



INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai - Serving in Central Congo

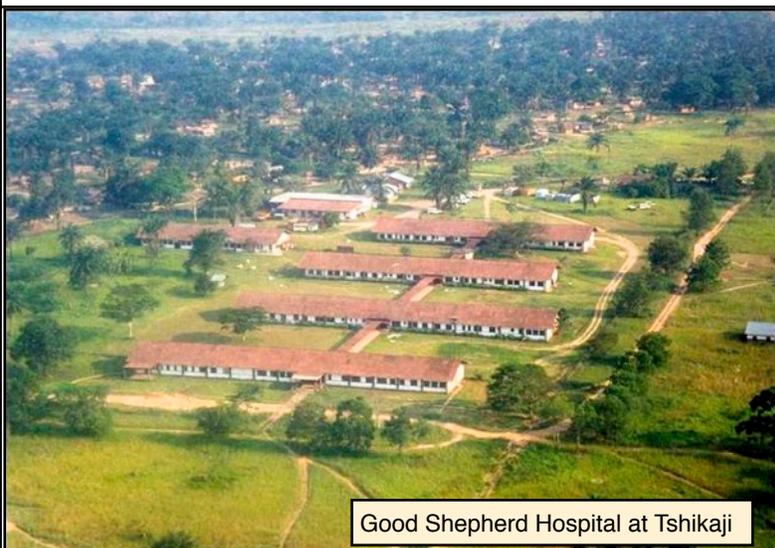
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A Monthly or Bimonthly Newsletter

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Find Kananga

on map: IMCK has two campuses. Tshikaji station is ten miles outside of Kananga, and is the 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.



Good Shepherd Hospital at Tshikaji

The IMCK Board met April 29, 2013 – May 1, 2013 at Tshikaji. Ten Board members attended the meeting, representing the Congo Presbyterian Church, Congo Mennonite Church, and Presbyterian Church, USA. Their names are listed on page 3 of this newsletter. Also attending was Dr Mulumba Edmond, the government Provincial Medical Inspector (PMI) for Kasai Occidental. IMCK Administration members & IMCK consultants also attended. Records of the Board meeting include minutes, an annual report, & a detailed activity sheet to be addressed by interim committees & individuals. Below are some highlights of the minutes of the meeting.

Dr. Mulumba Edmond, the Provincial Medical Inspector, said the PAX Polyclinic is set to become the general hospital of reference for the Kananga Health Zone, just as the CHK has become the Provincial Hospital. Dr. Edmond said the Good Shepherd Hospital is classified as a general hospital, but its technical level has declined. He challenged IMCK to improve that level, particularly since IMCK is training young doctors, who need good professional experience.

The Board accepted a proposal for **ISTM to conduct a feasibility study to increase the level of training for IMCK lab technicians.** A Laboratory Degree Program is proposed to start October 2015 at the ISTM college level, then to close ITM high school Laboratory Technician Program.

The IMCK Director, Mr. Alexis Nzamba, reported on a recent meeting with administration of the Protestant University of the Congo (UPC) in Kinshasa regarding **collaboration between UPC and IMCK** for training medical students & resident physicians. UPC already partners with Vanga and Kimpese programs. Some of the benefits of this collaboration will be shared professors and material by UPC. The Vanga, Kimpese and IMCK medical institutions will share seminars and scientific information. When these medical centers are certified as university level hospitals, physicians in these centers may seek professorial positions. The IMCK Board approved the partnership and asked the IMCK Administration to study the needs for this collaboration/partnership and to communicate with Jimmy Shafe, Chairman of the Liaison Office of UPC in the USA. In July 2013, UPC will send 13 medical students to IMCK for training. UPC will provide funding for accommodations for these students.

Dr. Larry Streshley proposed that IMCK conduct a **feasibility study to found a School of Public Health at IMCK,** which meets IMCK objectives. This project, in collaboration with a USA university, will train doctors & other health students at IMCK for public health service. Progress for this program depends on whether PCUSA can provide a competent mission coworker to conduct the program. (Cont'd pg. 3; see Board Meets)

NEWS FLASH! Bill Sager, physician who served at IMCK as a PCUSA mission coworker, has worked with the Rotary Club of Ashland, Oregon to procure a grant for 8 battery operated ultrasounds for 8 hospitals in the Kasai, including IMCK. Rivers Of the World just delivered these to John Fletcher at Tshikaji. He will soon conduct a two week training program for a group of physicians from these hospital. The training program to conduct, read and maintain the machines is being funded by Medical Benevolence Foundation. Submitted by C White

Death of a loved person of IMCK: A long time ITM graduate and IMCK employee, Mr. Isidore Ngalamulu Lukengu, died in March. Born in 1955, Mr. Lukengu graduated from the ITM laboratory program in 1976. After graduation, he worked at Luebo Hospital, then taught at the ITM Tshikaji School. From 1999 until 2005, he served as principal of the ITM Laboratory Division. He then served as Coordinator of Good Shepherd laboratory from 2005 until his death.

Jacque Mpoi Kajingulu, Director of ITM, writes the following about Mr Lukengu, "He was a man of courage, a man who would seek truth, a good worker; he loved to read a lot, and

he led the ITM Bible study for the school students for six years. Despite being ill [with Cancer for some time], Mr Isidore pursued a college degree in medical biology at ISTM / KANANGA until [near his death.] All the community of IMCK regret his death. May his soul rest in peace." Submitted by C. White



Isidore Ngalamulu Lukengu

Work of Friends of IMCK: As of June 1, 2013, the IMCK endowment stands at just over \$135,000. Over 1,000 letters have been written to individuals, presbyteries & congregations, requesting support. Many more will be written in the coming months. Posters, articles & two new brochures have been designed & disseminated to promote the campaign. They can be downloaded from: <http://www.imck.org/Endow-index.html>. Also, a ten minute video has recently been developed that can be viewed at: (<http://youtu.be/kIVfT-6iRU>) and used in presentations to church groups that may be **interested**.



Three commemorative or "named" funds have been established within the endowment, and more may soon be set up for those that wish to honor particular individuals. The three established so far are the

Henry and Katie Nelson Fund, the **Jung Fund** and the

Worth Fund. Gifts to the endowment

fund at this secure MBF web site (<https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?source=WSRG>) may be specified for any of these three funds. Many gifts were recently received in memory/honor of two of IMCK's founding missionaries who passed on to glory within days of each other -- Aurie Miller and Effie Rule.

FIMCK plans soon to apply for grant funds to support a position for a dedicated fundraiser, with the intention of broadening support to include professional and medical schools and foundations outside the normal church core, and to seek individuals of means who may be interested in making substantial endowment contributions. We thank all those who have contributed to date and urge anyone who can help with letter-writing, making presentations to church or other groups, designing materials and media, or providing referrals to contact us at FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com to discuss the possibility of volunteering their time and skills.

Submitted by Bill Rule



Graduates seated for the ITM baccalaureate service.

Class of 25 graduating from ITM: June is the month of graduation from ITM, the high school that graduates nurses or lab technicians after four years of classes and practicum. ITM is recognized as one of the top five of its kind in the DRC. On Sunday, June 23, the ITM dining room, long used as the school auditorium and for Sunday church, was packed with hundreds of students, family and officials for the baccalaureate service for the graduates. Marcia Murray writes that as many people were standing outside the building as were inside.

Of the 25 graduates, seven were graduating as laboratory technicians and 18 were graduating as nurses. In the USA, a nurse graduate would be equivalent perhaps to an LPN. They will be serving in many hospitals and clinics in the DRC.

Jacque Mpoi Kajingulu, Director of ITM, writes the following:

"The baccalaureate thanksgiving worship was celebrated by two pastors. IMCK Chaplain, Rev. Trudon Kabasele Bantu, led the liturgy and Parish minister, Rev. Dr. Simon Kabue Mbala, gave the sermon. His sermon, based on Acts 1:8, invited all to be "Witnesses of Christ." The two pastors led this day of joy in the ancient student dining room. They prayed for the graduates. The three choirs that sang were 1) the Alukilayi choir accompanied by Rev Kabue on the guitar, 2) the Ba Mama Choir of the Parish, and 3) the Choir of ITM Seniors/Graduates. It should be noted that this worship was attended by visitors and many people of the parish. Among the visitors were a team of brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ from the United States, Jimmy Shafe and others from the Rivers of the World. All parents of students there were very happy with the Sunday service."

After ITM students complete their exams this week, they will take the state exam to be licensed to work as a nurse or lab technician. After many years of learning and at great expense for them and their families, they are currently feeling the age old pressure to perform well and to pass!



ITM baccalaureate service.

Submitted by C. White

Continued- IMCK Board Meets: Training will be in English. The Board requested that IMCK Administration, in collaboration with Myers Park Presbyterian Church, prepare a paper presenting IMCK programs, which will be shared with other partners for this public health project, so that this project can be established as a priority.

Mr. Jeff Boyd & Dr. Sthreshley reported on administrative changes in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) regarding global missions goals. PCUSA is discontinuing many central offices, such as International Health Ministries, because coordination has shifted from a centralized national emphasis to more decentralized partnerships with churches & health centers. PCUSA Missions is reorganizing into three offices: 1) Programs to address root causes of poverty, such as better health & education, 2) Evangelism, and 3) Programs for reconciliation & peace. This transition brings uncertainty and probable financial reduction from PCUSA to IMCK. IMCK is encouraged to develop direct partnerships with USA churches, and organizations such as Medical Benevolence Foundation. Dr. Sthreshley emphasized that these direct relationships require IMCK to clearly communicate needs & financial accounts. Mr. Boyd & Dr. Sthreshley invited IMCK to contact them, if there are transition problems. The Board discussed a definition of organizations or individuals defined as partners and those defined as friends. Annual lists will be made of these two groups.

The IMCK Board approved the following current priorities for IMCK:

1) Renovation of PAX Polyclinic. 2) Resupply of drugs, reagents and other materials. 3) Lighting at PAX Polyclinic. 4) Hire a Financial Manager for IMCK. 5) Clear the arrears of personnel wages and balances owed to retirees.

Submitted by Bill Rule and Charlotte White



The roof is on the IMCK Chapel! Now funds will be raised to complete windows, floors and the inside. Does your church want to help with pews or hymnbooks? Contact Charlotte White: CRuleWhite@gmail.com

The IMCK website is a great resource. Go to www.IMCK.org or type it into your browser. Write 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://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 anwash@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.

Board Members of IMCK at the April 2013 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthreshley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative
Dr. Mulumba Edmond - State Medical Inspector
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative
Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.
Ms. Josephine Stewart- PCUSA Representative
Dr. Patrick Kebaya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative
Mr. Alexis Myamba Nzamba - IMCK Representative
Current IMCK Administration: imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr
IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Zambia
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.

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): 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 & donate. Follow instructions to designate the gift to Congo-Kasai / IMCK. Give in honor of someone, if desired.

Newsletter Matters: Contributors this month: Gibende Hippolyte, Jacque Mpoi, Marcia Murray, Bill Rule, Charlotte White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at CRuleWhite@gmail.com. Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.