



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

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

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**A Periodic Newsletter**

**Issue No. 40 July - November 2016**



### Turmoil in the IMCK region:

In the past two months, there have been clashes in the Kananga region between some local tribes and with the government military. In addition, tensions are high as the time approaches when the DRC constitution mandates an election for new leadership, yet no election has been held. Despite this turmoil, the IMCK medical services and the schools continue with a Christian dedication to "honesty, competence and compassion\*."

Founded by Presbyterians, IMCK is a medical teaching facility on two campuses: 1) Ten miles outside Kananga is the large Tshikaji campus with the Good Shepherd Hospital, ITM High School, ISTM College, and living quarters for students, physicians and IMCK staff. 2) PAX Comprehensive Clinic is situated in the middle of the city of Kananga, which has a population of over a million. Submitted by C.White

\*This has been the motto on the patches of school uniforms.



Dr. Banza Kalenga

### Report on Medical Residents and Medical Students at IMCK:

Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga M.D. is board certified in Family Practice and serves as IMCK Medical Director of Education. He sent the following report on education of physicians at IMCK.

**Medical Residents:** We have three residents in Family Practice, one of whom passed the written and oral tests given at 18 months. The other two will retake the exams this month in Kinshasa. We benefitted from the three presentations of Dr. Martha Sommers, while she was here in September. We have a lot of hope for her work among us.

**Medical Students** who completed their final intern year at IMCK August 2015 - August 2016:

- From Protestant University of the Congo of Kinshasa, 11 students passed exams with distinction (>70%) and the remaining 8 passed with over 60%.
- From Christian University of Kinshasa, 4 students passed with 60% or more.
- From Notre Dame University of Kananga, one student passed with distinction and the remaining nine passed with 60% or more.

**Medical student interns at IMCK for this current year:** We have 40 students, ten from Notre Dame and 30 from the Protestant University of the Congo. Among them, 13 are women. One female student

**Continued page 4 - Medical Students**



Dr.Kalenga (Left) with most of the medical. students of the Aug 2015 -16 class. They are holding otoscopes, stethoscopes and medical textbooks brought last June as gifts from First Presbyterian Churches of Knoxville/TN and Hilton Head/SC.

## School Year of ISTM College Begins in October:

Marcia Murray, mission coworker teaching in the ISTM college writes the following report about the new school year.

Classes officially started on Thursday, October 20 for the new 2016 - 2017 academic year. ISTM college is a three year curriculum. The total enrollment this year is 306 in 10 different classes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year in Health Administration; 1st, 2nd and 3rd year "Sage Femme" (this is also referred to as the Midwifery program); 1st, 2nd and 3rd year Pediatric Nursing; and 1st year Laboratory.

This is the first year that ISTM has offered the major, Laboratory Technology, with Jean Batena Tshisenge serving as Chairman. Jean Batena Tshisenge taught at ITM high school for many years, before going to Kinshasa to attend graduate school and procure a masters degree in Lab Technology. The new ISTM Lab department will be using lab equipment at ITM, at the hospital, and at PAX clinic until they procure material for an on site lab at ISTM.



More ISTM bathrooms going up.

The campus is growing to meet the new student enrollment. New buildings are going up and covered walkways are being built to connect all the buildings.



Walkways will connect classes and bathrooms.

## School Year of ITM High School Begins in September:

The ITM 2016 school year opened in September with an enrollment of 139 students. 96 students are in the nursing program and 43 are in the lab tech program. Following the retirement of ITM Director Jacque Mpoi Kajingulu this year, Kutekemenyi Marthe Mukendi was named the new Director. She has served on the ITM faculty for 20 years.

Born at Lubondai in 1960, Ms. Marthe Mukendi attended high school in nursing at ITM Tshikaji from 1980 to 1984. From 1984 to 1989, she worked in maternity nursing and as coordinator at the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital. In 1989 she went to Kinshasa to attend ISTM Kinshasa (college.) She majored in midwifery. While in Kinshasa she also worked at two different medical facilities. Returning to IMCK in 1996, she worked as head maternity nurse at the hospital, and started teaching at ITM. Later, she served as a hospital coordinator and then Director of Nursing at Good Shepherd Hospital, as well as teaching at ITM and directing the nurse interns. In 2004, she was made Chairman of ITM Department of Nursing, a post she held until she was named the Director of the school in May 2015. Ms. Marthe Mukendi has participated in numerous continuing education programs throughout her career.



ITM Director Marthe Mukendi (center) with freshmen students, after being given Days for Girls kits.

Recently, Director Marthe Mukendi distributed material to freshman girls at ITM, sent by Jan Shafe and Rivers Of the World - Congo. Called, "Days for Girls", this program provides kits prepared by USA volunteers to help girls have supplies for when they menstruate. In developing countries, the ability for females to have supplies for menses and bath room access are critical factors which keep them enrolled in school. The Days for Girls program focuses on one way to support female education.

Submitted by Marcia Murray and Charlotte White

**Hydroelectricity:** The hydroelectricity system has been a critical factor in the health service of the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, in staff homes and in classrooms and dorms of students at Tshikaji. Last April, rains and flooding caused floating vegetation to block the hydro turbines and the spillway. The emergency spillway flooded and the earthen dam was in danger of breaking. At least 150 men were employed to manually remove the debris. Rivers of the World-Congo (ROW-Congo) quickly led a fund raiser to help pay the laborers.

While the emergency is over, work remains to be done to secure hydro infrastructure for basic function and against future floods. In August, following consultation with engineer Dale Stanton-Hoyle, with IMCK Director Alexis Mayambi, with Director of Hydro maintenance Mr. Nkashama and with Chief Hydro Operator Tatu Nteffu, Dr. John Fletcher, who long supervised the IMCK hydro, gave the following estimate from Tshikaji for the next large steps in securing the IMCK hydro:

- \$99,021 - Clearing of lake above the hydro
- \$ 1,600 - Restoring the regular functioning canal
- \$ 560 - Cleaning the penstock and turbines
- \$ 640 - Cleaning the river between the dam and bridge
- \$ 838 - Preparing building & toilets for this project
- \$ 2,057 - Lighting hospital during outage (battery/solar)
- \$ 224 - Piping/generator installation to pump water
- \$22,688 - diesel fuel expenses at hospital during electricity outage. UNICEF may pay \$14,000 of this.
- \$113,228 - TOTAL, if UNICEF donates \$14K

The IMCK Board has asked Rivers Of the World (ROW)-Congo, Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF), churches and individuals to help fund this project. —IMCK Director Alexis reports that IMCK submitted the request to UNICEF Kananga Office for \$14,000 assistance in fuel costs for the hydro repair project. He states that UNICEF has often supported IMCK with these requests, and is optimistic they will donate to this. —Jimmy Shafe reports that ROW-Congo has \$7,000 for this next project and also has more pledges.

**IMCK Hydro: completed in 1988**



2013: John Fletcher with the staff who maintain the IMCK hydro. Here they pray, with John and engineer Bill Kell, before the days' work. >

**Renovation of Women's Center at PAX:** For over three years, Antonio Martinez has been living in Congo, supervising the renovation of the large PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga. Now the renovation is in its final stage, as the Women's Center is being completed. Here are the latest things being done to bring *Good Cheer!*

1. Myers Park Presbyterian Church in NC has now provided the entire \$90,000 pledged. Catonsville Presbyterian Church in MD has added another \$6,000. Approximately \$31,000 is still needed toward original budget estimates but delays may impose further costs. Go here (<https://youtu.be/eLqIE6waYms>) for a 5 minute video on the progress.
2. Friends of IMCK (FIMCK) is working to raise \$45,000 for Pax Women's Center, of which 75% can go for construction and the balance will be added to the existing endowment to help underwrite operating expenses -- INDEFINITELY! To donate on line, go here (<http://mbfoundation.org/friends-imck-endowment-fund/>) and select "PAX Women's Center" for "Project Designation".



3. Work currently under way (see photo above) is focused on completing the conversion of the stage of the old theater into a 15 bed maternity ward and a modern operating with the following activities:
  - a. Complete plastering in preparation for floor & wall tiling.
  - b. Window and doors are being fabricated.
  - c. A source was found for glass bricks that bring light without sacrificing privacy.
  - d. Openings are being made in existing walls for window placement.
  - e. The old generator shack is being transformed into a maternity kitchen and dining area.
4. Minimal other work will also be needed in the office and exam room areas.
5. Recent election-related incidents in and around Kananga have delayed (but not halted) the schedule so that the estimated completion date is now March 31, 2017.

6. Antonio Martinez has retained a skeleton workforce of 8 technicians to complete the remaining work, due to the slow pace at which the balance of funds needed is being donated.

7. IMCK Board Chairman Larry Sthreshley asked FIMCK to donate funds ASAP to complete this project by March 2017.

**Continued page 5 - Women's Center**

### **Young Man with foot fracture:**

Kabenga wa Kalala, 16 years old, is the son of Kalala and Ngalula, who have six children and live in Tshikapa. In September, Kabenga was sent to live in Kananga (probably to live with relatives) and attend school. He rode in the back of a large transport truck to go to Kananga. On the trip, the truck had an accident, killing seven people and injuring several others. Kabenga's left foot was badly injured and a man of good will brought him to the IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital, where he has been since.

His foot fracture required surgery and extended care. Below, he is seen with Head Nurse Pavillon Samuel Bikemu. The bill is at least \$500 and his family are farmers with little ability to pay. Good Shepherd Hospital does an extensive amount of charity work in a country where the average GDP per capita\* is \$384.51/year.

Submitted by Gibende Ambondge Hyppolyte, Director of Nurses at Good Shepherd Hospital

\*Gross Domestic Profit per capita or person. From <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/congo/gdp-per-capita>



### **Continued: Medical students at IMCK:**

from Kinshasa is expecting a baby in 12 weeks. Another female student is here with her six month old daughter.

#### **Difficulties - We have the same difficulties:**

- Insufficient housing. IMCK did renovate the old kitchen, which has helped the students.
- Lack of tables and chairs for work.
- Insufficient working equipment such as stethoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, otoscopes, and books, especially French medical texts.
- Lack of sports equipment for students.

Submitted by Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga

Note: To help send some supplies for medical students and residents, write to Dr. Banza at [pepebanza@yahoo.fr](mailto:pepebanza@yahoo.fr) about books needed and consult Jeff Boyd ([jeff.boyd@pcusa.org](mailto:jeff.boyd@pcusa.org)) or Charlotte White ([crulewhite@gmail.com](mailto:crulewhite@gmail.com)) about sending materials/money.



Mr. Katawa Ntumba

### **New IMCK Managing Administrator:**

The IMCK Board appointed Mr. Kastin Katawa Ntumba the new IMCK Managing Administrator at the May board meeting, and he assumed the position in July of 2016.

Mr. Katawa Ntumba was born at Lubondai January 4, in 1969. He attended elementary school and secondary school at Bibanga in East Kasai. After receiving his high school or secondary degree in education, he taught at Bibanga until 1993. From 1993 to 98, he studied at the University of CEPROMAD EX ISGEA in Kananga, where he graduated with a BA in Business Administration and a Masters Degree (MBA) in Scientific Organization of Work.

He then returned to Bibanga to work at the Bibanga Hospital, which is a Presbyterian administered hospital and is a General Reference Hospital.\* From 1998 to 2002, he worked there as Bursar, and then as Director of Personnel. At the request of the Congo Presbyterian Church, he was transferred to serve as Managing Administrator of the General Reference Hospital of Mutoto, which is also under the supervision of the Congo Presbyterian Church. He served there from 2005 to 2016. Because of his exemplary performance at the Mutoto Hospital, the IMCK Board meeting of May 2016 asked Kastin Katawa Ntumba to become the IMCK Managing Administrator.

\*A General Reference Hospital treats inpatients and outpatients in curative and preventative medicine. Each health zone has a reference hospital, to which all health centers in the zone send cases in internal medicine, surgery, dental, and women's health. Submitted by Marcia Murray with info submitted from Mr Ntumba.

### **Report from Jack Muthui on Nov. visit to IMCK:**

Jack Muthui, Africa Regional Manager for Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF), sent this report. "My visit to Kananga went very well. PCUSA Mission Coworkers, Jeff & Christi Boyd accompanied me. We heard reports of fighting within villages close to Tshikaji and considered having our meetings in Kananga, but IMCK leadership felt it was safe enough to stay at the guesthouse in Tshikaji. There was notable presence of armed soldiers on the road to Tshikaji and all over Kananga. Other than that, everything seemed normal with everyone going about their usual business.

I held meetings with IMCK leadership to review some challenges facing the institution, topmost being the salary backlog, urgent repairs needed at the Hydro and completion of the PAX maternity clinic. MBF is also concerned that no financial audit has been undertaken at IMCK since 2009. Suggestions on the way forward were explored. An agreement addressing some of these challenges is currently being finalized.

I was pleasantly surprised at some positive developments in Tshikaji which include ward renovations at the hospital (GSH.) The maternity wing now has refurbished private rooms with sinks and private bathrooms.

Cont'd pg. 5 - MBF

### **Continued Women's Center:**

8. Some of the remaining work, along with cost :  
\$10,635 - Floor tiles in OR, birthing and maternity rooms  
\$ 4,250 - Wall tiling throughout  
\$ 6,185 - Plaster/paint interior walls  
\$ 2,890 - Plumbing fixtures (toilets, SS sinks , hand sinks)  
\$ 2,670 - Plumbing (piping, valves, accessories)  
\$ 4,598 - Electrical (not including lamps already at PAX)

9. For more info: <http://www.imck.org/>

**Pax Womens Center-Index.html**

Submitted by Bill Rule with info from Antonio Martinez

**Cont'd - MBF Trip:** The ISTM college continues to expand with new buildings, the latest being new male and female toilets.

A new public bus service has been introduced in Kananga with 2-3 daily trips to Tshikaji. The fare is \$1; this is expected to boost patient numbers at GSH. The service seems to be running well. I noted at least 3 trips on Sunday with the bus dropping passengers all the way to the ISTM, with stops at the hospital and the guesthouse.

Construction of the Indian funded hospital in Kananga, opposite IMCK PAX Clinic, has now started and this is expected to add to the competition already intensifying after the Government put up more clinics in the Kananga area. " Jack Muthui lives in Kenya.

### **Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News:**

IMCK info is at [www.imck.org](http://www.imck.org) & MBF info is at [www.mbfoundation.org](http://www.mbfoundation.org) . PCUSA sites have Congo & IMCK info at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> Read about Congo Mission Network at <http://www.congopartners.org/> & <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork>. Helping Hands [www.congohelpinghands.org/](http://www.congohelpinghands.org/) & Rivers of the World Congo [www.row.org](http://www.row.org) work in Congo. Join IMCK face book 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. **Learn; read; act! Be involved.**

### **Board Members of IMCK at the May 2016 meeting:**

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board  
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative  
Rev. Lazare Tshibuabua Dekebele - CPC Representative  
Rev. Joly Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Rep (Mennonite)  
Mr. Pierre Tshishimbi Kasonga - CMCO Representative  
Fr Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative  
Rev. Jean Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative  
Rev. Tshihamba Mulamba - CPC Representative  
Mr. Jack Muthui - MBF Representative  
Mr. Simon Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative  
Dr. Eugenie Misenga Kangoji- State Representative  
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative  
Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba - IMCK Representative  
Not present: Dr. Komuesa, Dr. Mulumba & Dr. Misenga

### **Current IMCK Administration:**

IMCK Director - Pharmacist Alexis Mayambi Nzamba  
Legal Representative - Rev. Zacharie Mboyamba Kabala

**IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital, a 120 bed facility, & 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 over 60 yrs.**

### **FIVE WAYS to make a donation to IMCK:**

To give to **IMCK ENDOWMENT**, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/friends-imck-endowment-fund/> & follow directions. Or write a check to Friends of IMCK & write "For Endowment" on the memo line. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone. 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 many Presbyterian Organizations, go to <https://mbfoundation.org/donate-now/>. Designate at the web site at the special instruction section "For IMCK Congo." Or send a check to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 2009. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

To give through **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA** (PCUSA), go to <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/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. Give in honor or memory of someone, if desired.

To give through **RIVERS OF THE WORLD-CONGO**, make checks payable to ROW-Congo & 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 or memory of someone, if desired.

To give **DIRECTLY TO IMCK**, consult Alexis Mayambi at [mayambi@yahoo.fr](mailto:mayambi@yahoo.fr) about how to wire money directly from the bank account of your organization or your personal bank account to the IMCK BCDC bank (Banque Commerciale Du Congo) account in Congo.

**Newsletter Matters:** Contributors this month: Gibende Hyppolyte, Banza Kalenga, Marcia Murray, Jack Muthui, Bill Rule, and Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). We welcome your contributions!