



## IMCK Schools Reopen!

With appropriate prevention and screening measures for Covid-19, the ITM (lower level) and ISTM (upper level) nursing and medical technician schools in Tshikaji have reopened. This is wonderful news! These schools are a cornerstone of IMCK and guarantee a steady flow of health care professionals with a history of 65 years of quality education.

Currently, there are 130 students enrolled in the Institut Technique Médical (ITM) and 178 students enrolled in the Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales. Your support of IMCK is critical for these students as scholarship fees often exceed the average annual salary of their families.

Students at these schools have an advantage of gaining experience at the Good Shepherd Hospital - with the mentorship of their instructors, doctors and nurses - which is located minutes away from their classrooms.



**ISTM Student Screening at School Entrance**



**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 health care 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](http://www.imck.org) or send an email to: [friendsofimck@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofimck@gmail.com).

(And join us on our updated Facebook page for the latest news! You can find us at: [www.facebook.com/FriendsofIMCK](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIMCK))





**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 resulted in additional screening and prevention procedures for the staff.

“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 and a dentist. “This would result in a big improvement in our occupancy levels.”

## Medical Supplies: A Logistics Challenge

Provisioning a medical institute and health care center is not an easy task in central DR Congo. Supply chain management requires creativity in a very dynamic environment.

The Central Pharmacy in Kananga is a big help but the delivery of specialized medicines or equipment takes time. Road conditions between the capital of Kinshasa and Tshikaji are extremely poor - especially during the rainy season - making ground

transport a week-long adventure.

Thankfully, the Mission Aviation Fellowship organization can provide delivery of urgent supplies using their aircraft and dedicated pilots. This has been especially helpful during the current pandemic.

The arrival of an aircraft at the Tshikaji airstrip is not a frequent event but generates a lot of excitement for people living nearby!



**MAF Aircraft Arrival at Tshikaji Airstrip**

## IMCK Endowment Fund Approaches First Milestone: \$1,000,000!

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. We are working hard to accomplish this milestone by the end of 2020 and, with your help, we can do it!