



FRIENDS OF IMCK

Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai

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*A Christian
Medical Institute
in the Province of
Kasai in Congo*

*In partnership
with Medical
Benevolence
Foundation &
PC(USA)*

Dear Friends,

As you approach the holiday season and contemplate your year end giving, you will be inundated by the various options available to you. I know that we find ourselves frustrated when we cannot give to all the possible admirable causes. Having said that, however, let me encourage you to consider giving to those who are working to provide health in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We, the above captioned organization, are seeking funds to enable this critical institution to sustain its program into the future by raising an endowment. They face declining support from the first world, so this may be critical to their survival.

As an institution of the Presbyterian Church in the Congo, the IMCK has many roles. It supports graduate and undergraduate nursing and lab schools where several hundred students are enrolled at any time. It's Good Shepherd Hospital serves as a teaching hospital for medical students and interns and residents from medical schools across the country, providing practical and clinical experience.

Many of you will be aware that the Kasai region of central Congo has, for the last eighteen months, been undergoing serious, deadly unrest. The Good Shepherd Hospital has been near the epicenter and treats combatants from both sides. All sides have declared it off limits for attacks, recognizing its relative excellence and using it for medical services. However, the casualties treated can rarely pay, straining the resources of the hospital.

Please consider a gift to augment the endowment we are raising for this institution. At present we are at almost a half million of the \$2 million we hope to raise for the initial corpus of the endowment. Of course, we hope that it will eventually grow to a far larger sum that can provide increasingly meaningful annual income from earnings.

We are affiliated with the [Medical Benevolence Foundation](#) and all donations through them are fully deductible. Instructions for how to make donations are attached to this letter, along with a brief news update and links to two short videos for your enjoyment. Please know just how critical and appreciated your gifts are.

Sincerely yours,

(Tinsley) Gordon Smith, MD
President, FIMCK



Click on the wreath for a **video** about the IMCK Endowment

"UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN"

Isaiah 9:6



Click on the baby to donate



ISTM University Level Nursing Class



IMCK Doctors

Click on the baby above to donate on line **or write a check** to "MBF/FIMCK", PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090 and write "IMCK Endowment" on the memo line.

Better yet, why not make a donation in someone's honor and we will send you a Christmas card like the one shown here, that you can give to them, telling all about it.

Just write your check per the directions above but send it to Rule/FIMCK, 250 Meadow Ridge Dr, Shepherdstown, WV 254423 with your address and any instructions. If you prefer to donate on line by clicking [here](#) and filling out your honoree information as prompted, then MBF will send a card to your honoree directly.



SPECIAL OFFERS:

For any of the following, we will send you a small token of our appreciation -- a calendar, a CD or some other item of nominal value so that your gift is deductible.

1. Donate \$1,000 or more, or pledge (by email to FriendsofIMCK@gmail.com) a monthly donation of at least \$100 for the coming year.
2. Set up (via email to the above address) a special family-and-friends honorary or memorial fund within the endowment, with a goal of at least \$25,000 and canvass your family and friends for contributions.
3. Make the IMCK Endowment a beneficiary in your will and tell us about it at the above email address.

NEWS:



Click on the picture above for a 3.5 minute video of ongoing ISTM classes and ITM choir practice.

We know that many of you have been concerned about what has been going on in the Congo recently.

You may want an update before you commit to this appeal ahead of many others that you are probably seeing.

Yes, sadly, there has been violence in the Kasai and many people have died.

However, the IMCK schools and hospital have remained open and operating throughout the conflict and have been treated as a place of refuge by all sides. IMCK is in a unique position of moral influence.

Construction on the downtown PAX Women's Center, paused for a while, is now underway again with a recent \$23,000 boost that many who are reading this email have contributed to. The renovation work is now 75% complete.

After almost five years of division, the Congo Presbyterian Community (CPC, of which IMCK is a part) has announced a joyful reconciliation. There is hope that other reconciliations may follow.

There have been retirements and new people hired in several key IMCK positions. Notably, Mr. Kastin Katawa has replaced the long-time Administrator, Bernard Kabibu, Rev. Elie Nkongo has replaced Rev. Kabasele Bantubiabo as chaplain and Mlle Marthe Kutekemenyi has replaced long-time ITM Prefect, Jacques Mpoi. Donations for retirement funds have helped.

New buildings have been built at ISTM, the university level nursing school, and renovations at the hospital include the lab, maternity, pediatrics and the intensive care unit. Renovations of the PAX lab and dental unit are complete.

The IMCK hydro has survived a near catastrophic flood from floating vegetation in the lake. IMCK is now seeking a permanent solution.

[Click here to donate to the IMCK Endowment Fund](#)