



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

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

B. P. 205 Kananga, Republic Democratic du Congo ; Email: [imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness54@yahoo.fr)

**A Monthly or Bimonthly Newsletter**

**Issue No 33 - September/October 2014**

**A reflection on health/oneness/gratitude:** In the past months, the eyes of the world have been turned to west Africa and the news of Ebola. This virus, which has periodically erupted in Congo, was first identified in the 1970's. We recognize in this epidemic what has long been true - that disease and pestilence are easily spread around our world. And in that experience of our human frailty, we are reminded again of our oneness in seeking health for all. In this age of information technology, we are barraged with news of human brokenness, of war, of famine, of imminent threats. Around the world, we share with our partners in Congo in this human journey in which we know too well the fragility of life, of joy, and of contentment.

But in November, we approach that American holiday, Thanksgiving, in which we are invited to consider gratitude. How can we live life with a sense of gratitude, and in so doing discover a greater sense of joy and also develop a greater capacity to embrace our larger world? Think of the well known proverb: "The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have." God has blessed us with the ability to share in partnerships in Congo. And in our sharing, in our relationships, we are blessed by each other. Gratitude does not need to be remarkable. It can be demonstrated with a glass of water, a phone call, a small gift, the assurance of God's love. May we each find ways to live a more grateful life. Submitted by Charlotte White

**A YOUNG BOY AT IMCK GOOD SHEPHERD:**

Beya, age 12, was brought to IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital on October 22, 2014 with complaints of puffiness of face and generalized edema. He also had masses on both sides of his neck, which were painless. The family said he had had these symptoms at least six months, but they did not seek medical care due to lack of funds. After evaluation, the possible diagnoses were nephrotic syndrome (kidney), tuberculosis with lymph node infection, and/or Hodgkins Disease. He was treated with antibiotics and prednisone and had some response. [IMCK Good Shepherd Hospital does not have ready access to pathology services. He later had some sort of surgery. More report next newsletter.] Sub-



mitted by Gibende Hippolytus.

**NEWS FROM MARCIA MURRAY, who teaches at IMCK College ISTM:**

Marcia teaches statistics and several other courses at ISTM and recently wrote a letter to the Friends of IMCK Board with the following news:

- From hospital statistics, there has been an increase of services across the board from last year. For example, patient consultations for the first 9 months of 2014, (20,910 consultations,) are higher than the number for the whole of 2013, which was 19,055 consultations. The same can be seen for births, lab exams, x-rays, transfusions, bed occupancy and lower death rate.
- For ISTM, the IMCK college, the school year ended in July. Of the 260 enrolled students, the following reflect year end achievements: 68% passed, another 3% passed with distinction, 15.7% can repeat exams/classes. 9.6% freshmen dropped out. 3.5% were flunked out.
- The new year for ISTM started October 15 with 356 students total ( 216/first year, 91/second year, and 49/third year.) The school is overcrowded in the dorms and in the classrooms. A large classroom is being built. (Continued on page 4)

### **IMCK PHYSICIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

The 14 medical students of the previous year, from the Protestant University of Congo, returned to Kinshasa on August 9. They all passed the final exams and two students among them were marked "distinction." We note that the distinction of Miss Fanny Bambi (78%) had the highest rating of any promotion. This has made the IMCK management proud. The 10 medical students from University of Notre Dame du Kasai will be with IMCK until December.

The current group of final year medical students from the Protestant University of Congo arrived at IMCK on August 9, 2014. This larger group is comprised of 19 students, 14 women and 5 men. This group, mostly female, posed real logistical problems. Indeed, housing 14 women, including a pregnant student, was very difficult. It was necessary to increase the number of beds and tables. The men continue to lack the minimum for housing. The work at the beginning of the quarter suffers from the fact that the Internet of IMCK declined in quality. Lack of equipment such as stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, otoscopes and ophthalmoscopes are in short supply, making a serious handicaps in learning. The library established by Friends of the IMCK works painfully because we have only single copies of medical books, which causes some friction between students. Yet, we are still challenged by the Protestant University of Congo by getting some of the best medical students. In addition to all the medical students, we have 5 Family Medicine residents, who will take final exams in December.

Submitted by Dr. Pepe Banza Kalenga, IMCK Medical Dir. of Education

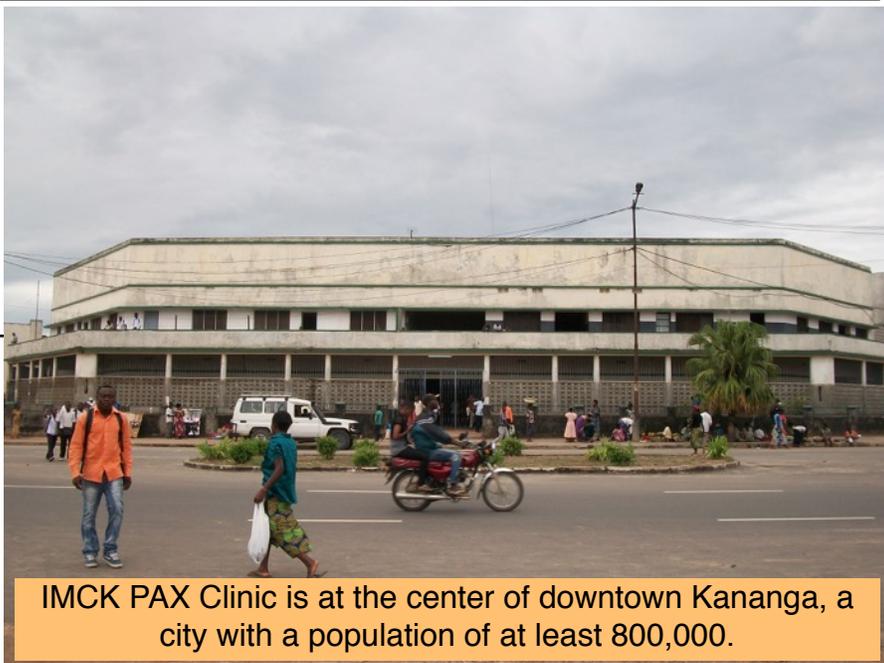
Note: To help in this program, make a donation to MBF to purchase medical books (in French) or contact Charlotte White ([crulewhite@gmail.com](mailto:crulewhite@gmail.com)) about collecting exam equipment (see above) to send with the next traveler to IMCK. The internet. Well, that is a whole other subject to address!

### **PAX CLINIC RENOVATION:**

Antonio Martinez, the architect supervising the renovation of the IMCK PAX Clinic in downtown Kananga, writes with the following news as of October 3: Dental Renovation: Work is moving slowly. All the concrete shelving is installed and painted. Next is a matter of running the pipe for the dental chairs and building a mechanical room. Women's Center: We are meeting next week to discuss the design and then get a contractor to give an estimate.

Jolene Myers of St John's Presbyterian Church, Camus, WA wrote to IMCK last week saying, "St John's heart is in missions," and that they were donating \$3,404 for the renovation of the PAX Women's Center. These funds were raised from Fair Trade candy sales and from church tithes to missions.

Renovation of PAX Clinic is sponsored by Myers Park Presbyterian Church and assisted by donations from PCUSA Global Missions, Medical Benevolence Foundation and many churches like St John's. The first stage, renovation of the lab, has been completed, and the dental renovation is nearing completion. Submitted by Charlotte White



IMCK PAX Clinic is at the center of downtown Kananga, a city with a population of at least 800,000.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE GIVES \$40,000 TO COMPLETE IMCK CHAPEL

Standing in the unfinished Founder's Chapel in Tshikaji last February, we five travelers from First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville (Colleen Shannon, Sherri Allison, Debbie and Jimmy Jones, and William Pender) felt the weight of history on our shoulders. As pastor and members of Bill and Effie Rule's home church we knew what we should do to honor the calling of the Rules and others who labored to birth the IMCK in the name of Jesus Christ. And we believed we had been given the resources to do this – to finish the Chapel.

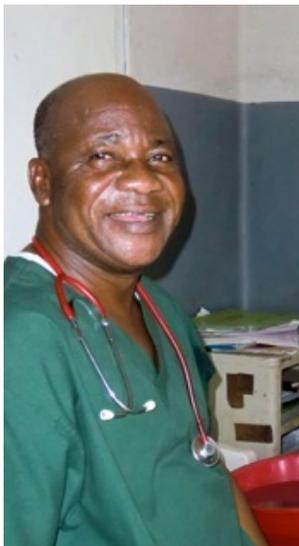
Our congregation had been the beneficiary of a large gift from the estate of Mrs. Kaptola McMurry. It was Mrs. McMurry's wish that these funds not be used for routine church expenses nor an endowment, but to "further Christ's kingdom on earth". As one who knew the Rules and wanted her material possessions to be used for evangelism, Mrs. McMurry would surely rejoice that they were being used to finish the chapel.

In August, at the request of FPC Knoxville's Global Mission Committee, the McMurry Oversight Committee and Session of First Presbyterian Church approved \$40,000 to complete the Founder's Chapel to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Bill and Effie Rule. Submitted by Colleen Shannon and Sherri Ramsey Allison of FPC of Knoxville.

Note: This donation was made through Medical Benevolence Foundation (MFB). Currently, MBF is collaborating with the Congo Presbyterian



IMCK Chapel partially completed as of June 2014.



### **Death of two IMCK Staff:**

We are saddened to hear of the death of two faithful employees of IMCK. Katombe Célestin (left) has long been the nurse who conducted the clinic for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS at the IMCK Pax Clinic in Kananga. We featured an article about him and his work in a previous IMCK Newsletter. On October 27, we received news of his death.

Kabinda Stanislas (no photo available) worked for many years as the radiology technician at the PAX Clinic. He died on November 4.

Both of these men were approaching a decision to retire, but died suddenly. They dedicated most of their careers to serving others, for which the community is deeply grateful.

### **The Endowment Fund**

**for IMCK** currently stands at \$250,482. This is a major gift that "keeps on giving", for the dividends will be drawn down regularly by IMCK for operational needs or major projects. In

December, we will list in this newsletter all organizations and individuals that have supported this project.

To individuals, we remind you in the spirit of Christmas, in the spirit of giving, and with the knowledge of tax deductions, to consider making a donation to the endowment fund for IMCK. To give to IMCK endowment, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> & follow the directions. Please consider giving to this from the Alternative Christmas Giving Program. Go to <http://www.imck.org/Cards-index.html> for cards for that method of sending cards to loved ones or friends. Submitted by Charlotte White



### News from Marcia Murray Cont'd:

- Last school year, ITM (the IMCK high school) had 101 students, 60 in general nursing and 41 in laboratory science. All 19 of the seniors graduated (13 nursing, 6 lab.) Nine nursing students graduated with distinction and four satisfactory. One lab senior graduated with distinction and five satisfactory. The new year for ITM started August 31 with 125 students (77 in nursing and 48 laboratory.)
- SANRU/ASSP is providing a number of scholarships for ITM students and ISTM midwifery students.
- The first nine months of 2014 show a great improvement in the financial record. (A new computer system has been implemented this year.) Unfortunately, many people and companies have not paid their bills. A new, more stringent billing procedure is being implemented with companies/government agencies that contract with IMCK for health care.

Many thanks to Marcia for her statistics teaching as well as for sharing these figures!

### 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) . IMCK, PCUSA & MBF sites have lots of info about Congo & IMCK. Read about Congo Mission Network <http://www.congopartners.org/> & <https://www.facebook.com/CongoMissionNetwork>, Helping Hands [www.congohelpinghands.org/](http://www.congohelpinghands.org/) , & Rivers of the World [www.row.org](http://www.row.org) . Join IMCK face book is at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Medical-Institute-of-the-Kasai-IMCK/110759025647158> 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.. Learn; read; act! BE involved.

### Board Members of IMCK at the May 2014 meeting:

Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board  
Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative  
Dr Mahuma Gaspard - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)  
Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative  
Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative  
Fr. Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative  
Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Rep.  
Dr. Patrick Kebeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative  
Mr. Ntumba Tshingombe - CPC Representative  
Mr. Ntumba Tshitenge- CPC Representative  
Rev. Mboyamba Kabala- IMCK Representative  
Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba - IMCK Representative

### Current IMCK Administration:

**IMCK Director - Mr. Alexis Mayambi Nzamba**  
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 120 bed facility, and 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 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 and other Presbyterian Organizations, 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 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: Sherri Ramsey Allison, Gibende Hippolytus, Dr Pepe Banza Kalenga, Antonio Martinez, Marcia Murray, Colleen Shannon, Charlotte White. To add/remove a name from the mailing list, write Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). We welcome your contributions!