



Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

B. P. 205 Kananga, Republique Democratique du Congo ; Email: imckbusiness@yahoo.fr

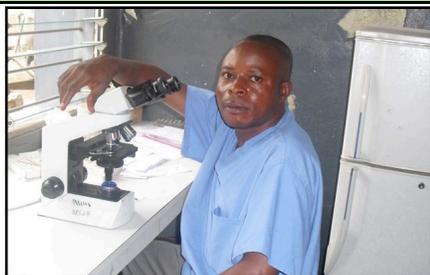
A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 16 - April 2012

IMCK has 2 busy campuses: 1) The Good Shepherd Hospital & many schools are located at Tshikaji, 7 miles out side the city of Kananga. 2) PAX Clinic is in downtown Kananga with an ER and 20 beds for obstetrics.

Head of IMCK PAX

LAB: Muzadi Albert was born in Katumba, near Tshikaji. He graduated from high school at the Agricultural Technical Institute of Tshikaji in 1992. He later attended the Institut



Muzadi (above) & lab staff use window light, during periodic electrical outages.

Technique Medicale of Tshikaji and graduated with a diploma as a Lab Tech in 2003. He worked for three years at the Jukayi Brothers of Charity in Kananga, a Catholic rehabilitation organization that facilitates orthopedic surgeons on vacation to come to Kananga and operate and also provides physical rehab after those surgeons leave. Since 2006, he has worked as a lab tech at IMCK, first at the Good Shepherd Hospital and later at the PAX clinic in downtown Kananga. Since 2008, he has served as the Head of the PAX lab, working with four other lab techs, one assistant and an orderly. He is known as honest and fair. He is married to Kapinga Viviane, a head nurse at the Good Shepherd Hospital. The staff in the lab have great responsibility in providing vital information in the diagnosis and treatment of people in a busy downtown clinic. When asked what the needs are for the PAX lab, Muzadi explained that they are often hampered by the failure or lack of reagents, problems with needing parts for microscopes (see below), and few supplies. More centrifuge machines are always needed. Equipment for



determining hematecrits and glucose are always needed. This needs to be coordinated with administration, should someone take this as a project. Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe & Bernard Kabibu

Cared for at Good Shepherd Hospital of IMCK

Tshidibi Mukendi, 33 years old, is a widow and second wife of a man who had been retired from the Railway. She is the mother of 3 young daughters. By lack of funding, non of these girls is going to school. Before she got sick, she worked in the fields to survive. She came from another hospital to the Good Shepherd Hospital with a head wound due to a puncture for infusion of quinine (treatment for acute malaria) and headaches. Dr Cecil DeSweemer, who runs the Butoke NGO, referred her to IMCK for proper medical care. Dr Fletcher saw her and recommended urgent admission on February 20. She was taken to surgery where the wound was debrided and part of the skull bone was scraped or removed. A skin graft was done. She is doing well now. The cost of her care is \$895.36.



Tshidibi Mukendi displays the area on her skull, where the graft is healing over the wound.

Imagine the danger to which this woman would have been exposed, if she had not come to the Good Shepherd Hospital! And if the hospital was not an institution of medical philanthropy! The Good Shepherd Hospital is undoubtedly a gift of God. Here is how she expresses her joy: "I did not know that I could survive. I was truly dead. I thank my God for the healing I received at Tshikaji."

Butoke, the non profit organization that referred her, was able to pay only \$36.50 of her debt. And since she was the second wife, she cannot collect money from her deceased husband's retirement. So Good Shepherd Hospital took care of this woman in love, hoping that one day the Lord will act in the hearts of people of good will to help IMCK to cover this amount. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

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

Two PCUSA Presbyteries provide Scholarships for IMCK Nursing and Lab Students At ITM

The Nursing School at IMCK, called Institut Technique Medicale or ITM, has been graduating students for over 50 years. This school also has a lab tech school. The students graduate with a high school degree and have been providing significant nursing and lab services in the region. This year, 85 students are in that 4 year program, with 11 graduating in June 2012, 6 nursing and 5 lab tech graduates.

Students must pay for high school in Congo. For several years, scholarship help for these students has come from **New Castle Presbytery** of Delaware and Maryland. More recently, **Peace River Presbytery** in Florida has collected money to help with expenses of the 13 students graduating in June.

The financial recession in the USA has been mild compared to how it has affected countries like the Congo. By 2010, IMCK had accumulated debts totaling \$143,000 and had fallen three months behind in paying staff salaries. As part of a draconian program to manage this major medical institution, the tuition for ITM students was raised from \$100 to \$200. To help with this new crisis to students, **New Castle Presbytery** has a three year subsidy plan to help all ITM students, as the increase is phased in.

PCUSA New Castle Presbytery and Kananga Presbytery of Congo Presbyterian Church (the region of IMCK) have had a partnership since 2004, following the visit of a delegation to the DRC lead by Rev Dr Stephen Hundley, pastor of FPC, Newark, DE. A recent New Castle report says, "Previous contacts & travel can be traced back as far as early 1997. Over these years of travel, friendships, prayers and witness, our affection for one another has grown as brothers and sisters in Christ. Presently six congregations of New Castle Presbytery have sister to sister partnerships with parishes in Kananga Presbytery. These include the Lewes, First Newark, Westminster Rehoboth, Community, Westminster Wilmington and Elkton churches." The report lists partnership activities in the Congo Church and at IMCK to include school construction, micro loans for women's empowerment, scholarships for IMCK students, agricultural projects, fundraising to replace the printing press, support of widows and orphans, food for inmates, and costs to print bibles and hymnals. IMCK is thankful for the New Castle's help with student scholarships and many other programs of the Congo Presbyterian Church in the community.

Recently at the Presbyterian Women's retreat of **Peace River Presbytery** in Florida, the group decided to raise money to help pay expenses of the eleven ITM graduates. Towards the end of a student's 4 years of high school, family support and extended family loan systems become exhausted, even as students need to close out tuition debts, rent a graduation gown and pay to take the test to be certified by the government to be a nurse or lab tech. Continued on page 3 - Scholarships for Students at IMCK.



Ladies Knit and Sew Mission Group of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Bernard Kabibu Reflects on Visits to IMCK in 2011

We were honored by visits to IMCK from the following people in 2011:

February: Charlotte Rule White came for an IMCK Newsletter partnership and for the project to build the IMCK Founders Chapel. Judith Brown came as a facilitator to the IMCK Board. Bill Rule and Jeff Boyd came to attend the IMCK Board Meeting. Frank Dimmock came to work with the CPC.

April: Dr Denis Pirlot de Corbion came to serve as Acting Director of IMCK for 18 months.

May: Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) brought the following visitors: Midge Barron, Mike Clement, Rev Steven Eason, Catherine Eason, Sarah Eason, David Ibsen, Elizabeth Little, Anne Wright, Fletcher Wright, and Lisa Kaye Yearta. MPPC Church from Charlotte, NC had come for a working visit to IMCK through our partnership with the parish. They worked in different offices/departments of IMCK, each according to their specialty - finance, personnel, health, evangelism, education. Mike Clement served as a delegate at the May IMCK Board meeting. MPPC brought many supplies.

June: Jimmy Shafe brought two different groups, each for about a week. Their names are: Susan Barnes, Debbie & Joseph Burger, Heather Copeland, Beverly Skelly Fielding, Carolyn King Haake, Kathryn Nelson Handle, Martha Henk, Mary Henk Turnbull, John Henk, Donald Reasoner, Jimmy Shafe, Jan Shafe, Janet Cobi Shafe, Sarah Stockwell Stranahan, and Elizabeth Vass Wilkerson. Both groups were predominantly composed of children of former Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries in Congo. Jimmy Shafe, son of former missionaries and also Regional Director of Rivers of the World in the Kasai, led the visitors to various projects funded by ROW and to places where the students had lived or gone to school in Congo. They brought a lot of important material for the hospital. I personally was happy to see the 3 children of Rev Wallace and Ruth Henk, Methodist missionary couple who were our teachers in the secondary school of Katubue. I had my first English lesson from Ruth Henk in 1966. It was also a great joy for me to see Carolyn King (Nseya), daughter of Rev Earl and Virginia King, who worked in our mission of Mboyi for several decades. They took me in their Land Rover in 1964 to drop me off in Kananga to go on to enter for the first time Katubue Secondary School.

July: Mr Christopher Daniel Strader, a student nurse, came for a two month internship. Mr Andrej, an engineer from Germany, came to consult on the needs for the hydro. Mr Aime Kadima came from Kinshasa to consult about the IMCK accounting program. Dr Bob Beya, a Congolese living in France, came to perform orthopedic surgery.

Continued on page 3 - 2011 Visits



Friends of IMCK, continues to have churches and individuals join in support of IMCK. As of March 31, 2012, \$75,294 has been donated to the IMCK Endowment plan. Another \$878 have been donated separately to provide for expenses in raising the money or printing material. Names of Churches and people, who have joined Friends of IMCK, will be listed every other month in the IMCK Newsletter. Thanks to you who joined! If you have not yet joined, see instructions below for joining!

Continued: 2011 Visits:

August: Simon Nsangu, a technician of Chanimetal in Kinshasa, came to change the safe combinations. Bob Ellis, Jeff Boyd and Debbie Braaksma of PCUSA came for CPC and IMCK partnerships and also brought supplies.

November: Jo Stewart of MPPC came with Jeff Boyd for the IMCK Board Meeting. Michael Stewart came for the MPPC and IMCK partnership.

Throughout the year, Larry Sthreshley, Chairman of IMCK Board, came from Kinshasa for many meetings. By Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

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.

Cont'd - Scholarships for students at IMCK: The **Peace River Presbyterian Women** started a collection for scholarships that became so enthusiastic that even the person who won the door prize at the gathering raffled it off for more money for the ITM graduates' scholarship fund! The Ladies' Knit and Sew Mission Group of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, part of this presbytery, has been sewing layettes and children's clothing for IMCK for many years. Recently, they sent a trunk of these clothes to Jimmy Shafe to take to IMCK, when he travels there in May. Bea Ridge Presbyterian Church has also helped make layettes sent to IMCK.

While this article has featured the ITM school at IMCK, there is a new university at IMCK with students who also need scholarships. This is called ISTM, instead of ITM. They will be featured in a future article.

Next month, the presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in Alabama will be featured for their partnership with the Congo Presbyterian Church and for the support they have provided for IMCK for years. The first two Presbyterian missionaries to Congo, Sheppard and Lapsley, went from their Presbytery. Do you know that history? Submitted by Charlotte

Board Members of IMCK

These were the representatives at the Nov 2011 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthreshley - 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 almost 60 years. To help with supplies needed, please contact Charlotte White at CRuleWhite@gmail.com or

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,, 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.