



Friends of IMCK

Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai

Serving the people of DR Congo in the name of Jesus by providing medical and educational services

Summer 2020

Covid-19 Update

As the Covid-19 pandemic sweeps the world, the number of cases being reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo is increasing. The country is concurrently seeing the 11th outbreak of Ebola and a measles epidemic, often in areas that are troubled by military conflict.

As of July 2020, there have been 7.900 cases of Covid-19 reported in DR Congo resulting in 180 deaths. The IMCK staff is preparing for the unwanted arrival of this coronavirus by providing masks, installing handwashing stations, and educating the community about prevention methods.

As with many countries around the world, the ITM and ISTM nursing and medical technician schools in Tshikaji have been closed and plans for reopening are currently being developed.



IMCK staff preparations for coronavirus



Renovated women's facility at the PAX Clinic

PAX Women's Clinic Renovation

Following a successful fundraising campaign spanning the last several years, the renovation of the women's facility at the PAX clinic in Kananga has been completed! This modernized area includes several new beds, new flooring, improved sanitation, and examination rooms. The facility improvements not only bring improved healthcare for the women of Kananga and surrounding districts, but provides a great morale boost for the staff at PAX providing the services.

In addition to the outpatient facilities, PAX also includes one of the few dental offices in Kananga as well as ophthalmological care.

Check out the new Friends of IMCK Website!

If you would like to get more information about IMCK or receive regular updates on the activities there, please visit our website at www.imck.org or send an email to: friendsofimck@gmail.com.



WWW.IMCK.ORG



Dr. Serge Makolo at the Congo Mission Network conference in Knoxville.

“Just because things are difficult does not mean it’s impossible.”

- Dr. Serge Makolo

From the Desk of the IMCK Director: Dr. Serge Makolo

Dr. Serge Makolo has been the Director of IMCK for five years and provides excellent leadership for all departments.

This is a very expansive job! It includes oversight of medical operations at the Good Shepherd Hospital, the PAX polyclinic in nearby Kananga, the ITM and ISTM schools, and maintenance of the physical plant which includes the hydroelectric facility.

In a recent conference call with the board members of the Friends of IMCK in the USA, Dr. Serge sent his greetings and thanks to everyone who supports IMCK whether through donations or prayer.

Dr. Serge indicated that the challenges of IMCK remain: financial, medical support, and equipment needs.

On top of normal pressures, the current Covid-19 pandemic has added stress and resulted in the temporary closing of the IMCK schools.

“The administration team is continually assessing priorities and trying to balance the books,” Dr. Serge indicated. This is a difficult task in normal circumstances but the economic conditions of DR Congo and the influx of refugees returning from Angola (where they fled during the civil unrest of two years ago) make operational stability a difficult goal to obtain.

Dr. Serge went on to say that a real boost for the Good Shepherd Hospital would be the support of either a short-term or long-term surgeon. “This would result in a big improvement in our occupancy levels.”

Medical Equipment: News and Needs

The recent addition of a hematology (blood) analyzer has greatly increased the diagnostic capability for the medical staff at the Good Shepherd Hospital. Doctors and technicians can now quickly assess red and white blood cell counts and several other parameters to assist with disease determination. Training activities with the medical team has taken place and the equipment is now in use.

Other needs at the hospital include ultrasound and dialysis equipment, ventilators, surgical accessories, medicines, and reagents for the laboratory.

The availability of water and power at the hospital, supplied by the Lubi River hydroelectric facility, is crucial to maintaining the quality of medical services. Equipment and repair needs there remain an ongoing challenge.



IMCK Endowment Fund Approaches Goal!

To assist IMCK in stabilizing its financial status - a real challenge in the difficult economic realities of DR Congo - the Friends of IMCK has established the IMCK Endowment Fund with a goal of building a principal amount of \$2,000,000. We are well on our way to reaching our first milestone of \$1,000,000 at which time proceeds from the investment will be allocated to IMCK to support their operating expenses.