



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

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A Periodic Newsletter

Issue No 39 - March - June 2016



IMCK is a medical teaching facility on two campuses. 1) At Tshikaji, 10 miles outside the city of Kananga, is the site of the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, the ITM high school, the ISTM college, the nutrition center, and dorms and homes for students and staff. That campus has 543 nursing, lab tech, health administration and medical students. 2) The second campus is the PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga with multiple clinics including internal medicine, dentistry, ophthalmology, OB/GYN, diabetes, pediatrics, surgery, and an emergency room. PAX also has a 31 bed maternity center where over 500 babies were born in 2015. Read more about IMCK at <http://imck.org>. Submitted by C. White

Young boy with a leg wound: A young boy, one of six children of farmers Ntumba and Ngalula, was in sixth grade in the city of Kananga, when he developed a leg wound. [Ed note: no information how this developed.] In May of 2015, he was briefly admitted to IMCK Good Shepherd hospital at Tshikaji, and then discharged. He was followed in out patient service at PAX Clinic* for care of a wound over a large area of his leg, but the wound did not heal.

At some point, the young boy ran away to an unknown place. Finally the family returned him to the hospital with a swollen leg and multiple necrotic wounds.

Medical doctors at the hospital attempted to stop the decaying process, but were unsuccessful, so his leg was amputated. He spent almost a year in the hospital.



Although the total bill was \$1,205.38, the family was able to pay only \$150. This is an example of the losses the hospital sustains, when patients with complications are admitted and stay for an extended time.

Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu *PAX Clinic is in Kananga



At the hydro dam, soldiers with guns stand watch against crocodiles, as the men clear the debris.

March Crisis at hydroelectricity site for IMCK:

Marcia Murray, PCUSA mission coworker, reported on the initial crisis of the hydro that occurred in April at Tshikaji, where she teaches in the IMCK college. The hydro provides electricity for the IMCK hospital, high school, college and many people living at Tshikaji.

The electricity suddenly cut off on the night of Saturday, April 2, due to an enormous island of floating vegetation that came down the lake & blocked flow to the turbines. The vegetation had also blocked off the spillways and the radial gates that are used to control the lake level and therefore, despite the efforts of the hydro crew the lake level rose and water began flowing out the emergency spillway and over the earthen dams in very large amounts. The dam was in danger of breaking.

At least 150 men were employed to remove plants from above the dam, the spillways, and the canal leading to the turbines. Crocodiles live in the lake above the dam and several were sighted while workers removed debris. (Note soldiers with guns in the photo above.) The men cleared the debris from the spillways, turbines, and radial gates that control the lake level. To pay these men, Rivers of the World-Congo coordinated a quick fund drive and rushed funds to IMCK; this allowed work to be done immediately & minimized damage from flooding. Thanks to donors Bethel Presby. Church, Ginter Park Presby. Church, Myers Park Presby. Church, and generous donations from ten individuals. After critical areas were cleared and water was at a safe level, the turbines were started again on April 9.

(Cont'ed page 4)

May 2016 Board Meeting The IMCK Board met May 12 and 13, 2016 at Tshikaji. The Finance Subcommittee met on May 11. Those in attendance are listed on the last page of this newsletter. [Ed note: This is a brief summary, as translated to English by Charlotte White in the USA.]

The meeting opened with a worship service. Chairman Larry Sthreshley next acknowledged the commitment of board members to the good management and Christian goals of IMCK. He said: *There are still many challenges. I have served as Chairman for 5 years, but we have not done all I had expected us to do. Thank you to employees who continue to work even when they are not paid. In the DRC anything can happen, everything can be blocked. We need to make solid decisions to accomplish what Jesus would want for IMCK.*

Activity Report for 2015: IMCK Director Alexis Mayambi gave the 2015 activities report (not in the minutes.) Following are some points made regarding that report.

1. The Board recommended the Legal Representative, Director, and Administrator collaborate regularly to implement Board recommendations.
2. Pax Clinic* must uphold the hours of service and document employee hours of service. Meetings must be held with the physicians and the legal representative.
3. Mr Simon Ntumba will work with IMCK to ensure that retiree records are in order to the INSS. (Government)
4. Ophthalmology. Administration must quickly submit an order for supplies or else IMCK will lose those funds from PCUSA and risk future PCUSA donations.
5. Patient length of stay & mortality rates have increased. The medical director was asked to address this issue.
6. Nutrition Center: The Board needs statistics of past years to make decisions. Funds are available. Activity reports should be made to supporting organizations.
11. The Board commended IMCK for constructing new ISTM** buildings with local funds. The Board thanked DFID/ASSP*** for funds to construct more ISTM buildings.

Finance Report: The Chief Accountant presented the 2015 Financial report. Following are some points made.

- a) To better appraise the receivables and IMCK solvency, reports must categorize solvent and insolvent customers.
- b) The cash flow report helps to analyze IMCK spending and revenues. New computer system will improve this.
- c) The audit must be done and span 2013 - 2015 to meet international standards. An audit in the DRC is expensive, but MBF# will provide some funds, and some other funds may be available from a PCUSA## ECO account.
- d) The Board Finance Committee will work more with Administration to address how to prevent wage arrears.

*PAX Clinic is in Kananga; **ISTM is the IMCK College; ***DFID/ASSP is a Health Project funded by UK AID & Swedish Agency SIDA. # MBF-Medical Benevolence Foundation; ##Presbyterian Church USA. **Cont. on pg. 3 - Board**

ISTM College and ITM High School News:

ISTM has a new school newsletter called "ECHO de l'ISTM Tshikaji" to be published every 3 months. The first one had a history of ISTM and information about the first graduating class in 2013. To read a copy of this first newsletter, contact ISTM at mayambi@yahoo.fr.

Serving on the editorial staff are the following:

Chief Editor: Dir. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba
President: Assist Matthew Etienne Mutshipayi
Vice Pres: Instructor Marcia Murray
Treasurer: Registrar Mr Celestin Bimine Dibelayi
Health Admin Chair: Mr Albert Nkashama Buloko
Midwifery Chair: Mr. Michel Mumba Mafyeboy
Pediatric Chair: Mrs. Bijoux Mbuji Kande



ITM High School Baccalaureate Service for Nursing and Lab Tech Graduates

ITM Baccalaureate Service: The IMCK high school, ITM, had their baccalaureate Service on June 19. After this service, graduates take national exams in Kananga and hear results months later. The ITM school year ends in June.

ISTM college, had their last day of classes June 29. Exams are given July 11 - 23. Grades are posted July 30. Marcia Murray reports she has been busy giving tests to the 124 students in the first year of ISTM. The IMCK campus in August is quiet, since ITM and ISTM are closed that month.



College Students being tested by Marcia Murray in the new ISTM auditorium, built with local funds.

Board Meeting Continued:

Projects to Implement and Studies to Do:

- a) PAX Dental Clinic and lab have been renovated and are in operation. Some equipment is still needed.
- b) PAX Women's Center construction is underway. MPPC* gave \$40K and will give more. It is unknown what MBF will donate to building renovation, but they donated a birthing bed and equipment for four exam rooms. Friends of IMCK is seeking funds for this project. The goal is to open this center by November 2016.
- c) ASSP donated funds for renovation of the lab at Good Shepherd Hospital, for an intensive care unit, and for the construction of the new buildings of the college, ISTM.
- d) A company has been selected to spend \$80K to renovate parts of the Good Shepherd Hospital.
- e) Funds are available to improve the IMCK Guest House.
- f) \$50K are available to improve the Hospital surgery suite, but IMCK will collaborate more with MBF on this.
- g) Dale Stanton-Hoyle** will consult on a new incinerator.
- h) Jack Muthui*** reported that the MBF assessment of water repairs for Good Shepherd Hospital will cost about \$200K. Final decisions on this project are not complete.
- i) A former classroom will be converted to an ISTM dorm.
- j) IMCK risked losing the dam in the April, but the water & electricity is again functioning. To secure the system, work will continue & could cost \$200K, including hydro work, water tower repair & plumbing to Tshikaji facilities.

(Ed Note: See h, where the same subject is addressed.) Thanks to ROW-Congo#, & all who sent funds to pay hydro workers during this crisis.

Revision of Board Statutes: Significant time was spent the second day of the board meeting to revise board statutes and to define some administrative structure and tenure. [Ed Note: Those details available, if you wish to ask more.]

Personnel decisions: After board members worked in two separate groups to review personnel matters, the following was approved by the Board:

• Four IMCK leaders will retire before Nov. 2016 and their retirement money is being arranged. These leaders are Administrator Bernard Kabibu, ITM Prefect Jacque Mpoi Kajingulu, Personnel Chief Medard Shamuimba Mbombo, and Dentist Dr. Alphonse Kabasela. Employed to take their positions are: 1) Mr. Kastin Katawa Ntumba - Administrator. He has been administering the Mutoto Hospital. 2) Ms. Martha Kutekemenyi - ITM Prefect. She has been an ITM Assistant Prefect. 3) Mr. Augustin Mulamba Kalamba - Personnel Chief is a lawyer. 4) Dr. Tumaye - Dentist.

• IMCK Pastor Kabasele Bantubiabo will retire in Dec. 2016. The Board is seeking his replacement.

MPPC-Myers Park Presbyterian Church; **Dale is an engineer who serves on MBF and FIMCK boards; ***Jack is employed by MBF & serves on the IMCK Board; #ROW - Rivers of the World-Congo. Cont. on page 4, Board

IMCK Leaders Retiring Four IMCK administrative leaders will retire before November 2016. Rivers of the World-Congo (ROW-Congo) partnered with IMCK to raise money to meet their retirement. Between the money ROW raised and IMCK negotiations with the Congo (DRC) government, their retirement arrangements are in the process of being finalized. These men have led IMCK through transitional years, as IMCK moved from being primarily funded by PCUSA and other NGOs to being more self supporting and also fully administered by citizens of the DRC. These men have encountered major administrative challenges in their years of service and are to be thanked for their dedication to the goals of IMCK.

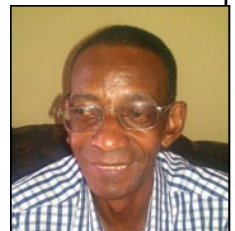
Jacques Mpoi Kajingulu earned his nursing degree at IMCK ITM and then his BS and masters in Kinshasa. After years of teaching at ITM, he became ITM Director in the 1980s. He spent a year in the USA taking nursing teaching and administrative courses. His skills in organization, his calmness and his dedication to high academic standards led ITM to be ranked one of the best such schools in the DRC. Since ISTM College was founded in 2010, he has also served as ISTM Academic Dean. IMCK will miss his skills & wisdom. Best wishes in retirement to Mpoi & his wife Mala Cecile.



Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu graduated from Kananga College in 1976. He started working as IMCK Dental Clinic Administrator in 1988. He then served as IMCK Personnel Director until 2001, demonstrating skills in administration and language. He was named IMCK Administrator in 2001. He attended management courses in the USA and Kenya. He is known throughout USA churches and organizations for his English speaking ability and for his Christian fervor and eloquence in telling about IMCK. Best wishes in retirement to Bernard and his wife Mujinga Astride.



Dr. Kabasela Kabata Buabo has served as IMCK dentist since 1993. He earned his dentistry degree in 1993 at the Univ. of Kinshasa. He worked under Drs. James Hatten and Ronald Stringer. He has persisted in giving dental care in difficult times, often improvising and working with very limited resources. Best wishes in retirement to Dr. Kabasela and his wife Leonie Tshikanyi.



Board Meeting Continued: Closing Matters:

- New Board Committees were formed.
- Jack Muthui noted that the Chief Financial Officer must be strengthened, accounts must be monitored monthly, and bank accounts reconciled monthly.
- The role of IMCK Chaplain and the Christian work of IMCK is part of the goal of this institution & must stay strong.
- Employees have periodically gone too long without pay and employees need better encouragement.
- Jeff Boyd* encouraged the Board members to review and enforce Board articles, to carry out periodic IMCK Board self assessments, and to have more women on the Board.
- In closing, Chairman Larry Sthreshley thanked board members for their service and asked them to continue to support Board decisions. He then said, *The IMCK is stronger than yesterday. We are in the midst of many projects and people are willing to help us. When we had the problem with the hydro, we spontaneously received assistance. We are not abandoned. It only developed and maintained relationships with partners. With a deficit of \$ 200,000 per year, IMCK would be closed if there were no assistance.* He also thanked the Administrator Bernard Kabibu and the Chief of Staff for their work in IMCK. He also asked members to consider his replacement as Chairman of the IMCK Board in at the next Board meeting in November 2016.

Submitted by Charlotte White

*Jeff Boyd, serving on the IMCK Board, is a PCUSA Mission Coworker.

Scholarship Assistance: Groups & individuals have asked how to scholarship particular students or IMCK staff at IMCK. This form of support provides opportunities for enriching relationships. In Nov. 2015, Mr. Alexis Mayambi, Director of IMCK, gave the following reply when asked for an IMCK protocol for providing individual scholarships.

IMCK students begin the high school academic year in September and the college year in October. They are admitted based on how they perform on tests for entrance. IMCK staff seeking a masters degree also begin a new year in October. Mr. Mayambi said that after admission in September and October, the administration can create a list of students and staff needing scholarships.

If your church or you want to give a scholarship for a high school or college student, the total is \$2,000/year, which includes tuition, supplies, board and food. If a staff member must go to Kinshasa for a masters, the tuition is nearly \$4,000/year, but if they pursue a graduate degree as a day student in the Kananga area, the cost is about half that amount. Many IMCK administrative staff are in graduate programs to strengthen their teaching and administrative qualifications and skills.

To learn more information about providing individual scholarships, contact IMCK Director Mr Alexis Mayambi (mayambi@yahoo.fr) and copy Marcia Murray at marcia.b.murray@ttu.edu. Submitted by Charlotte White

Hydro Crisis Continued:

Once the water level was normal again and a preliminary damage assessment done, Tatu Ntefu, Chief Officer of the Hydro Crew, reported the flood had caused moderate damage to one area of the earthen dams and dug a large and very deep ravine in the emergency spillway. In almost 30 years of hydro service, this kind of flooding had never happened.



Mr. Ntefu

John Fletcher, a PCUSA mission coworker, recently returned to work at Tshikaji. John is a surgeon but also gifted in leading the IMCK hydro work. While the above emergency is over, work must be done to secure hydro infrastructure for basic function & against future floods. Preliminary plans to repair damage and address the primary problem responsible for the flooding are being formulated in coordination with engineers in the USA, donors, & supporting organizations.

Dale Stanton-Hoyle, an engineer who helped with the hydro construction, is helping to develop this plan. Given that IMCK has not yet finalized the precise plan, it is too early to provide a specific cost estimate for repair work. It will however require a significant expenditure, likely in the range of \$100K to \$150K. (Ed Note: See Board minutes re: same issue.) It may also require a prolonged period during which the hydro will not be functional. There is some urgency to do some work in the next two months before the rainy season returns. To learn more about how to help support this project, contact Medical Benevolence Foundation at (800) 547-7627.



Ravine dug by the flood at the dam.

PAX Renovation of Women's Center: Antonio Martinez is supervising this major renovation project for exam rooms, delivery rooms and a surgery room. Workers have been pouring slabs and building walls. Engineer Dale Staton Hoyle toured the area with Antonio and discussed ventilation and electricity. In the next newsletter, there will be more reported on this project.

IMCK Staff physicians, residents, and medical interns:

As of May 2016, 35 medical students and 3 medical residents are at IMCK in training. Dr. Banza Pepe Kalenga is the IMCK Medical Director of Education and directs their training. IMCK has had a medical residency program since 1988.

IMCK medical service is led by their large staff of doctors: Dr. John Fletcher, Dr. Banza Pepe Kalenga, Dr. Alex Mvita Kanda, Dr. Roger Kapembu Kandu, Dr. Brono Kapingamuluma, Dr. Serge Makolo Kazadi, Dr. Samuel Ntumba Lumbamba, Dr. Jean Jacques Mulalu Ntumba, and Dr. Jean Mukendi Tshitadi. IMCK looks forward to the arrival of the new dentist, Dr. Tumaye and a mission coworker from PCUSA, Dr. Martha Sommers.

Submitted by Charlotte White

Leaders Retiring Continued:

Rev. Medard Shamuimba

Mbombo has served as IMCK Personnel Director since 2001. He graduated from UPRECO in 1991 with a theology degree.

He served as Legal Representative of the Mennonite Community 1995 - 2004 and as substitute Legal Representative for IMCK since 2008. He has many family & friends in the Kananga region. The Mennonite Community joined IMCK some years after IMCK moved to Tshikaji. Best wishes to Shamuimba and his wife Marie Ngalula in retirement. Submitted by C White



Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News:

IMCK info is at www.imck.org & MBF info is at www.mbfoundation.org. PCUSA sites have Congo & IMCK info at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> Read about Congo Mission Network at <http://www.congopartners.org/> & <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork>. Helping Hands www.congohelpinghands.org/ & Rivers of the World Congo www.row.org work in Congo. Join IMCK face book at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Medical-Institute-of-the-Kasai-IMCK/110759025647158>. To join Congo Connections, write Annette anwash@centurylink.net. Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo. **Learn; read; act! Be involved.**

Board Members of IMCK at the May 2016 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
Rev. Lazare Tshibuabua Dekebele - CPC Representative
Rev. Joly Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Rep (Mennonite)
Mr. Pierre Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative
Fr Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
Rev. Jean Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Rev. Tshihamba Mulamba - CPC Representative
Mr. Jack Muthui - MBF Representative
Mr. Simon Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative
Dr. Eugenie Misenga Kangoji- State Representative
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative
Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba - IMCK Representative
Not present: Dr. Komuesa, Dr. Mulumba & Dr. Misenga

Current IMCK Administration:

IMCK Director - Pharmacist Alexis Mayambi Nzamba
Legal Representative - Rev. Zacharie Mboyamba Kabala

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 120 bed facility, & 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 60 yrs.

FIVE WAYS to make a donation to IMCK:

To give to **IMCK ENDOWMENT**, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/friends-imck-endowment-fund/> & follow 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 many Presbyterian Organizations, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/donate-now/>. 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. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

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. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

To give through **RIVERS OF THE WORLD-CONGO**, make checks payable to ROW-Congo & 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 or memory of someone, if desired.

To give **DIRECTLY TO IMCK**, consult Alexis Mayambi at mayambi@yahoo.fr about how to wire money directly from the bank account of your organization or your personal bank account to the IMCK BCDC bank (Banque Commerciale Du Congo) account in Congo.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu, Marcia Murray, Jimmy Shafe, and Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write CRuleWhite@gmail.com. We welcome your contributions!