



# 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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With this April/May newsletter comes the end of another academic year at IMCK. The last year high school students (in lab tech and nursing) of ITM will graduate in June. The last year college students in pediatrics, midwifery and health administration at ISTM will graduate in July. In late July, the 24 last year medical students will depart for graduation at their medical schools, Notre Dame in Kananga and Congo Protestant University in Kinshasa. But the work of the medical staff at the Good Shepherd Hospital, at the PAX Clinic and in the Public Health programs will continue, as IMCK constantly provides care and hope to so many people in the Congo. Submitted by Charlotte White



**Young Isuku Socrates accidentally swallowed lye. He then suffered malnourishment for months before coming to IMCK, where Dr. Fletcher performed surgery.**

### **IMCK Board of Directors meeting April 30 and May 1:**

A quorum of the members to the IMCK Board of Directors gathered at Tshikaji, representing the Communauté Presbytérienne au Congo, Communauté Mennonite au Congo, PCUSA, the Provincial Ministry of Health & Social Affairs, & IMCK employees. The meeting opened with prayer, hymns & a biblical meditation.

Chairman of the Board, Dr. Larry Sthresley, welcomed attendees. He reflected on the challenge for IMCK, with all its potential & gifts, to make good decisions, to openly present issues & concerns, & to work together on solutions. The Minister of Health and Social Affairs expressed provincial support to IMCK & challenged IMCK to strive for quality care & education.

The report on IMCK activities for 2013 was approved with some added recommendations on the sale of a truck, renovation of some IMCK buildings, questions about the stillbirth rate at the hospital, and requests for improved formats for future reporting of statistics.

The agenda on current IMCK projects included a newly proposed surgery residency program; a new accounting system; renovation of PAX; a grant proposal to American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) for classrooms and residences; and (Cont'd. pg. 3 - IMCK)

**IMCK HELPS YOUNG MAN WHO ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWS LYE:** Isuku Socrates, Age 13, is an orphan, who was living with relatives. In August of 2013, his aunt was making soap and temporarily used a jar ordinarily used for family water. Isuku returned from school and being very thirsty, grabbed the jar and drank. He cried out from pain and burning in his mouth. The family rushed with him to the hospital. By November, he could no longer swallow, so at the hospital in Vanga, a gastrostomy was performed to nourish him with tube feeding. By this time, his esophagus was badly burned. In April 2014, he was brought to IMCK to see Dr John Fletcher. After a series of tests, Dr Fletcher performed surgery. One week later, Isuku began to take food again by mouth. Thanks be to God, this boy has recovered and can eat like everyone else. We say thank you to Dr John Fletcher, to Dr Pepe Banza, and to the OR staff of Good Shepherd Hospital for their courage in helping this young man. Young Isuku Socrates was discharged from care in early May, but he is held in the hospital still, as his family has not paid his bill, which is \$450.

Submitted by Gibende Hippolytus



**Katujudi with her husband, Dr. Alex Mvita Kande, IMCK doctor**

Simone Katujudi Nkuna was born December 22, 1966. She died in March 2014, following a short illness and unsuccessful surgery. The IMCK community gathered for her funeral at Tshikaji on March 27. In her early life, she attended nursing school and married Dr. Alex Mvita Kande, with whom she had four children. She worked at the Good Shepherd Hospital for 27 years. During those years, she healed and cared for the sick as a nurse, she worked for a time in the pharmacy, and later she managed the central supply. She was greatly respected



**Simone Katujudi Nkuna was a beloved nurse at IMCK**

by her peers and IMCK leaders. Nurse, mother of four, wife, elder, she leaves a family and friends in the IMCK community, who grieve her unexpected death and ask for your prayers. Submitted by Marcia Murray

**Medical Students in Final Year of School come to work a full year at IMCK:**

This past academic year, 24 medical students have been working at IMCK. This has been a busy year for Dr Pepe Banza Kalenga, the IMCK Director of Education! And as these students rotated through various clinical experiences, all the physicians working at IMCK were teaching them! Ten students are from the medical school in Kananga, Notre Dame, and fourteen students are from the Universite Protestante au Congo (UPC) in Kinshasa. At least eight of the students are young women. The students spend three months in each of the following rotations: obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, internal medicine and pediatrics.

For many of the students from UPC in the capital city, Kinshasa, coming to live at Tshikaji was a cultural challenge. They chose to come to live for twelve months in a wing of the Good Shepherd Hospital and work with a general population of poor people. The majority of the students were glad to learn to work in a rural Christian hospital. Students from UPC in Kinshasa are assigned to one of three Christian Hospitals: The Vanga Evangelical Hospital in Bandundu province, the IMC Hospital at Kimpese in Bas-Congo, or IMCK in the Kasai Occidental province. The medical student leader for the UPC students this year was Junior Musenga and their chaplain was Faliala Fabienne.

Medical students from Notre Dame Medical School in Kananga have been serving their last year of medical school at IMCK for some years. While they may be more familiar with the culture or speaking the local language, Tshiluba, they still find the rural life of Tshikaji a great contrast to the city life of Kananga.



**Twenty-two of the twenty-four medical students at IMCK this academic year.**

The life of a medical student is very strenuous because of the demanding work constantly to attend to patients under supervision of their medical instructors. That is to say, from admission to discharge, they follow a patient. Various challenges await young enthusiastic medical students: communication with patients speaking only Tshiluba, students procuring and preparing their own food in a hospital with no food provisions, insufficient housing for medical students, Cont'd pg. 3: see Medical Students

**IMCK Board Continued:** progress on opening the School of Public Health, which will be supervised by Dr. Martha Sommers.

The minutes of the meeting show that the Board next reviewed concerns over the quality of care and work at IMCK. The Board set eight goals for improvement. They then reviewed pension funds, those who were retiring, and fees and bonuses for physicians.

The Board accepted the proposal for hydro renovation and asked the Management Committee to draft a proposal for seeking funds for this project.

The second day of the meeting was mostly spent in reviewing the IMCK financial reports. The Board requested that all divisions of IMCK (hospital, PAX, ITM, ISTM, Dental) submit financial statements using the a standard accounting format and using only one monetary system. They requested parts of financial statements be resubmitted with certain accounting formats.

The Board appointed the following officers:  
Director of IMCK - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba, Pharmacist  
Medical Dir. of IMCK - Dr. Bonard Djongesongo Djamba  
Administrator of IMCK - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu  
Director of Education - Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga  
Dir. of Public Health - Dr. Bruno Kapingamulume Kalala  
Director of Dentistry - Dr. Alphonse Kabasele Kabata  
Director of Ophthalmology - Dr. Roger Kapembu Kanda  
Chaplain - Rev. Trudon Kabasele Bantubiabu  
Director of ITM - Mr. Jacque Mpoi Lumpungu  
Personnel Officer - Rev. Medard Shamuimba Mbombo  
The Board appointed those who signed checks for the two bank accounts and assigned members of subcommittees.

The Chairman of the Board thanked the following for their support of IMCK and for their collaborative work: Board and staff of IMCK, MBF and their partners, PCUSA, ROW, PROSANI, ASSP, FIMCK, MPPC and the Congolese Government. The date for the next board meeting was set to be during the week of November 10 - 15, 2014. The meeting closed in prayer.  
Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu, who was elected to take minutes for the Board meeting. Translated by Bill Rule.



Board Chairman  
Larry Sthreshley

**MEDICAL STUDENTS:** communication problems with work managers, poor access to the internet, few current medical textbooks, and lack of tools for examination such as ophthalmoscopes, otoscopes, thermometers, and blood pressure machines.

These challenges have started to receive some concrete answers. So it is with thanks to the support of many friends of IMCK that the Department of Education has received current textbooks for everyday use. The IMCK, for its part, has refurbished rooms for the female medical students first and are looking for ways to improve living quarters for the male medical students. The problems associated with good access to a library or to the internet here arise when the medical students must make scientific presentations.

These unresolved material difficulties do not prevent these students from being generous in such ways as the following: to accommodate the sick who have certain needs, to offer food to the poorest patients with no food, such as they did for the children in pediatrics at Christmas.

Socially, the students have an outing monthly at which time they go to Kananga for entertainment or to sing in Christian choral groups.

Their academic schools have arranged for a number of their medical professors to visit IMCK for supervision. These visits provide opportunities for medical theoretical and practical exchange with students. They allow for scientific exchanges with the medical staff of IMCK for better management of our patients. Before the intern course ends in late July, 2014, there will be another supervision visit in late May or early June.

The supervision of medical students contributes to a mutually beneficial partnership between IMCK and the medical schools in a way that helps both the medical staff of IMCK and the sick, who come to for healing. Submitted by Dr Pepe Banza Kalenga



The 14 med students from Congo Protestant University

### Toys sent to IMCK Pediatric Ward from Oregon Church:

Last year during Vacation Bible School, children collected toys at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon to send to IMCK. For months, the toys were stored in the garage of church member Linda Hackwell, as she sought someone to take them to Congo. In January, members of First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, TN, who were going to Congo, agreed to pack and take the toys. Marcia Murray, PCUSA volunteer working at IMCK, reports that the toys were passed out at the Nutrition Center and on the Pediatric Ward. Thanks to Westminster Presbyterian Church! Perhaps we will eventually get a picture of this happening.

Often, churches want to encourage children in America in a concrete project of partnership with children in Congo. Another way for churches to involve their youth is to exchange letters with IMCK students in the lab tech program, the nursing programs, the health administration program, or the medical students. French textbooks are also always needed in these programs. Submitted by Charlotte White

### RENOVATION OF PAX by Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) and PCUSA:

Volunteer Antonio Martinez, an architect, is currently living in Kananga to supervise a three phase renovation at the IMCK multi clinic, called PAX, in Kananga. These three phases were started in 2013. On May 16, Antonio wrote the following note to his friends at Myers Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC): "It has been 10 months since we have seen each other, but we have made some progress over here in the meantime. It was really good to see Jo Stewart [from MPPC] last week." Below is a summary of his report on renovation of the PAX clinic as of April/May 2014:

Phase 1 - PAX Lab Renovation: This phase is almost complete. Shelving & some furniture are not yet in. As of March, \$26,000 had been invested in lab rehabilitation. A large portion was spent on tile for the floor & walls. The addition of locking armoires & workspace took up a large portion of funds. The bathroom & sinks were all replaced or refurbished with new water lines running from the existing cistern. Logistical difficulties in the funding delayed the project several months, while the lab operated in an auxiliary space upstairs. Solar panels provide electricity to plugs & lights in the lab and also lighting to the emergency room, sick bay & main entrance. It also feeds computers in the coordinators office & the cashiers office.

Phase 2 - Dental Clinic and Pharmacy Renovation: This is almost 90% complete. \$22,000 was allocated for the rehabilitation of an auxiliary space on the ground floor to provide room for a new dental clinic. Some work is also being done in the pharmacy, because of the design's encroachment. This includes renovation of the bathroom. A solar array is separately budgeted to be installed to provide electricity for this wing of PAX. As of April, \$18,400 had been spent on walls, doors, sinks & tile. This project has been more costly than originally budgeted. Construction of the cistern will take about 3 weeks. The dental chairs require a small mechanical space built, as well as piping in the walls or floors. Electrical installation costs cover installation of lighting, outlets, & the solar panel system for this wing. Instead of the budgeted \$3,600, this will cost about \$7,500.

Phase 3 - Women's Center: The design is being reviewed with the ladies who work there. Jo Stewart also contributed to this design, in a big way. We should start construction in July. This phase will be the most challenging. It will take place in the existing dental clinic, & combine the OB/GYN offices with the maternity ward into one space. This will vastly improve patient flow at PAX. The current labor room, maternity, & OB/GYN functions are scattered about parts of the building. \$80,000 is needed to perform this grand transformation. Much of the cost will be for repairing the existing structure. Most of the floor is in good condition, but there is a lot of water damage in the ceiling and walls. It is also very dark & dirty. Shelving & storage will be fairly minimal. Plumbing & fixtures will also consume only a small amount of funding. Lighting will be the crucial element to change the space & most of it should be daylighting. A solar panel system will be installed to power that entire wing of PAX, including the women's center. The existing dental bays will be used as OB/GYN observation bays. The rear of this long section will be the labor & delivery area. There will be a sterile surgery/delivery room adjacent to that. Behind that area will be a maternity postpartum ward. All this space will require cleaning & adding daylighting & ventilation. Summary written by Charlotte White from reports of Antonio Martinez to Myers Park Presbyterian Church and PCUSA.



Antonio at the renovate lab

## IMCK TO BE IN EVIDENCE at GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

IMCK will be present at the PCUSA 221st General Assembly (GA) in Detroit, June 14-21. For starters, there is an overture before the GA requesting that they endorse the efforts of Friends of IMCK to raise an Endowment Fund for IMCK, and that they endorse the concept of endowment funds generally for mission partner institutions as a means of providing some degree of long term financial stability, while also recognizing the dignity and responsibility of local leaders in making their own financial decisions about use of the earnings. This overture was submitted by New Castle Presbytery and supported by Abingdon, Coastal Carolina, Florida, Glacier, Heartland, Nevada, Scioto Valley, Western North Carolina and Whitewater Valley. Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) also offered favorable comments.

In addition, IMCK will be strongly represented in two exhibit booths, one by PMA and one by the Congo Mission Network (CMN). Materials will be available at these booths that local congregations and presbyteries may use to promote special giving for the IMCK Endowment. There will also be IMCK shopping bags and peanuts on free offer. So if you are at the GA in June, please come by one or both of these exhibit booths and let us know about your support! Submitted by Bill Rule



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) . IMCK, PCUSA & MBF sites have lots of info about Congo & IMCK. Read about Congo Mission Network <http://www.congopartners.org/> & <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork>, Helping Hands [www.congohelpinghands.org/](http://www.congohelpinghands.org/) , & Rivers of the World [www.row.org](http://www.row.org) . Join IMCK face book is at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Medical-Institute-of-the-Kasai-IMCK/110759025647158> To join Congo Connections, write Annette [anwash@centurylink.net](mailto:anwash@centurylink.net) . Go to <http://www.enoughproject.org/> to learn about conflict minerals in Congo. Read more about Congo at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic\\_Republic\\_of\\_the\\_Congo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo). Learn; read; act!

## Board Members of IMCK at the May 2013 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board  
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative  
Dr Mahuma Gaspard - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)  
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative  
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative  
Fr. Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative  
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.  
Dr. Patrick Kebeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative  
Mr. Ntumba Tshingombe - CPC Representative  
Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC 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  
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 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 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:, Dr Pepe Banza, Gibende Hypolytus, Bernard Kabibu, Antonio Martinez, Marcia Murray, Bill Rule, Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). We welcome your contributions!