



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 15 - March 2012

Some Editorial Remarks: Americans traveling to the Democratic Republic of Congo are easily overwhelmed with the poverty, lack of supplies and fundamental administrative problems of the church, the medical and the educational institutions. This newsletter is not written to add to the possibility of one being overpowered with hopelessness. Indeed, as a Christian organization, the IMCK's newsletter has several positive goals: to explore with those in other countries what it means to be connectional as Christians, to share information about people who are working for IMCK in Congo as well as those who are working for IMCK in other countries, and finally, to rejoice in the hope we have together. We of IMCK share our stories of good people like Raphael Tshiaba Kalubi, stories of Church leaders like Rev. Simon Kabue Mabala at Tshikaji, stories of individuals in the US like Jimmy Shafe who visits here each year, and stories of churches like First Presbyterian of Cranbury, NJ or Myers Park Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC, who hold IMCK up with prayer, friendship and financial support. Some of the greatest stories are not yet written about the quiet things done by individuals, such as those doing menial work at IMCK that serves the sick or those in the US quietly doing small projects to advance service at IMCK. Please send us your stories connected to IMCK! By Charlotte White for IMCK

What project might we take up? Here are suggestions. For more information, contact Charlotte White or Bill Rule.

- 1) Help support one nursing or lab student for four years. Write to them regularly to encourage them.
- 2) At his death, Raphael Tshiaba's family now has almost no income and must move out of IMCK housing. Support one of his children in school. Or in his honor, start a scholarship for a pediatric nurse with a college degree.
- 3) Give to Friends of IMCK endowment, a long term support project that helps pay for salaries and supplies.
- 4) Give to Medical Benevolence Foundation for the electricity projects for IMCK. This is a critical need now.
- 5) Support the IMCK Nutrition and Rehabilitation project.
- 6) Donate the money to purchase a computer, so badly needed at the PAX clinic as well as in the new college.

Continued on page 2 under What Project?

Raphael Tshiaba Kalubi, a beloved nursing leader at IMCK, died on February 15, 2012 at the Tshikaji Good Shepherd Hospital. He leaves behind a widow, Ngalula Louise, and seven children. Two older daughters are currently attending the university. Raphael Tshiaba lived a life of service for others and was a church leader who will be greatly missed.



Raphael Tshiaba Kalubi, was born in 1956 in the village of Bakuandolo, about four miles from the Bunkonde Catholic Mission in Dibaya territory. He attended primary school there and then secondary school (high school) at Ngandajika, where he earned a degree in agronomy (agriculture.) He worked as an agronomist for some years and then chose to attend nursing school. Tshiaba, as he was called by many, graduated from the IMCK secondary nursing school in 1990. He began working as a clinic nurse but soon was appointed chief nurse of the outpatient clinic at the Good Shepherd Hospital at Tshikaji. In 1995, he was transferred to work in the pediatric department of the hospital. In 2005 Raphael Tshiaba was awarded a scholarship from the Congo Presbyterian Church (CPC) to pursue a college degree in pediatrics in Kinshasa. In 2008, he graduated from the university in Kinshasa and returned to his post as head of pediatrics. Tshiaba administered the pediatric hospital ward and also taught pediatrics in the ITM / Tshikaji Nursing program (high school) as well as the new ISTM / Tshikaji College. He was the only pediatric nurse in the province of Kasai Occidental and a preceptor to many nursing students and teachers. He was active in the Church at Tshikaji and served as an elder. Rev Simon Kabue Mbala, pastor of IMCK Tshikaji Church said, "[His death] is a great loss for the Church and for IMCK. May God bless him." Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe & C. White

ANNOUNCING! The new website for IMCK is now on line for the public. Go to www.IMCK.org or type it directly to your browser. Write us at FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com, if you want to advise us or help us with this. By Bill Rule

The **IMCK Center for Nutrition and Rehabilitation** of malnourished children, ranging from 6 months to 18 years old, was opened in the 1980s by the late Dr John Knox Miller. Its objective is to teach mothers to feed their children with locally produced food to counter the lack of animal and vegetable proteins. In his travels with the vaccination team, Dr Miller and his colleagues noticed, when weighing children, that many of them did not have a healthy weight corresponding to their age. This was one sign of malnutrition and undernourishment. He then opened this center for nutritional rehabilitation of children.

Mothers, who bring their children to the center, should be equipped with a hoe to work in the garden center to produce vegetables, beans, maize, and peanuts to help feed their child. They will continue to do the same when they return home after the rehabilitation of their children, so the child does not relapse.

Here are statistics of children that have been received at the nutrition center:

- 2008 - 371 of which 122 were rehabilitated
- 2009 - 317 of which 86 were rehabilitated
- 2010 - 368 of which 99 were rehabilitated
- 2011 - 331 of which 88 were rehabilitated
- 2012 - 20 children are currently at the center

Currently the tree called MORINGA contributes significantly to improving children's diets. This tree is consumed in several forms such as beans, leaves boiled and taken as tea, and leaves ground to powder which is mixed in food. As children pay nothing for their rehabilitation, the center operates with donations from people of good will. The child remains at the center until his or her rehabilitation has lasted at least a month. Those who have other infections (especially lung and parasitic) are transferred to pediatrics in the hospital for care.

Submitted Bernard Kabibu and Gibende Hippolithe



Nutrition staff and Nursing Students serve a meal for the children at the Nutrition and Rehabilitation Center.

“ We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.”
Brother Lawrence

Friends of IMCK, continues to have churches and individuals join in support of IMCK. As of March 15, 2012, \$73,369 has been donated directly to the IMCK Endowment plan. Another \$878 have been donated separately to provide for expenses in raising the money or printing material. The following are names of Churches and people, who have joined Friends of IMCK:*



- Davidson College Presbyterian Church - Presbyterian Women
- First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury, NJ
- Rockville Fellowship Presbyterian Church, California

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| Don Ashworth | Mr John Nelson |
| Karl Benson | Patricia Phillips |
| Harry & Sylvia Bolton | Robert Pruitt |
| Leslie Bryant | Dr Birch & Peggy Rambo |
| John & Linda Coffin | Matthew Rhodes/Nancy Cole |
| Margaret Connell & Steve Phillips | Dr Dennis Ries |
| Heather Copeland | James L Robinson |
| Susan Spooner Copeland | Linda Spooner Roth |
| Marjorie Culbertson | Bill & Beth Rule |
| Dr Robert & Dorothy Douglas | John & Kay Rule |
| Mr & Mrs Raymond Elkes | Dr William & Sue Sager |
| Dr Hugh & Ellen Farrior | Dr Ralph Shannon |
| Hope Farrior | Dr Faye Sinclair |
| Michael & Miriam Gavigan | Bill & Willie Simmons |
| Byron Goodrum | Dr Ronald & Judith Sisel |
| Robert & Mary Gould | Joanne Smith |
| Ruth Hardage | Linda Stringer |
| Frances Hawkins | Vanessa Stalkamp |
| Raymond Huger | Joe & Amelia Sudderth |
| Sarah Spooner Jarratt | Jerry & Lynn VandeGrift |
| Linda Dickerson Johns | Dr David & Ruth Ann Webster |
| Michael & Heidi Jung | Marcia Whitney-Schenck |
| Phillip & Ann Jung | Fred Williamson |
| Revs Shannon & Patricia Jung | Dr Lamar & Ruthmary Williamson |
| Warren B Jung | Steve & Charlotte White |
| Rev Edwin & Mae Kang | Deborah Woodruff |
| J S Langrall | Jim & Elizabeth Woodruff |
| Rev Gene & Frances Lovell | William Worth Jr |
| Dr Mary Sue Makin | Rev Don & Marlene Wyenberg |
| Phyllis Goodrum McAndrew | *Time between donation & report to this editor is about 3 weeks. |
| Drs Merle Miller/ Alex Maslaka | Submitted by Charlotte White |
| Rev Elsie McKee | |

What Project? (Continued)

- 7) You want to go to Congo? Contact Jimmy Shafe, who goes each year jimmyshafe@comcast.net or Myers Park Presbyterian Church ELittle@myersparkpres.org; they go each summer.
 - 8) Both groups take trunks of critically needed supplies each year. You want to help? Fifty pounds of supplies costs \$250 in overweight to Kananga. Things needed are arranged with IMCK.
 - 8) Read all you can about Congo and learn about the people and the history. Let this inspire you in some specific project there.
- Submitted by Charlotte White

Denis Pirlot de Corbion, IMCK's interim director, has resigned. Dr. Denis made important contributions during his tenure. Most importantly, he was able to build on work done previously and bring salaries for the employees up-to-date. Larry Sthresley, Board Chairman, recently spent a week at IMCK and set up interim procedures that will be used until a permanent director can be identified. Dr. Blaise Ndandu, a surgeon at the hospital, will act as director until the May Board meeting. Management staffing continues to be a challenge for IMCK, but the Board as well as other friends of the Institution are committed to building capabilities in this area; the Board wants to identify and hire talented Congolese who can help bring IMCK to a new level of service. We ask for your prayers, your ideas and your support. The work of IMCK is critically important - we must continue to move forward. Submitted by Jo Stewart, IMCK Board

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: Simon Ntumba Tshitenge has served as IMCK Legal Representative for many years. He was born in 1959 in Kananga. He attended early school at Our lady of Kele Kele. In 1980, he graduated from Athenee Kananga Institute with a high school degree. He earned a college degree in Administration in 1984 from the Kananga Business School CIDEF, then a graduate degree in Business and Administrative Sciences from ISES, the Kananga School of Graduate Study. He has worked in many positions: on a library staff, as a manager in a business, as a book keeper and then department head for the CPC printing establishment called IMPROKA, and finally as the Director of IMPROKA since 1993. He has served as auditor for various organizations, including a drug warehouse program. He is a member of the Order of National Accountants of Congo. His wife, Tshibola Tshibuabua, has worked at IMCK since 1986. They have four children. He also owns a chicken business, selling eggs to the public as well as helping to supply eggs to children at the IMCK Nutrition Center. His motto: To love justice distributed honestly and to serve the Church and humanitarian works. Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe



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 Rep. (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 Rep.
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: Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu,, Bill Rule, Jo Stewart, 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.