



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI



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

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**A Monthly Newsletter**

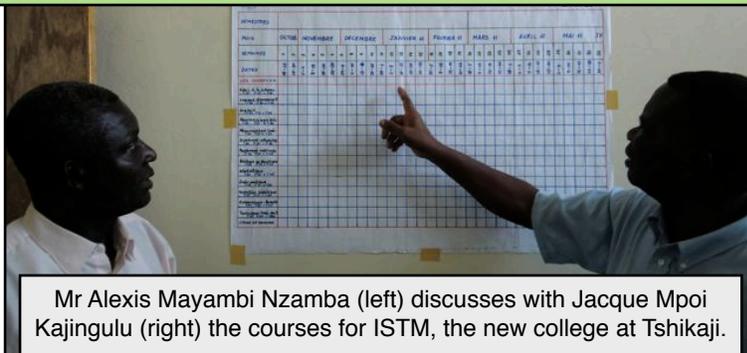
**Issue No 18 - May 2012**

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

### RECENT IMCK BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of IMCK met for their semi-annual meeting on April 30 - May 2. Significant outcomes included naming Alexis Mayambi as the new IMCK Director. Alexis currently serves as both the Chief Pharmacist and Director of the ISTM Nursing School. Dr. Blaise Ndandu left IMCK on May 15 after serving as interim director and delivering many years of devoted service to the citizens of Tshikaji as a staff physician and Medical Director. Dr. Ndandu has accepted a position in South Africa.

Other major items on the agenda included the proposed renovation of the PAX laboratories as part of the eventual overall PAX renovation. The labs will be first in the sequence of renovations in an effort to build revenue sources from increased capabilities and more modern facilities. The board agreed to pay 2 of 3 months back wages from current funds. Every effort continues to be focused on improving financial plans, revenue opportunities and increasing grants and donations in-flow to IMCK. Without improvements in these areas, the hospital will continue to see declines in patient flow, which has dropped dramatically since 2008. The next board meeting is scheduled for early December. Submitted by Mike Clement.



Mr Alexis Mayambi Nzamba (left) discusses with Jacque Mpoi Kajingulu (right) the courses for ISTM, the new college at Tshikaji.

### NEW DIRECTOR OF IMCK

Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba, the new Director of IMCK, was born in 1955 at Nyanga in the Tshikapa territory in Occidental Kasai. He is married to Antoinette Kinona and they have six children, three sons and three daughters. He is a member of the Mennonite Community of Congo.

He completed primary and secondary school in Nyango. He completed pharmacy school at the University of Kinshasa in 1985. Besides having a Pharmacy license, he has a graduate degree in environmental science, an associate degree in teaching, & a degree in community development.

He worked as a pharmacist at the Mennonite hospital Kalonda from 1986 to 1990. He served as manager of the Mennonite pharmaceutical depot, Medico 27<sup>th</sup>, in Tshikapa from 1990 to 1995. For the next year, he was regional manager of a medical supply system called SCAM – SPRL. From 1996 to 2002, he was deputy pharmacy inspector in Kinshasa. He served as pharmacist of IMCK 2002 – 2010. Since 2010, he has been Director of Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales (ISTM), the new medical technology college at Tshikaji. He is a member of numbers of pharmacy organizations and Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba's motto is honesty & discipline. We wish him good luck & full success as the Director of IMCK. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu



**Good Shepherd Patient** This little 3 year old boy, Tshipamba Katuala, was admitted to Good Shepherd Hospital in February with swollen forearms and shoulders, high fever and altered mental status. After a blood test and x-rays, Dr. Blaise diagnosed chronic osteomyelitis, a bone infection. (Continued on page 3)

### BUILDING OF IMCK CHAPEL FINALLY TO START

After several months of discussion and planning, the CPC and IMCK Board have decided on a location, a design, a contractor and a funding schedule for the new Founders Chapel to be built at Tshikaji on the IMCK campus. The design and the location can be seen in the small slide show on our web site at <http://www.imck.org/Ministry-index.html>. Due to cost constraints, one of the things decided was to build the basic structure, walls and roof, at this time with the funds that have been raised to date (\$34,182) and to defer much of the interior and finish work -- concrete floor, ceiling, plastering, glazed windows -- until such time as more donations may be received. We estimate that another \$40,000 would be needed to complete the finishing work and put on the steeple. Submitted by Bill Rule



Woody Collins goes to work in Congo in early July and is offering to take a trunk of supplies for IMCK. Airfare cost for this trunk from US to Kananga is about \$275. The IMCK administration has a list of supplies they urgently need, most of which we can procure for free. But we need about \$125 to buy some of those supplies. Total of \$400. You want to help with this quick project? Write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). If enough money comes in, we can get this trunk off to Indianapolis in a hurry, with thanks to Woody!

**Concern for Widows in the Tshikaji IMCK Community:**

Widows in Congo often face little if any financial support besides that from subsistence farming. Their young children need shelter and food. Families must also pay for children to attend school. The churches (called parishes) of Congo Presbyterian Church, such as the Parish of IMCK, work to help the widows in the community. The minister of IMCK Parish, Rev. Dr. Simon Kabue Mbala, wrote the following, when I asked him about helping widows. "For many years, the Parish of IMCK has been supervising a program for widows under the direction of a committee chosen by the Christians themselves. These widows are numerous. At the end of each month, they are given flour, soap, oil and sometimes a little



money. This comes from the contribution of members of the parish. But that is not sufficient, because the capacity of our church is minimal. Some widows have children who need money to [attend school.] There are widows with no homes and the parish is not able to meet certain needs. Some widows have an area of land but lack a home. May the Lord help us find ways to help others."

A scene in the film, "A Glimpse of Grace" shows this work for widows. In 2009, Kim Braittain of Myers Park Presbyterian Church made this film about IMCK and the people of Tshikaji, when she visited on a mission trip. Kim, a retired Charlotte news anchor, produced this 30 minute DVD, which can be ordered by sending a donation to MPPC (suggested amount of \$50) and designating the check for Congo projects. Send to: Elizabeth Little, Global Outreach Dir., Myers Park Presby. Church, 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, NC 28207. Submitted by Charlotte White

**FRIENDS of IMCK endowment approaches**

**\$100,000!** This endowment, managed through Medical Benevolence Foundation, will supplement IMCK operating costs in its service in teaching doctors, nurses and lab techs and in serving the indigent in a country with great hardship. As of May 31, 2012, \$90,379 has been donated directly to the IMCK Endowment plan. Another \$878 have been donated separately to provide for expenses in raising the money or printing material. The following are names of Churches and people, who have joined Friends of IMCK: \*

Davidson College Presbyterian Church - Presbyterian Women  
 First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury, NJ  
 Rockville Fellowship Presbyterian Church, California  
 Presbyterian Church of Danville, KY

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Don Ashworth                    | Mr John Nelson   |
| Karl Benson                     | Patricia Phillips  |
| Harry & Sylvia Bolton           | Robert Pruitt  |
| Drs Richard & Judith Brown      | Dr Birch & Peggy Rambo   |
| Leslie Bryant                   | Matthew Rhodes/Nancy Cole  |
| John & Linda Coffin             | Dr Dennis Ries   |
| Margaret Connell/Steve Phillips | James L Robinson   |
| Heather Copeland                | Linda Spooner Roth   |
| Susan Spooner Copeland          | Bill & Beth Rule   |
| Marjorie Culbertson             | John & Kay Rule  |
| Dorothy Douglas                 | Dr William & Sue Sager   |
| Mr & Mrs Raymond Elkes          | Dr Ralph Shannon   |
| Dr Hugh & Ellen Farior          | Dr Faye Sinclair   |
| Hope Farior                     | Bill & Willie Simmons  |
| Michael & Miriam Gavigan        | Dr Ronald & Judith Sisel   |
| Byron Goodrum                   | Gertrude G Smith   |
| Robert & Mary Gould             | Dr Gordon & Annette Smith  |
| Ruth Hardage                    | Joanne Smith T   |
| Frances Hawkins                 | Linda Stringer   |
| Dr John & Stella Hillsman       | Vanessa Stalkamp   |
| Marjorie Hullinger              | Joe & Amelia (Poole) Sudderth                                    |
| Raymond Huger                   | Jerry & Lynn VandeGrift  |
| Sarah Spooner Jarratt           | Dr David & Ruth Ann Webster                                      |
| Linda Dickerson Johns           | Marcia Whitney-Schenck   |
| Michael & Heidi Jung            | Fred Williamson  |
| Phillip & Ann Jung              | Dr Lamar & Ruthmary Williamson                                   |
| Revs Shannon & Patricia Jung    | Williamson   |
| Warren B Jung                   | Steve & Charlotte (Rule) White                                   |
| Rev Edwin & Mae Kang            | Deborah Woodruff   |
| J S Langrall                    | Jim & Elizabeth (Rule) Woodruff                                  |
| Rev Gene & Frances Lovell       | Julia Worth  |
| Dr Mary Sue Makin               | William Worth Jr   |
| Phyllis Goodrum McAndrew        | Rev Don & Marlene Wyenberg                                       |
| Drs Merle Miller & Alex Maslaka | *Time between donation & report to this editor is about 3 weeks. |
| Rev Elsie McKee                 | Submitted by Charlotte White                                     |

The new website for IMCK is now on line for the public. Go to [www.IMCK.org](http://www.IMCK.org) or type it directly to your browser. Dr. Blaise Ndandu us at [FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com), if you want to advise us or help us with this. By Bill Rule

**Diabetic education at the IMCK PAX CLINIC:** Recently, I had the pleasure of accompanying Jimmy Shafe, Ruthie Bobb Schaad, Charles Johnson, Dr. Richard Matanda and Reverend Ben Mathes on a whirlwind tour of several hospitals in the Kasai [administered by the Congo Presbyterian Church.] Our task: evaluate the ability of these hospitals to support and train Congolese physicians during their 18 month internship at the end of medical school. As anyone with knowledge of the state of things in the DRC can appreciate, we found a mixture of ancient equipment and new in varying states of modification and repair (some pieces more functional than others), challenges related to lack of power and clean water, and an indomitable spirit of perseverance. One example was the diabetic education clinic administered by Dr. Bartholome Mulaja Mukendi at the IMCK PAX in Kananga. Here amidst the busy maternity, well child clinic and acute care for adults is found a man with a mission to educate and care for those with a chronic disease that affects so many. Through education about diet, activity and the importance of consistent use of prescribed medications, Dr. Mulaja Mukendi is changing the lives of entire families. During their sessions, patients learn what foods to eat and avoid, what warning signs to be aware of in regard to their illness, how to monitor their blood sugars, the importance of regular follow up visits and much more. This clinic is one of many examples we witnessed of Congolese taking charge and making a difference. As overwhelming as the problems in the Kasai and the DRC as a whole are, rather than bury their heads in the sand and ignore them, many are taking on the issues at hand with the resources they have available to improve the lives of themselves and those around them. Hopefully more help is on the way, if physicians in training from Universite Presbyterian du Congo and other medical schools can learn from the example of doctors like Dr. Bartholome Mulaja Mukendi. Submitted by Dr Brian Bobb, grandson of former missionaries Bobbs & Spooners

**Good Shepherd Patient - Continued:** Dr. Blaise Ndandu made an incision to allow the exit of pus. The little boy was given antibiotic IV treatment treatment and daily dressing changes. He was released in May with a bill for \$ 568. He is the third in a family of four children where the father, a farmer, is already dead. So this mother, a widow, can not honor the bill for child care. IMCK is committed to medical service for both paying and non paying patients and remains grateful for the new endowment plan to help in cases like Tshipamba. Submitted by Hippolithe Gibende

### **Board Members of IMCK**

**These were the representatives at the May 2012 meeting:**

Dr. Larry Sthreshley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board  
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.  
Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative  
Dr. Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative

**IMCK Administration:** [imckbusiness@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness@yahoo.fr)

IMCK Director -Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba  
Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu  
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - Legal Representative

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 information about Congo & 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) . See <http://www.enoughproject.org/> re: conflict minerals in Congo and the need for certification. Learn about Congo at [www.wikipedia.org/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Read, learn, get involved.

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 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 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.

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](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: Brian Bobb, Mike Clement, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Simon Kabue, Bill Rule, Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.