



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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Producing this newsletter takes team work with many people. Information technology provides the powerful conduit for emails and photographs. But what really makes newsletters is for people to interview or take pictures; for people to sit down and write news and stories; for people who care about IMCK to share information. Thanks this month to the following people, who provided news: Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga, Pastor Simon Kabue Mbala, Marcia Murray, Kristi Rice, Bill Rule, Jimmy Shafe and Jo Stewart. Please share your news or stories about this institution that provides Christian medical service and teaching in the Kasai in Congo. In our sharing, we hold each other up, we may be inspired, and we are blessed. Submitted by Charlotte White



Medical Student at IMCK examines a child.

Medical Students at IMCK:

Between 25 and 30 medical students spend their final medical school year working at the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital and the big PAX Clinic in Kananga. They live on one wing of the hospital. They precept under the Medical Director of Education, Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga, who is certified in Family Practice.

Mr Glodi Muamba is a medical student at IMCK; he is from the Protestant University Medical School of Kinshasa. He writes the following: "Everyday upon waking, the harmony and environment of our work, as well as the compassion for our fellow human beings, keep us

going during our long days of medical and social deeds. Apart from human imperfections and some technical weaknesses, the Bon Berger (Good Shepherd) hospital in Tshikaji is still a good place to learn and allows us to reconcile theory with practical application." Submitted by Jimmy Shafe

Medical students at IMCK urgently need French medical textbooks, otoscopes, ophthalmoscopies & blood pressure machines. These implements are battery operated but can also be electrically charged. Consider making a donation for these by giving to the Medical Benevolence Foundation <https://mbfoundation.org/donate-now/>; or Rivers of the World <http://www.row.org/donate-2/designated-projects/>. Designate "IMCK medical students". Notify Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr) of this donation. Drs. Birch Rambo & Walt Hull have advised about textbooks and how to purchase them.

Medical Benevolence Foundation Sponsors Kenyan MD & PT Visit:

In March, Marcia Murray, who lives on the IMCK campus at Tshikaji, wrote the following. "The exciting news this past week has been the visit of a surgeon from Kenya. Jack Mathui, from Medical Benevolence Foundation, came with Dr. Theuri, a Kenyan orthopedic surgeon, and Mirriam, a Kenyan Physical Therapist. Three of their patients were boys from Ditekemena, a home founded for abandoned children by the Congo Presbyterian Church. The boys are crippled and their only chance to lead a more normal life was surgery.

MBF sponsored the trip; they arrived on Sunday, March 1st. The first two days, Dr. John Fletcher, Dr. Theuri and Mirriam saw 50 patients and set up a surgical schedule for Wednesday through Saturday. In the 4 days, Dr. Theuri and Dr. Fletcher performed 17 surgeries (actually 18 but one was an emergency non-orthopedic case) on 11 patients. Several patients had multiple procedures (one patient had 5 surgeries, both legs, both hips and a shoulder!)

Mirriam was a big hit with every one in the hospital, as she was able to make suggestions for even some of the medical cases, (Cont'd on page 3)

IMCK NUTRITION CENTER: Kristi Rice writes this report about a recent visit to the IMCK Nutrition Center. If you do not know about the nutrition rich moringa tree used at the Nutrition Center, read about it on the internet.

“Last week when I was briefly in Tshikaji, I stopped by the nutrition center of IMCK. There are currently 25 children there being treated. Chrispen Banshimi, the nurse in charge, was there, with several ITM [nursing students.] They are feeding the children 3 times a day, and also training mothers in nutrition and also in birth-spacing.

Chrispen showed me drying racks, which are full of [moringa tree] leaves drying. He also showed me a pitcher about half full of the powder that they use in the ‘musabu’ (porridge) in the morning. I also saw their trees. They have several young trees in various stages of development. He said that they need to plant more, but they have not yet been able to do that. He said that he can get seeds in Tshikaji from homes that have mature trees. They have several old trees, but they are no longer producing as many leaves. Mothers/families are able to get moringa (powder or leaves) after they get home – through buying it in the market, or from neighbors.

One of the most poignant cases there now is a little girl named Cecile, who is 2 years old (see photo). She found and drank a product in her home that contained some sort of acid, which burned her esophagus. She could no longer eat, so lost weight and was on the brink of dying of starvation. Her family lives in Tshikapa, about 250 km west of Kananga. Her mother left their two other kids in Tshikapa and came with Cecile to Tshikaji. [IMCK doctors surgically inserted] a feeding tube into her stomach. At the Nutrition Center, they are now feeding her a diluted form of the porridge through the feeding tube, trying to build up her strength so that her body will be able to support a second surgery to repair her esophagus. She appears to be doing well now, and it seems to be a miracle that she has survived this! So – thank you to all of you for your help in raising funds for this significant work.”

Editorial note: Mr Banshimi said they need funding to plant more moringa trees, purchase chickens for eggs, and have enough seedlings to provide some to families at the time of discharge. The IMCK nutrition center was recently greatly revived between donations from Medical Benevolence Foundation and Rivers of the World. This center has been critical in saving children and teaching families about nutritional fundamentals for helping children to thrive.



Cecile getting nutrition through a feeding tube.



Moringa leaves drying



IMCK’s college, called ISTM, has this new building under construction. This is a large classroom that will also serve as an auditorium.

News of the high school ITM and the college ISTM:

IMCK was founded in 1954 as a Christian medical center that also provided a secondary (high school) graduate program in nursing. Today, that high school, called ITM, has students enrolled to be nurses or to be lab technicians.

The ITM students will be taking end of school year exams soon and graduation is in June. Thirteen seniors in nursing hope to graduate and six seniors in lab tech hope to graduate. Jaques Mpoi, who has been the ITM Director for over 20 years, plans to have a baccalaureate program for the ITM graduates in the new IMCK Chapel, soon after the June 7 dedication of the chapel.

ISTM, the college program, has a school year that begins in

October and ends in July. Last October, 365 students were enrolled. They have a high drop out rate for first year students. ISTM has grown so rapidly that they lack adequate classrooms and dormitory space. 48 seniors at ISTM hope to graduate in July. Of that total, 20 seniors are majoring in health administration. Seven seniors are in midwifery. Twenty-one seniors are majoring in pediatrics. Medical Benevolence Foundation seeks donations to provide scholarships for these students. To give to this program, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/donate-now/> and designate the donation for a student at ISTM or ITM. These graduates are the medical providers of Congo’s future. Submitted by Charlotte White with statistics from IMCK records.

Tshikaji BUSY in Early May with Board Meeting and Many Visitors

IMCK has a board meeting twice a year, usually in May and November. This early part of May, many people have arrived for the IMCK Board meeting. Mission coworker Larry Sthresley and representatives of the Mennonite Church in Congo arrived from within Congo. Jack Muthui, employed by MBF, arrived from Kenya. And Jo Stewart came to represent PCUSA at the board meeting.

Jo came with other members of her church, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC. These MPPC members include Millie Cox, Fay Grasty, Rev. Derek Macleod, Courtney Pender, Anne Wright, Fletcher Wright, and Court Young. While Jo attends the board meeting, other MPPC members were active in various education projects with Congo Presbyterian Church. Frank Dimmock, PCUSA staff member working with poverty alleviation, traveled with the MPPC group to Congo to collaborate on various projects.

More will be written in the next newsletter about the May board meeting agenda. One matter on the agenda will have considered is a surgical residency at IMCK. Dr. John Fletcher, PCUSA mission coworker at IMCK, traveled to Kenya to observe surgical residency programs. In January, Dr. Bruce Steffe, founder of Pan-African Association of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), visited IMCK to assess the possibility of establishing a surgical residency at IMCK. Before this program can begin, residents and surgical facilities will have to be built or expanded. This will be a major project that may take years to accomplish. Submitted by Charlotte White

Family Practice Residency at IMCK: Currently, IMCK offers one residency for physicians - Family Practice. Dr. Pepe Banza wrote the following in March: "I take this opportunity to inform you that Dr. Barth Ilunga Kabeya recently successfully passed his exams in Family Medicine. His score was the best of all those who passed the exams (residents at Goma, Bukavu, Kimpese, and Vanga). After releasing the medical students of Protestant Univesité in Congo in 2014, who scored at the top of their group, God still blesses IMCK with Dr. Ilunga's superior performance. A big thank you all for your prayers and support. The other remaining residents in family practice will take their exams in August 2015." Submitted by Dr. Banza Kalenga

Endowment Fund for IMCK

Friends of IMCK continues to work on raising money for the IMCK Endowment. As of April 30, 2015, the amount in the Endowment has reached **\$298,294.33** -- less than \$2,000 from a big milestone of \$300,000. With everyone's help, we can reach that milestone by the end of May! <https://mbfoundation.org/friends-imck-endowment-fund/> But we can't rest on our laurels (or palm branches ☺), because we are far behind the goal we originally set for \$500,000 by the first of this year.



We are looking for potential large donors (mega large!), who could help us reach \$500,000 by the end of this year. So, all you friends of IMCK, be on the lookout and put us in touch with anyone you think might have a heart for Congo and a big pocketbook! Contact us with your suggestions at FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com and become part of this growing movement.

We are also looking for people who can help us look for grant funding sources, organize Facebook or Twitter campaigns, write news articles, or facilitate speaking engagements. Or better yet, we can provide you with a PowerPoint slide show for you to help promote the IMCK Endowment! Just send us an email and we will happily respond. Submitted by Bill Rule.

Editorial Note: Current Friends of IMCK Board members: Shannon Jung, Louis Kanda, Elizabeth Ann Manier, Marcia Murray, Bill Rule, Gordon Smith, Dale Stanton-Hoyle, and Charlotte White. Would you like to help?

CONTINUED - Orthopedic MD and Physical Therapist visit IMCK: to get them moving and decrease recovery time. The IMCK carpenter, Tatu Mutela had made a walker for one of the Ditekemena boys. Large crowds observed each day, as Mirriam showed him how to use it. All three boys are doing well, as are the other surgical cases. Read Bob and Kristi Rice's blog, <http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com>, for more information and pictures. The Rices stayed here at Tshikaji for the first few days and provided transportation for the guests. Everyone was sad to see them (Theuri and Miriam) leave on Sunday. We hope this will just be the first of many visits for them over the next few years!"

The IMCK Chapel is to be dedicated on JUNE 7: This project, which started in 2004, has been a collaborative project between IMCK, the Congo Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church USA, Medical Benevolence Foundation, many descendants of the founders of IMCK, and especially First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, TN, which gave over half the cost of the chapel. Chapel construction costs were about \$84,000. The Congo Presbyterian Church donated all the bricks.



Pastor Kabue writes, "Our parish is preparing for the June 7th dedication of the IMCK Founders' Chapel. We are practicing hymns that will be sung that day. The women of the church bought their matching dresses. We have started special prayers for the grand dedication. Everyone is very happy to have a new chapel. We look forward to having the space in the chapel to allow people to take shelter for meetings and choral rehearsals. Thank you to all those who contributed to this work." [Editorial note: the worshipers used the IMCK student dining room on Sundays for over 40 years. But for week day meetings or choir practice, they often met in homes or outside.]

Three people from the USA will travel to join in this dedication. Becky Dwarshuis will represent First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, TN. Steve Vail, son of founding member Alice Longenecker (not yet married in 1954), and Charlotte White, daughter of founders Bill and Effie Rule, will attend this happy event. Submitted by Charlotte 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 Nov 2014 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthreshley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative
Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
Mr. Jack Muthui - PCUSA Representative
Mrs. Kristi Rice - PCUSA Representative
Dr. Kabeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative
Bope Kwete Valentin - State Representative
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative
Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba - IMCK Representative
Current IMCK Administration:
IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba
Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu
Legal Representative - Rev. 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, 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 over 60 yrs.

How 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-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 or memory of someone, if desired.

To give **DIRECTLY to IMCK**, consult Bernard Kabibu at bernardkabibu@gmail.com about how to wire money directly from your bank account into the IMCK BCDC bank (Banque Commerciale Du Congo) account in Congo.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga, Pastor Simon Kabue Mbala, Marcia Murray, Kristi Rice, Bill Rule, Jimmy Shafe, Jo Stewart, and Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write CRuleWhite@gmail.com. We welcome your contributions!