



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

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

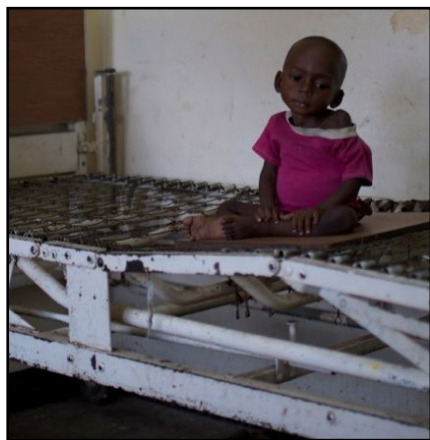
B. P. 205 Kananga, Republique Democratique du Congo ; Email: [imckbusiness@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness@yahoo.fr)

**A Monthly Newsletter (Usually!)**

**Issue No 19 - June & July 2012**

IMCK has 2 busy campuses: 1) The Good Shepherd Hospital & many schools are located at Tshikaji, 10 miles out side the city of Kananga. 2) PAX Clinic is in downtown Kananga with an ER & 20 beds for obstetrics. IMCK continues to provide major medical service to Kananga, with a population of over a million, & to provide a high school with degrees in nursing & lab tech, college degrees in nursing & health administration, & clinical sites for medical student rotations. IMCK also operates a large public health service. Currently about five physicians lead this large medical service team. Dr Fletcher, a mission co-worker and surgeon, is usually there but is in the USA until October. **INVITE HIM TO SPEAK!** Write him at [jfletcher1420@gmail.com](mailto:jfletcher1420@gmail.com).

**MATTRESSES FOR HOSPITALS:** This last May, Charles Johnson, a member & elder of Northwood Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, traveled for the first time to the Democratic Republic of Congo with leaders of Rivers Of the World (ROW) organization, which partners with IMCK on many projects. He visited hospitals & churches of the Congo Presbyterian Church in the Kasai area. He witnessed the profound work of these hospitals with only bare supplies & many hospital beds with only springs, no mattresses. When his group asked various hospital staff what was needed, they repeatedly said the hospitals needed mattresses.



Charles returned home with a plan. Working with Congo partners, Rivers of the World and people in the USA, he, set a goal to raise \$25,000 to purchase mattresses for hospital beds. Mattresses need to be vinyl covered for endurance and cleaning. The funds will be used to purchase mattresses in Kinshasa, the capital, and then transport them into

the Kasai province, where they will be distributed to the following Congo Presbyterian Church hospitals: Good Shepherd, Bulape, Luebo and Kananga PAX.

The \$25,000.00 goal should purchase 375 mattresses. As of July 31, the goal was reached! Just negotiating the most economical shipping of mattresses is a story by itself. Congo partners are arranging details of purchase and shipping. When asked about this trip to Congo and this project, Charles responded: "My first trip to Congo was incredible; an experience that will never be forgotten. I look forward to returning. But like most things in life, God puts challenges in our path that He expects us to respond to without questioning." Cont'd page 3 Mattresses.



**EXTRA TRAINING FOR A NURSE:** Since Dr. John Truelson departed from IMCK over 20 years ago, there has not been a physician with a specialty in ears, nose and throat. So the IMCK Board decided to send a nurse to Kinshasa for a short term of intensive training in some fundamentals in that area. Mr. Kafula Mputu Koffi was chosen to

go to the Bondeko Center in Kinshasa for six months. He acquired knowledge that enabled him to deal with many patients in this area of medicine under the supervision of IMCK Medical Director Dr. Mulaja Mukendi and the Dentist, Dr. Alphonse Kabasele Kabata.

Since June of 2006, the ENT Clinic has taken care of patients in the following numbers:

2006 - 652	2009 - 1782
2007 - 2081	2010 - 1872
2008 - 1980	2011 - 1353

Some services provided in ENT are ear cleaning, nose tamponade for bleeding, removal of foreign objects, dressings for trauma, puncture and lavage of maxillary sinuses, audiometric testing and indirect laryngoscopy.

Briefly, here is the biography of Mr Kafula Mputu Koffi. He was born in Bitanda in the Lulua District. He graduated from St Michael High School in Tshidimba and then taught school. He then attended the IMCK ITM Nursing school, graduating in 1996. He worked in Health Centers from 1996 until 2004, serving in a supervisory position the last two years. He has worked for IMCK since 2004, serving since 2006 in ENT after his special training. He married Kapinga Tshimanga in 1985 & they have nine children. Mr. Kabula Mputu Koffi says that his motto is LOVE TRUTH. By Bernard Kabibu

**More News About the IMCK College Program, ISTM:**

The new IMCK college level medical institute, ISTM or Institute Superieur de Techniques Medicales, opened at Tshikaji in the fall of 2010 and has students in midwifery, pediatrics and health administration. Pictured below are the students who have advanced through the first two years and are currently

facing exams at the end of two years. The top photo shows the students in midwifery and pediatrics. In the photo below are the students in the health administration program.



Mr. Alexis Mayambi, Administrative General Secretary of ISTM, provided a profile of two students currently attending ISTM.

1) Ntumba Nyimbi Clemence is completing her first year in the pediatrics program at ISTM. She is 28 years old, the mother of two boys and already a widow of Dr. Alex Tshimpaka Kabeya. She was born in Katanga Province but completed high school in Kananga. She took an accelerated course in computers, obtaining a certificate that gave her the skills to be employed at the St. George Hospital of Kananga. In 2011, she entered the ISTM pediatrics program and wants to become a pediatric nurse. Since she currently cannot work and attend school, she is seeking a scholarship. 2) Adolphe Mulumba Ilunga is enrolled in the second year of the Health Management Program at ISTM. He is 20 years old and was born at Tshikaji. He is single and an orphan of father and mother. He completed his high school at Katubue. He cannot pay all his education expenses and seeks a scholarship. Tuition at ISTM is \$328 per year for boarding students and \$298 per year for non boarding students. This does not include food, school supplies or personal needs.

Housing for the ISTM students is in older IMCK buildings formally used for other programs. Due to a lack of furniture in those dorms, students sleep on pallets on the floor. The windows do not prevent mosquitoes, despite

mosquito nets being in place. While the school has two fine new buildings for classes, built with USAID grants and Medical Benevolence Foundation coordination, the dorms, showers & toilets remain in poor condition. In summary, this program searches for ways to improve the dorms for students and to provide scholarships for students.

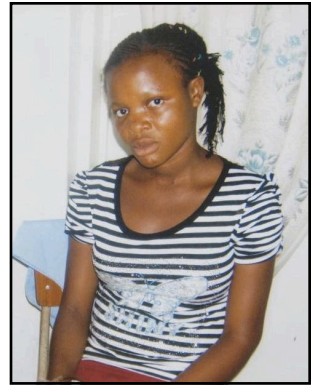
Submitted by Alexis Mayamba Nzamba & Glibende Hippolithe



Students dorm rooms at ISTM.

**Helped by IMCK:**

Ntumba Kabanji is a student, 12 years old. Last year, her family brought her to the PAX Clinic with painful swelling of the nose and face especially on the right side. After exam, she was diagnosed with nasal obstructing polyps and a sinus infection. The patient had become toxic. She was referred to the Good Shepherd Hospital for surgery where the polyps were removed under general anesthesia. Some months later, she had minor surgery at the PAX CLinic to open and clear the maxillary sinuses. Follow up care required repeated nasal lavage, for the mucosa had deteriorated. Finally her breathing was normal and she did not have a bad nasal odor. Her clinical condition is now very satisfactory. Submitted by Kafula Mputu Koffi.



**An International Health Care Fellowship Visits IMCK:**

Groupes Bibliques de Hospitals (GBH) or Bible Groups for Hospitals is a team of Christian hospital personnel selected and trained to speak to the sick, pray with and for them, and speak to them about Christ, since many people seek medical care more than churches. These evangelization teams work in a non profit organization, receiving no pay, no bonus.

For the month of February, IMCK received Ruth Puati, a member of the Kinshasa GBH. She came at the invitation of Mr. Anaclet Kadiata, Provincial Coordinator of GBH in western Kasai. She was asked to come to comfort and console the GBH team at IMCK.

Her visit was really a spiritual consolation and encouragement for us. Besides meeting, praying and sharing the word of God with the staff at Good Shepherd Hospital, she visited PAX Polyclinic in downtown Kananga to visit and pray with the staff and tell them about the work of GBH. She spoke also to the IMCK teaching staff. She attended other worship sites and medical facilities in Kananga and was warmly welcomed. She encouraged the local GBH team at IMCK to participate in the August national conference in Kinshasa. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu

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. Submitted by Bill Rule





**Friends of IMCK**, President of FIMCK, Rev. Dr. Shannon Jung says: "I want to thank you for being, or becoming, a friend of IMCK (FIMCK.) For sheer enjoyment, there are few things that I do that rival the FIMCK effort to put an endowment under the medical service and teaching of IMCK. If enjoyment is the heart of being worthwhile, then this is it. My Dad was one of the founding dentists of the school and it is only right to say that Mom was integral to supporting the school. In the heart of Africa, in the heart of the Democratic Republic of Congo, what we are supporting together is the work of two hospital and clinic sites, a lab tech school, two schools of nursing (two levels), and who knows what

all else in the future. It is hard to overestimate the importance of the work that God is doing through this project with our Congo partners!" As of the end of July, \$94,221 have been donated to this fund. Thanks to the following new members of FIMCK: Knoxville, TN First Presbyterian Church, Robert Irish, Drs. Henry and Katie Nelson. The whole list of FIMCK members will be listed again in the September newsletter. Currently, FIMCK staff are conducting an expanded invitation to all PCUSA presbyteries and to all other Presbyterian denominations in the USA, asking them to join FIMCK and to support this endowment program. Submitted by Charlotte White

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 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](mailto: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/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Read, learn, get involved.

**Mattresses Continued:** "This challenge is what occurred when we walked into the hospital room at Good Shepherd and saw the child sitting on a small piece of plywood. As we asked questions that day, we learned of a need for mattresses not only at Good Shepherd but other hospitals in the Kasai as well. We are confident that Mattresses for Congo will make a difference. Thanks for your prayers and support in helping us to achieve our goal." Submitted by Charlotte White

**Current 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

### 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  
Dr Blaise Ndandu - IMCK 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, 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 the 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 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 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 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: Gibende Hippolithe, Shannon Jung, Bernard Kabibu, Kafula Mputu Koffi, Alexis Mayamba Nzamba, Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Charlotte White welcomes your suggestions or contributions.