



# 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**

**Issue No 11 - September 2011**

**These are the worst of times and the best of times**, to paraphrase the writer Charles Dickens. While America currently flounders with more economic woes, poor cooperation between leaders, and threats of terrorism, Congo has been floundering for years with extreme famine, war and death. In the past ten years, over five million people have died in Congo from famine, war and sickness. FIVE MILLION. Take time to see the following: <http://congojustice.org/>, <http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/>, <http://www.enoughproject.org/>. America's children will be dying in midlife from obesity/disease while Congo's children are dying by the millions before age 5 from famine/disease/war. IMCK lies in the Kasai province, to the west of the war sections in east Congo. But the people of Kasai share war's repercussions of political instability, famine, sickness. IMCK provides major medical service and medical education just west of the chaos of eastern Congo. The people of Kasai work to hold fast a door against the regional deterioration of community, family, law and order seen in eastern Congo. So what then are the best of times? We live in a remarkable time of communication and travel, making our world smaller for brotherhood, sisterhood and partnering. Some partnering in the USA is on a large scale with organizations like the ones above, the ones cited on page 3, such as Congo Mission Network (see meeting in October page 2). But much of the partnering is with the work of churches and individuals who sell cookies or hold auctions (page 2) to help. Some individuals quietly choose one student to support with scholarship or take up a project of selling homemade crafts in order to make a donation. Many of us are driven by a profound faith in a good and loving God who calls us to act in love and compassion. Others of us act from fundamental beliefs in goodness and sharing. We all need to work in a spirit of courage and hope. At IMCK, the tshiluba words for courage and hope are *bukitu* and *ditekemena*. *Bukitu* and *ditekemena* to you each, as you find your individual way, large or small, to work for Congo.

Submitted by Charlotte Rule White

### **Friends of IMCK, a new organization, is being formed this year.**

Would you give to a worthy cause and then willingly wait for years before seeing any of your donation actually go to the poor people who really needed it?

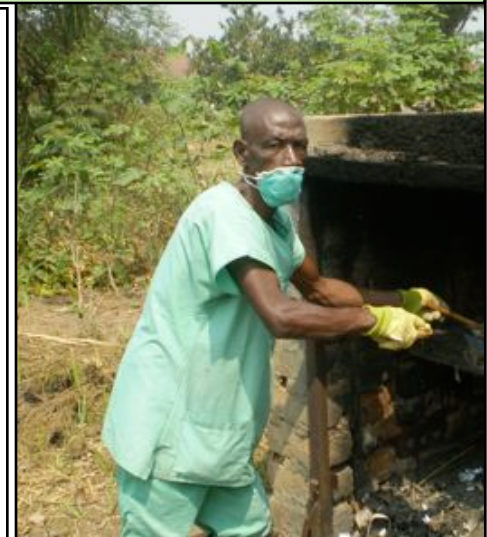
Certainly NOT!

Yet, oddly enough, that is exactly what IMCK needs.

No self-respecting or high quality non-profit hospital or nursing school in America would go long without establishing a permanent endowment fund – that is, an investment fund with enough capital to generate significant earnings for operational needs, allowing the principle itself to remain untouched and to continue generating benefits year after year. But after fifty years of operation and past years of healthy budgets and large donations, IMCK still does not have such a permanent endowment fund dedicated to its daily operational needs. The result is a hand-to-mouth dependence on current donations to help meet current needs and an ensuing crisis, as giving has diminished in the current economic downturn.

IMCK can meet a large proportion of its fiscal needs from local receipts, but not all. It desperately needs the stability of a steady income from a permanent endowment to place it on a sound financial footing.

To begin addressing this need, a fundraising organization has been formed, creatively named "Friends of IMCK" (FIMCK). FIMCK is dedicated principally to raising funds for an IMCK endowment fund to be managed by the Presbyterian Foundation, with the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) as the channel through which donations can be made in order to qualify for 501(c)3 tax write-offs. The organizing officers of FIMCK are Dr. Shannon Jung – President, William Rule – Vice President, James Woodruff – Financial Officer and Charlotte White – Secretary/Publicist. However, the intention is to establish an elected Board of Directors and a rotating leadership with defined terms of service once a sufficient organizational membership has been built up. (Continued page 2 - See Friends)



**Tshiondo Mamba** (above), born in 1947, started working at IMCK 1990 as a night watchman or guard. Now he works in housekeeping and grounds maintenance. He gathers and burns trash, cuts grass, and grows flowers along the walkways between the hospital wings. He buries the stillborns and babies that die from premature births. He keeps the morgue clean. **Tshiondo Mamba is a hard worker and deserves praise for his good work at the hospital.**

Submitted by Gibende Hippolithe



**IMCK FOUNDER AURIE MILLER**

Above are Aurie Miller, age 88, and her son, Neal Miller, as they finish making *bidia* (Congolese food) to serve in North Carolina at the August gathering of over 50 people who have lived in Congo. Aurie Miller & her husband John Miller were founding members of IMCK, started at Lubondai in 1954. Dr. John Miller died in 2005. Photo compliments of Elisabeth Cameron



Moringa Tree that has been growing for about one year from a little sprig.

**Friends of IMCK continued:**

Fundraising methods will include solicitation of speaking invitations from Churches, Presbyteries and other interested groups, as well as creation of a website for online donations and publicity through other media such as the electronic IMCK Newsletter. FIMCK has set an initial capitalization goal of \$500,000, which is calculated to generate enough earnings to cover about 85 percent of the currently estimated annual budget shortfall. Depending on how rapidly the initial goal is met, additional goals may be established in the future. More on this next month!  
Submitted by Bill Rule

**Church Project:** We at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, MD, have supported medical missionaries [at IMCK] in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 1999, first Dr. and Mrs. William Sager, then Dr. Mike Haninger and his wife Nancy, and now Ms. Ruth Brown [in Kananga.] When the Haningers visited us in 2006, they brought us news of the miracle of the Moringa tree (see left), and particularly of its nutrition-rich leaves, which, when fed to starving children and adults, save them. Nancy had such warmth and enthusiasm, and such dramatic slides to show us, that we were immediately convinced that we wanted to make the Moringa Tree Project one that we would champion. Since that time we have raised over \$10,000 for the project, through a silent auction, a grant received from our Presbytery, and a yearly "Gifts from the Heart" program at Christmas. These contributions have helped not only in the work of growing seedlings, but also in supporting Congolese teams who travel to nearby villages and demonstrate how to grow and use the tree. In 2008, with Warner's help, our pastor and the chair of our Commission to the Community traveled to the DRC to see the Moringa Project in action. Since, they have made presentations throughout our Presbytery, telling about the success of the project. We feel that our support of the Moringa Tree Project is one of the most amazing things that we have done to act as God's hands in the world.  
Submitted by Cory Atwood

**Each year Congo Mission Network meets somewhere in the USA:**

What Presbyterian Churches have partnerships/projects with Congo Churches? If planning a first time volunteer work visit to Congo, how does one prepare? Where to seek advice? Who is working with education or health projects in Congo? How can one learn more about current issues in Congo? These are some of the many questions people ask, who find information and inspiration in the organization Congo Mission Network. Congo Mission Network (CMN) is coordinated by the Presbyterian USA for churches, presbyteries, & individuals who focus on partnerships with Presbyterian churches & projects between the US & Congo. People who are not Presbyterians also participate. This network of individuals, churches, hospitals, clubs & other medical organizations have a network & share information about various Congo projects. See the CMN website at <http://www.congopartners.org/>. CMN holds an annual meeting to learn & plan. The meeting this year will be October 6 - 8 at Virginia Beach, Virginia & is being sponsored by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, where Etienne Bote-Tshiek, originally from Congo, now lives and has long worked to coordinate USA church partnerships with those in Congo. The agenda for the 2011 meeting is ambitious & will be attended by over 80 representatives of churches & organizations. The theme this year, Empowerment Through Education, will focus on education of all types: pre & secondary school, university, medical, seminary, post grad, & women's education issues. Come to the meeting. Visit the above web site & network with these many people & churches. Submitted by Charlotte White

**Congratulations to these 10 medical students (and one missing!),** seen here in August 2011, upon completion of a year of clinical rotations at IMCK. They worked long hours at the hospital, clinics and in public health providing valuable service under the preceptorship of dedicated IMCK medical staff. The students often endured hardship and hunger, since the hospital could not afford to provide their meals and since many students, towards the end of school, have depleted family savings. We wish them well in their future service to Congo! By Bernard Kabibu & Gibende Hippolithe



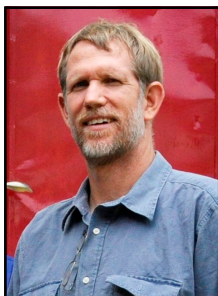


**IMCK Patient Care:** This mother & daughter look forward, thankful for life. They are ready to be discharged home, thanks to an IMCK team caring for pregnant women with diabetes. Pregnancy with diabetes creates high risk for miscarriage, fetal prematurity & fetal death. So these women need close monitoring and medicine. "We are very happy about Kapinga Kabuya. We are happy to save two lives," says Dr Mulaja Mukendi, speaking for the family & for his two diabetes nurse specialists, Paul Kwete and Kobo Karunzu. After she developed diabetes in 2006, Kapinga had two stillborn births delivered in the village. For this pregnancy, she attended prenatal clinic and was closely followed by the diabetes team. She was regularly seen for blood sugar tests and insulin injections. She did not always have money for care, but IMCK provided some care as charity. In her 8th month, she showed signs of delivering prematurely and was told to remain near medical care. Soon afterwards, she delivered a healthy baby at IMCK. May the Lord be praised. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu



Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: <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/>. 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, Woody Collin's Congo 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.

**IMCK Board Member** Jeff Boyd is a PCUSA mission co-worker, who has served on the IMCK Board & who has also worked in the DRC in past years. Currently he lives in Cameroon, where he serves as PCUSA liaison for Central Africa. In this role, he (1) facilitates PCUSA relationships with partner churches & institutions in Cameroon, the DRC and Equat. Guinea, (2) provides support for mission personnel & (3) provides resources for US churches. His special focus is the educational work of PCUSA partners. Jeff graduated with a BA in math from Whitworth College. He later earned an MA in math at California State Univ. He taught in the USA, Pakistan, Tanzania and DRC. Jeff & his wife, Christi, have served as mission co-workers in PCUSA since 1990. From 1996 to 1998, the Boyds lived in Kinshasa, DRC where Jeff served as assist director to the CPK education depart. He has worked with CPC & CPK in recent years on many projects. He & his wife Christi have 3 children. Jeff Boyd lives & witnesses Christian *bukitu & ditekemena* (see pg 1). by C. White



### Board Members of IMCK

**These were the representatives at the May 2011 meeting:**

- Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
- Rev Kabasele Bantubiabo - CMCO Representative
- Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative (USA Presby Church)
- Mr. Mike Clement - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. John Fletcher - CPC Representative (Congo Presby Chur)
- Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
- Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
- Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
- Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
- Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
- Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Representative
- Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion - IMCK Representative
- Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge - IMCK Representative

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

- Interim IMCK Director - Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion
- Administrator - Mr. Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu
- Legal Representative - Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge

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 over 50 years. To help with supplies needed, please contact Charlotte White at [docwhite@hargray.com](mailto:docwhite@hargray.com).

### How to make a donation to IMCK

To give through Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA) on line, 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. Write "ECO#320202 - IMCK" on the check.

To give through the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group of PCUSA, give on line at <http://www.mbfoundation.org/index.php>. Or write a check to MBF; send it to 3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77063. Write IMCK, Congo on the memo line.

To give directly to IMCK, make checks to IMCK. Send to Wachovia Bank ([www.wachovia.com](http://www.wachovia.com)): Account number: 20000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai; c/o Worldwide Ministries Div- Zaire. Then please send an email concurrently to Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (above address) informing him of the amount and designation, so IMCK can manage it appropriately.

### Newsletter Matters

Contributors this month: Cory Atwood, Elisabeth Cameron, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Bill Rule, Charlotte Rule White. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at [docwhite@hargray.com](mailto:docwhite@hargray.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.