed Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala, and French. He thought intently when asked if he had a particular motto or creed. He desires for people to communicate well and work well together. He believes in people working together & having good relationships. 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. Blaise Ndandu
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, 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 Friends of IMCK, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> & follow the directions. Or write a check to Friends of IMCK & write For Endowment. Send it 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 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.

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 of someone, if desired.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: John Fletcher, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Alexis Mayambi Nzamba, Bill Rule, 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.