



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 7 - March 2011

WHY ARE PATIENTS “LOCKED IN” AT THE HOSPITAL? People have asked about this practice, seen in many countries. With no subsidy or insurance programs for people unable to pay medical bills, hospitals could easily be bankrupted with indigent patients failing to pay. Many patients leave at night to avoid payment. So a fence is erected. While family, visitors and staff come and go, the hospital gate keeper knows who is the patient. This can be a heart breaking cycle of desperation, as family sell prized items or kill valuable live stock to pay bills. Or they simply cannot pay. If the patient is the family bread winner, the cycle of poverty increases. On the other hand, the hospitals cannot show favoritism over whose bills are forgiven. In truth, patients with long unresolved debt are finally released, but they have paid a price of being held. So donations for charity are gifts of mercy, allowing the hospital to reduce or forgive charges, and patients may leave. That money then pays for staff salaries and needed supplies. Thanks for donations to IMCK of about \$1,000 in the past month for these “locked in” people. By comparison, US charity hospitals often are close to financial crisis even with many subsidy programs in place. A number of people are currently working to set up an endowment program to help with this need at IMCK. This newsletter will keep you posted about that project. Submitted by Charlotte White

We are looking for a church and interested individuals to form a IMCK Dental Clinic Support Group. We need dentists to serve on this. We are trying to procure some vital small dental supplies to send with a group going to Congo this summer. Please write Charlotte White (docwhite@hargray.com) to participate in this important project.

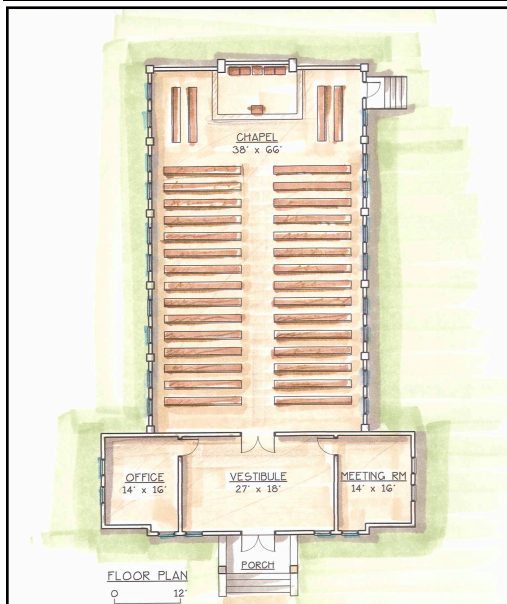
Construction Of The IMCK Founders Chapel To Begin

Since its creation in 1954, IMCK, which includes the Good Shepherd Hospital, never had its own chapel. This chapel was planned in 1966 but never has been realized due to funds. The chapel is to serve for Sunday worship, week day morning prayers for staff and patients, gatherings of young people and of mothers, and many activities of IMCK hospital and schools. It is to be called the Founders Chapel to honor the 1954 founders, missionaries of the American Presbyterian Congo Mission (APCM) and Congolese who contributed by work and knowledge to the start of IMCK.

All this time, church and school gatherings have been in the dining room of the nursing and lab school, causing an overlap of requests for the space. Given that the need for the IMCK Chapel continued, the IMCK Board authorized Charlotte Rule White to seek funds for the chapel. To date, about \$35,000 has been collected, which is roughly a third of the 2007 estimated costs for the project.

In February of this year, representatives of IMCK, CPC*, PCUSA* and CMCO* defined the terms of the chapel project implementation:

- 1) Despite the IMCK financial crises, the chapel remains a real need of the institution as a factor of evangelization.
- 2) CPC and IMCK will work together to begin the construction of the chapel with the funds that are available (\$35,000).
- 3) Work specifications will be redefined to achieve a lower cost.
- 4) The chapel will be erected on land facing the IMCK guest house and using the architectural plans seen to the left but with two office instead of one office.
- 5) The chapel will be erected in memory of the Congolese and Americans who contributed to the creation of IMCK.
- 6) CPC commits to furnishing the bricks as a local contribution for the project.
- 7) Mr Paul Rule and Mr John Rule are invited to bring their expertise to the construction of the chapel.



The chapel seating section is planned at 38 x 64 ft or about 11 x 20 meters. It can seat 350.

*CPC - Communauté Presbyterienne de Church
 *PCUSA - Presbyterian Church, USA
 *CMCO - Communauté Mennonite au Congo

The IMCK community sincerely thanks the families of the founders, the IMCK Board and all, both far and near, who have and will contribute to this project.

Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

A Doctor With IMCK for Many Years

Dr Mulaja Mukendi's life story is one of perseverance in education and service. Born in 1945, he grew up in the Muena Ditu territory of the Kasai Oriental. He entered IMCK nursing school in 1958 at Lubondai, graduating in 1963 from IME Kimpese with a diploma in nursing. He worked as a nurse but also pursued a high school degree at Katubue. After high school, he worked at Bulape as a nurse and also taught nursing students. He completed university courses in Kananga and proceeded to medical school in Kinshasa, graduating from Kinshasa National University of Zaire School of Medicine in 1981.

In January of 1982, Dr Mulaja (as he is called locally) returned to work at IMCK, where he has rendered noble service to the population of western Kasai. His practice in internal medicine cares for patients of all kinds including diabetes, hypertension and infectious diseases. He regularly performs endoscopy, facilitating medical work in digestive diseases. Through the years, he has taught IMCK nursing students and he continues to teach medical students rotating at IMCK. He has maintained a rigorous schedule of medical service, often working with scant supplies and under difficult conditions.

Dr Mulaja has completed various continuing education courses including a year at Tygerberg hospital in South Africa in internal medicine and several months at the Ohio State University Medical Center in the United States. Dr Mulaja married Ngomba Tshibangu in



1970 and they have six children. It is notable that Dr Mulaja has worked at IMCK now as a physician for almost 30 years. God willing, he plans to retire within a year. Hats off to Dr Mulaja Mukendi Barthelemy, a man of integrity and dignity, who deserve many honors!

Submitted by
Gibende Hippolithe

IMCK Health Operations Services for the Month of February 2011:

Number of GSH* In-Patients Treated:	174
Number of Out-patient at PAX:	1,284
Number of Out-Patients @ GSH*:	348
Opening Operations Balance:	\$?
Total Receipts Collected Locally:	\$ 30,544
Total Unrestricted Donations:	\$ 31,565
Total Operations Expenditures:	\$ 61,036
Closing Operations Balance:	\$ 1,073
Total Debt at Month End:	\$102,418
Debt Increase (+)/Decrease(-):	-\$ 67,417

*Good Shepherd Hospital

The financial report covers general operations of IMCK medical services. It does not cover special projects such as the moringa tree. Debt decrease was over a 3 month period and reflects the partial payment of back-pay in February.

Submitted by Bill Rule



March 2011 - Badibanga on his way to school in Boston after the first surgical procedure.

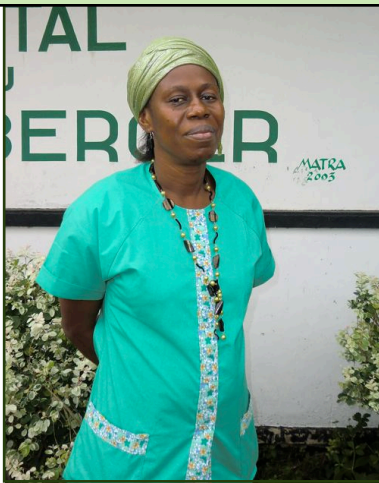
Burn Victim Makes Great Strides

Six-year-old Badibanga Yusuf was playing with his friends in Kananga late one afternoon in 2008 when he and two others hid in a small electrical power station that was unsecured. All three boys were electrocuted, and one died immediately, while the other two were severely burned. Badibanga's father took him to the Good Shepherd Hospital at Tshikaji, where his right arm was amputated. Miraculously, he survived, but he was left with severe physical deformities which made his life miserable.

In January 2011 Badibanga came with his father to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston, MA, thanks to the efforts of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Doctors at Shriners performed a major skin graft on the boy, releasing his neck, head and face so he could, for the first time in 3 years, hold his head upright.

In the 5 weeks since the surgery, Badibanga has made remarkable progress with the help of the Shriners medical staff, and soon he will be fitted for a prosthetic right arm. In May he will return to his mother and five siblings in Kananga, and hopefully he will be able to go to school. However, he will need to undergo additional surgeries in the months and years to come as he grows, so he will have to return to Boston for further treatment.

The skill and dedication of the staff at Good Shepherd Hospital saved Badibanga's life, while generous donors in the U.S. have made it possible for him to get a new lease on life. He will certainly face many more challenges, but with more help this bright, inquisitive young boy will grow up and will be able to achieve his full potential as an adult. Submitted by Anne Crane



Mrs. Kapinga Annie began work in 1976 as a nurse at Good Shepherd Hospital. She worked first in pediatrics and then transferred to work in maternity for three years. She also worked in the hospital out patient. In 1980, she was appointed to work at the PAX clinic (in the city of Kananga) in gynecologic consultation services, where she served as manager of gynecology and obstetric services. She worked at PAX until 1996. From 1996 until last year, she helped initiate a new program in prevention of violence against women and in family planning. In 2010, she returned to work at Good Shepherd Hospital as manager of the maternity unit. We thank her for the noble services she has rendered to the women of Kasai. Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe

Note: While much attention has been focused on overcoming sexual and gender based violence in Eastern Congo, these problems exist in many other communities or homes of unequal gender relations. To address this, USAID and IMA World Health have started a massive program in Eastern Congo using the American Bar Association, Save the Children and other advocacy or skilled groups to increase access to care and legal advice, improve intervention services and reduce vulnerability. In the Kasai, IMCK OB/GYN services are acutely aware of their role in this matter. by Charlotte White

Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships: <http://www.congopartners.org/> and www.facebook.com/ (search IMCK Congo) and <http://congohelpinghands.org/> & <http://www.row.org/congo-kasai-2009-update/> . Learn about the Congo Mission Network meeting, the next groups going to Congo, Woody in Congo now, ROW work. Join Congo Connections: write Annette anbwash@centurylink.net

A Busy Leader who has served on the IMCK Board

Rev. Jean Tshidinda Mamba was born in 1945 in the Kasai. He attended high school in the Kasai and then taught school, later graduating from the Luebo Pastoral School. He graduated in 1978 from the Ndesha School of Theology. From 1978 until 2010, he served in Kananga as the pastor of the Ecumenical Church of the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC); french is used there to serve people of diverse languages. He attained higher theology degrees in the Kasai and later a masters at McCormick Theology Seminary in Chicago. He has served the CPC in leadership positions as a moderator of meetings, as a lecturer and professor in theology programs, and as a leader in newer translations of the Bible into Tshiluba. For over 15 years, he has served as Adjunct Secretary General of the CPC and as Master Teacher for the Sheppard and Lapsley Presbyterian University in Kananga (UPRECO). These are both positions of great responsibility and leadership. He teaches many UPRECO courses and has published numerous articles and instruction materials. He and his recently deceased wife, Jacqueline Nyemba Ndaye, had six children. Submitted by Charlotte White

Board Members of IMCK

These were the representatives at the Feb 14-16, 2011 meeting:

Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- Chairman & CPC Rep.
 Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
 Dr. John Fletcher - CPC Representative
 Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
 Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
 Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
 Rev Dr Adolphe Komuesa - CMCO Representative
 Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
 Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
 Dr. Blaise Ndandu Mayimona - IMCK Representative
 Mr. Bill Rule IV - PCUSA Representative
 Dr. Larry Sthreshley - PCUSA Representative
 Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge - IMCK Representative

IMCK Administration: imckbusiness@yahoo.fr

Acting IMCK Director - Dr. Blaise Ndandu
 Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu
 Legal Representative - Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge

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, 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 sent in May/June this year, contact Charlotte White at docwhite@hargray.com.

How to make a donation to IMCK

To give through Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), make checks to Presbyterian Church USA and send to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Write "ECO#320202 - IMCK" in the memo line. Or go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/donate/E320202/> to give on line.

To give through the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group of the PCUSA, make checks to Medical Benevolence Foundation and send to 3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77063. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line. Or go to <http://www.mbfoundation.org/index.php> to give on line.

To give directly to IMCK, make checks to IMCK. Send to Wachovia Bank (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.

Newsletter Matters

Contributors this month: Samuel Bakatusenga Buledi, Anne Crane, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Bill Rule, and Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at docwhite@hargray.com. Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.