



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI



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

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**A Monthly Newsletter (Usually!)**

**Issue No 25 - March & April 2013**



In February, I traveled to the Kasai region of Congo to better serve IMCK as an editor for this newsletter and as a board member of the Friends of IMCK. IMCK has so much news to report that this newsletter only features several highlights, with the May newsletter following soon. This month, we report on the current renovations on the IMCK PAX Polyclinic in the center of Kananga; and at Tshikaji outside Kananga, the activities at the IMCK college, called ISTM; recent renovation of the hydroelectric service; and the construction of the IMCK chapel. If you did not receive the following email information in March, go to our web site, [www.imck.org](http://www.imck.org): report on my February trip to Congo, evaluation of IMCK, and two recent publicity pamphlets about IMCK and the IMCK endowment. Submitted by Charlotte White

**Find Kananga on map:** IMCK has two campuses. Tshikaji station is ten miles outside of Kananga, location of IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, the ITM high school and ISTM College. IMCK PAX Polyclinic is located in the middle of the city of Kananga, population of over a million people.

### **REPORT from Antonio Martinez, a Charlotte, NC architect working on the PAX CLINIC RENOVATION:**

Myers Park Presbyterian Church, which has long partnered with IMCK, has sponsored a major project to renovate PAX, the downtown clinic in Kananga. In 2012, this busy clinic registered 12,537 patients seen. The 21-bed maternity unit served 606 women. Architect Antonio Martinez writes below about this major effort.

“I visited Kananga and the IMCK PAX polyclinic the first time in May of 2012. [I went with two others] from Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. We planned to gather the information needed to renovate the PAX laboratory, dental clinic, and women's center in three phases. The construction was to begin the following month, but we soon realized that this was a much larger set of issues than we had anticipated. PAX was without running water or sanitation, diesel-generated electricity is sporadic, and the entire building is covered in dust. The personnel and payment systems were also in need of reevaluation.

The project was developed at the design firm where I worked in 2012. We [developed] innovative ideas for water and sanitation. Everyone with the project learned a great deal about adapting to a different cultural mindset and set of circumstances. As project manager, I involved product reps, lighting designers, engineers, and more experienced architectural designers, in order to get the best solutions possible. However, when I returned to Kananga in March 2013, the construction began with quite a few changes made on the spot. It went extremely smoothly, yet it could have been done better and (Continued on pg 2 - PAX Renovation)

**Original view of Pax Polyclinic in Kananga, as seen from the front.**



**Rendering of renovation plans for PAX Polyclinic, as seen from the side.**



**ISTM, the College, is collecting books in French!**

American learning systems have rapidly expanded into the technological world with computers and digital projectors. But IMCK has only minimal internet access for administration and doctors.



ISTM Secretary Fabienne Sansungi (L) and Registrar Celestin Bimine inventory new books given to ISTM by the Minister of Health.

tion and doctors. So students in this new college for administration, midwifery and pediatric nurses depend on lectures, class notes, and some access to textbooks and the new library. Marcia Murray, a PCUSA volunteer mission

coworker, arrived to join the faculty there in February. She is teaching statistics and English and is enthusiastic about expanding the college library. She sent the above photo and writes the following: "[Director] Alexis procured from the Ministry of Health many good books. They are all books written and published here on health for distribution to the health zones and schools."

ISTM Director Alexis Nzamba, Dr. Kalenga, Jacque Mpoi and Marcia have been working with people interested in donating books for ISTM. Current French medical books are needed for the college students, the medical students and the medical residents. If you know of anyone who can help with this project or if you wish to donate money for books, please write to Marcia Murray at [FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com) or email Charlotte White. Help with the drive for French medical text books! Submitted by Marcia Murray and Charlotte White

**PAX Renovation:** more deliberately. The cisterns and septic systems are being re-attached, new lab equipment is on the way, and the solar electric systems are being repaired and upgraded in May. The finishing touches are being applied to the lab now, and new lighting will be installed in late May as well, as it is arriving in the same container.

In July, I will move to Kananga in order to see [about PAX] through the coming phases. It is estimated to take 18 - 24 months to completely renovate the polyclinic, phase by phase. Phase 2 is the dental clinic and will begin construction as soon as the lab is complete. Phase 3, the women's center, will follow approximately 2 months after that. Since it will have OB/GYN facilities, as well as recovery and a maternity ward, phase 3 is expected to take longer and be more expensive. Several designer/moms helped in the design, and will continue to participate from Charlotte until construction begins." Submitted by Antonio Nevada Martinez, Architect and Project Manager



Mother leans over her unconscious child, brought to IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital for treatment for meningitis.

**IMCK Founders Chapel ready for the roof:** The comfort, worship and celebrations provided by those working in medical chapels can be vital in the lives of patients, patient families, staff and students. The IMCK Chapel will serve them and also serve the church at Tshikaji. The chapel at Embangweni Hospital in Malawi was built in memory of Dr. John McGill, where I saw poignant examples of grief, joy, singing, functional meetings, and solace in that small hallowed place.



IMCK Founders Chapel Ready for the roof to be installed.

The IMCK Chapel is about to start its third phase, the application of the roof. With donations of about \$33,000 through the Presbyterian Church USA and with bricks donated by the Congo Presbyterian Church, most of the outer structure of the church will be built. We will be raising money for phase four, which includes lighting, flooring and furnishings. Submitted by Charlotte White

**Last two IMCK founders die:** In February, the last two founders of IMCK died. Effie Crane Rule and Aurie Montgomery Miller died within the same week. They were life long friends at work as missionaries in the Congo. In 1954, Bill Rule and John Miller were the founding medical doctors of IMCK. Aurie Miller taught in the nursing school and later helped to found the lab tech school of IMCK. A plaque will be placed at the IMCK Chapel entrance naming all those who worked at Lubondai hospital in 1954, when IMCK was founded. The plaque will list Americans and Congolese. Submitted by Charlotte White



The hydro team prays in February, as they start the last day's work to see if two years of work on generator #2 will turn on and function!

The **second generator of the hydroelectric facility** for Tshikaji has been non functional for over two years. In February, repairs and upgrades were completed with the financial support of Medical Benevolence Foundation, the leadership and work of Dr. John Fletcher, and the volunteer supervision of electrical engineer Bill Kell. This project took two years and was a cause for great celebration. Many individuals, organizations and churches donated to support this. Electricity keeps water running, oxygen going, the operating room working, patients alive. Submitted by Charlotte White



The four major staff of the hydroelectricity: Ntefu, Nyengele, Katujudi and Katende

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 [www.facebook.com/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Read, learn, get involved.

**Board Members of IMCK at the May 2012 meeting:**

- Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
  - Rev. Barker Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
  - Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
  - Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
  - Mr. Laurent Camisole Kwanzaa - CMCO Representative
  - Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
  - Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
  - Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
  - Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative
  - Dr. Patrick Kebab Tshibemba - CPC Representative
  - Dr Blaise Ndandu - IMCK Representative
- Current IMCK Administration:** [imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr)  
 IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Zambia  
 Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu  
 Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- Legal Representative

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 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: Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Antonio Martinez, Marcia Murray, Charlotte White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.