



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

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

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**A Monthly or Bimonthly Newsletter**

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While this newsletter features some churches & presbyteries that are partnering with IMCK, news came this month of the death of two beloved people: Simone Katujudi Nkuna, who was a nurse employed at IMCK & was the wife of Dr Alex Mvita Kanda, also working at IMCK; & Peggy Rambo, who served at IMCK as a missionary with her husband, Dr Birch Rambo. So this comes with news of grieving, as well as news of IMCK partnerships, renovations, projects, visitors & future plans. To members of other partnering churches not mentioned here; PLEASE send pictures & news of your partnership with IMCK! Next month, read more about people at IMCK. by Charlotte White

**A VISIT TO CONGO:** At First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in Knoxville, members on the way to worship make their way through the Rule Parlor, displaying artifacts and books from a life of mission in the Congo. For FPC members, this collection of Dr. Bill & Effie Rule evokes memories of over 70 years of partnership with IMCK. Through Bill and Effie Rule, the IMCK was for us a distant vision of service in a challenging country. We welcomed visitors from the IMCK & faithfully supported its ministries through prayer & resources. But not until January 2014, when our pastor, Dr. William Pender, & four church members – Sherri Allison, Debbie & Jimmy Jones & Colleen Shannon – travelled to Tshikaji, did anyone from FPC Knoxville visit.

Dismay was our first response to deteriorating facilities, antiquated equipment & inadequate supplies. This discouragement was eclipsed, however, by the enthusiasm & smiles of the students in ISTM & ITM, the competence & compassion of the medical and administrative staff, & the recognition that in spite of incredible challenges, IMCK continues to offer healing & hope for thousands of God's children.

This was an exploratory trip to deepen our understanding and commitment to the Congolese Presbyterian Church through all of its ministries. It was the first step in developing a real partnership with those whose faith, joy and perseverance in the face of adversity renews our own. (Cont'd on pg 4 - FPC Knoxville)

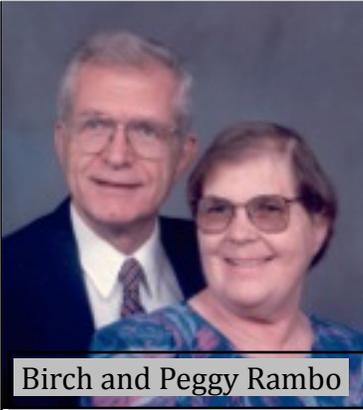


Members of FPC Knoxville and Rev Dr Simon Kabue, minister of Founders' Chapel

### CHURCHES SMALL AND BIG PARTNER WITH IMCK

The small church of **St. John's Presbyterian Church**, Camas, Washington was dedicated in 1886. With a current membership of about 130, they have partnered with IMCK for many years. One year, the minister, Rev Ken Campbell, distributed some money to each adult member and asked them to try to "multiply" this within a certain period. The funds from that project were sent to IMCK. St John's Church continues to have a vibrant home and global missions program with the mission statement of "celebrating the Gospel; living it to the world."

The **Wytheville Presbyterian Church**, Wytheville, VA, recently raised \$550 for IMCK with a potato bar luncheon and IMCK emphasis Sunday. A small church, they have been partnering with IMCK for many years. Bill and Annette Washburn, former missionaries to Congo, are members of that church. Bill Washburn was an early board member of IMCK. Annette, a nurse, taught in the ITM nursing and lab tech school of IMCK. (Cont'd pg 3 Churches Small & Big )



Birch and Peggy Rambo

**RECENT DEATHS:** On March 7, Dr Birch Rambo sent a message to family and friends that his wife Peggy had "gone home to the Lord." Peggy had a long illness and Birch had been devoted to her care. Peggy, born Margaret Gordon, grew up in Pakistan, the daughter of missionaries. She attended nursing school at Case Western Reserve and married Birch in 1952. Peggy and Birch served as missionaries in the Congo for almost 30 years, working at Bulape and IMCK. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, memorials be sent to the following: Medical Benevolence Foundation, for Good Shepherd Hospital – IMCK, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090 or donations by internet at <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/donate> On March 18, word came from MBF that 48 yr old Simone Katujudi Nkuna, who worked at IMCK but had traveled to Kenya for surgery, had died in Kenya. Her husband, Dr Alex Mvita Kande, has long served at IMCK. Nurse, mother of four, wife, elder, she leaves a family and friends in the IMCK community, who grieve her unexpected death and ask for your prayers. We will provide more information about her in the next newsletter. by C. White

**BRINGING PUBLIC HEALTH STUDIES TO IMCK**

In conjunction with Universite Protestante au Congo (UPC), Saint Louis University (SLU) in Missouri will offer public health courses in Tshikaji, at IMCK. In March, Dr. Ed Trevathan, Dean of the College for Public Health & Social Justice at SLU, traveled to IMCK to further develop the existing partnership & plans for this innovative educational program. He was accompanied by Dr. Larry Sthreshley, Dr. Scott Shannon, & Dr. Paul Law, who are [helping to facilitate] the health program.

Currently, minimal opportunities to study public health in the DR Congo exist, & no programs are located in central Congo. This program will provide opportunities for Congolese to obtain a Masters of Public Health. Public health studies will serve as a compliment to the current curriculum available at IMCK for nursing & medicine.

Congolese students with medical backgrounds & a passion for public health are eligible to apply for the program through Universite Protestante au Congo. In addition to Congolese students, select graduate students from SLU with special interests in global health will be invited to participate. SLU students will have a unique opportunity to learn about global health while being exposed to the realities of living & working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The shared classroom experience will allow American & Congolese students significant interactions, as they work & learn alongside one another. Along with public health studies, these students will deepen their understanding about their counterparts' home country while improving their French & English language skills. (Cont'd pg 3 - Public Health)

**Medical Benevolence Foundation** provided funds for ISTM to build 50 bunk beds for their college students, for ISTM has had an explosive enrollment & dorms are crowded. Below, note that before, students slept on the floors with nets strung up. Even after the bunk beds arrived in February, two people sleep on the bottom & two sleep on the top in many bunk beds and some still sleep on mattresses on the floor. These students are willing to undergo extreme dorm conditions to have an opportunity for education, but new dorms are needed. Pictures from Marcia Murray



**BEFORE:** See above in one of men's dorms how they slept on the floor. (Pallets have been rolled up.)  
**AFTER:** See below in one of womens' dorm how they have the bunk beds, which makes life better!



## NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY CONDUCTS MATCHING CAMPAIGN FOR IMCK ENDOWMENT

From last Fall through the end of the year, New Castle Presbytery (Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore) conducted a campaign to raise funds for the IMCK endowment. All donations from member churches in that time-frame were to be matched dollar-for-dollar from Presbytery funds. Under the leadership of Executive Presbyter, Rev. Jim Moseley, and Mission Development Chair, Rev. Laurie Loveless, 22 churches donated a total of \$7,696.77. With the 100% Presbytery match, New Castle Presbytery donated a grand total of \$15,393.54! Participating churches included Beaver Dam, Chestertown, Concord, Cool Spring, Delaware City, Dover, Easton, Elkton, First and Central, First of Newark, First of Port Penn, Hanover St., Lewes, Limestone, Lower Brandywine, New Castle, Ocean View, Perryville, Trinity, Westminster, West Nottingham and Wicomic. Way to go New Castle Presbytery -- YOU ROCK! Submitted by Bill Rule



**IMCK NUTRITION CENTER UPDATE:** The January report about the nutrition center was in ERROR in saying the center had closed. It was still running but at a very diminished level. Thanks to an anonymous donor, who recently made a significant donation to MBF to make the IMCK nutrition center vibrant again! And thanks to Charles Johnson, who, through Rivers of the World and an online system called Crowd Rise, is raising money to help keep it going. Go to his site, <http://www.mattressesforcongo.com/projects-1.html> to learn more. The next IMCK Newsletter will tell more about this project. Submitted by Charlotte White

**PUBLIC HEALTH (Continued):** In addition to the classroom requirements for the Masters in Public Health, students will engage in field experiences and projects. The field projects will be based on current issues and needs in the local community in association with work conducted by NGOs such as SANRU. Students will apply classroom knowledge and concepts to field activities, creating a valuable hands-on approach to education that applies classroom knowledge into professional practice.

Through this partnership, SLU, UPC and IMCK are in the process of applying for an American Schools and Hospitals Abroad grant through USAID. The money from this grant will be used to renovate current facilities and build new student dormitories, classrooms and study areas. Also, included in this grant are finances for improving technology and Internet services on campus. Students will also be given access to the e-library at UPC and SLU, a resource that will enhance educational experiences.

Saint Louis University is thrilled about this partnership and the opportunities that will be created for Congolese and American students to study public health at IMCK. Submitted by Beth Schwaabe of St Louis University.

**Churches Small and Big (Cont'd):** Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) of Charlotte, NC is a big church working with PCUSA and IMCK on a big renovation of the downtown PAX Clinic of IMCK. They support volunteer Antonio Martinez, an architect, living in Kananga during this three phase renovation: the lab, then the pharmacy and dental, then the women's center. Antonio writes the following about the progress at PAX on March 3: "Dr. James Borody came in to the lab last week, moments after we finished turning the last screw.



The new PAX lab was officially opened on March 3.

He did a 5 day training session for the 5 selected IMCK lab technicians. All of the lighting and electrical work, apparently even if left on all day. Plumbing works as long as the cistern is 50% full, so we will be adding a pump one way or the other. Waiting on the wood shop to finish the last bit of shelving and furniture. Tomorrow morning, we will have the ceremonial opening party, as if it were completely finished. There will be a ribbon, politicians, and photos. [Phase two:]The dental clinic and pharmacy are about still 75% complete. But cleaned. We found another 8 leaks yesterday, but one may delay phase 2 a few weeks."

IMCK thanks churches, small and big, who partner with them! Submitted by C. White with information from Annette Washburn, Gabby Sprenger & Antonio Martinez's letter.

**FPC Knoxville visits  
IMCK (Continued) :**

We came home warmed by the hospitality and love we were shown and energized in our commitment to engage the larger church in America in greater support of our Congolese sisters and brothers and the mission co-workers who serve with them. Having walked in the Rules' footsteps, we are forever changed. Submitted by Colleen Shannon

**IMCK Endowment Update**

At the end of February, the IMCK Endowment reached \$220,350. The principle has been diversified to three different Vanguard funds and enjoyed unrealized gains of over \$6,000 in two months, despite a fluctuating market. On another front, the overture to the 221st General Assembly (to be held in Detroit June 14-21), requesting endorsement of the IMCK Endowment and, more generally, of the endowment concept as a useful way to provide long-term permanent support for mission/partner institutions worldwide, has been submitted and concurred with by the presbyteries of New Castle, Coastal Carolina, Glacier, Heartland, Nevada, Scioto Valley and Whitewater Valley. It is also being considered by Abingdon, Florida and Western North Carolina. The Presbyterian Mission Agency has also voiced its support for the overture. Thanks to everyone for this extraordinary expression of support! Friends of IMCK will have a representative at General Assembly to answer questions and provide information at the PC(USA) Mission Agency resource table. Hope to see some of you there. Submitted by Bill Rule



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 <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork> & [http://www.row.org/category/chapters/congo\\_kasai/](http://www.row.org/category/chapters/congo_kasai/). IMCK, PCUSA and MBF sites have lots of info about Congo and IMCK. Learn about the Congo Mission Network meeting, the next groups going to Congo, Helping Hands, & Rivers of the World. To join Congo Connections, write Annette [anwash@centurylink.net](mailto:anwash@centurylink.net). Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo and the need for certification. Learn more about Congo at [www.wikipedia.org/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Learn; read; get involved.

**Board Members of IMCK at the Nov. 2013 meeting:**

- Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
- Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
- Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. Mulumba Edmond - State Medical Inspector
- Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
- Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
- Fr. Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
- Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
- Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
- Dr. Patrick Kebeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
- Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative
- Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative
- Mr. Alexis Mayambai Nzamba - IMCK Representative

**Current IMCK Administration:**

- IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambai Nzamba
- 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 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:, Antonio Martinez, Marcia Murray, Bill Rule, Beth Schwaabe, Colleen Shannon, Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). We welcome your contributions!