Friends of IMCK

Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai

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

Spring 2021

Bill Rule, Founder of Friends of IMCK

Bill Rule, founder in 2011 of the Friends of IMCK and Treasurer for the board of directors, has stepped down as a board member. Bill's vision of developing an endowment for IMCK has been realized as this fund has recently passed the $1M mark, a Phase I milestone for this fundraising project.

Bill's long family history in the Democratic Republic of Congo continues. Bill was raised in Lubondai, the original site of IMCK, and attended Central School there. Later, Bill filled in as the interim administrator at IMCK in it's current location in Tshikaji. This experience led him to develop the idea of an endowment fund that would help stabilize the operating income of the institute. The IMCK Endowment Fund was born and thanks to many generous donors the first major milestone - and the start of payouts to IMCK - has begun!

Bill and Beth Rule

Graduation Day for ISTM Students

ITM/ISTM Schools: Update

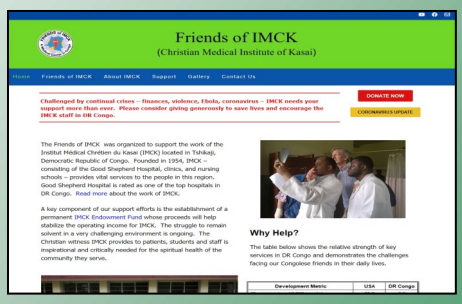
The Covid-19 pandemic has affected education systems in the Democratic Republic of Congo as in most countries. Last year, the nursing and medical technician schools at IMCK in Tshikaji were shut down. In the fall of 2020, the schools were reopened with precautionary measures established (screening, temperature monitoring, distancing). While still in a tenuous situation, the staff and students were thrilled to hold a belated graduation ceremony in December!

These dedicated students continue to build a foundation of health care for DR Congo and raise the level of hope for their community and their families.

Do we have your current email address?

If you have been receiving our periodic "eBlasts" about IMCK stories in your email, you're good! If not, why not send us your email address so we can keep you in the loop on all the goings-on at FIMCK and IMCK. Please also provide any other contact updates (address, phone).

You can contact us at friendsofimck@gmail.com or by filling out the "Contact Us" form on our website: www.imck.org. Don't be a stranger!



WWW.IMCK.ORG

Pastor Jackie Ntumba: IMCK's Chaplain Extraordinaire

Rev. Jackie Ntumba

> "I knew that the situation was very difficult, but when you are guided by the Lord, everything becomes easy.
>
> - Rev. Jacqueline Ntumba

Hear more of Jackie's story on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqzNST2RuZM

Meet "Pastor Jackie!" Rev. Jacqueline Ntumba Tshiaboya was named the first female chaplain at IMCK in 2017 and is a source of spiritual health for the staff and students at the Good Shepherd Hospital, ITM and ISTM schools, and the PAX clinic. This is a remarkable and energetic lady whose life story is quite interesting.

Jackie is the seventh child in a family of ten and learned how to participate in a congregation at an early age! She attended elementary school in Ilebo, finished her secondary studies at Katubue, and attended the Shepherd and Lapsley University in Kananga at UPROCO obtaining her bachelor's degree in 2007.

Following graduation, Jackie taught humanities at the high school in Bulape, was married to husband Emanuel Bope and started another career: the mother of five children.

After obtaining a degree in Theology, Jackie served her church and presbytery in several capacities. She was the first female assistant pastor at the church in Bulape, served as deacon, managed an NGO program "Christian Program for the Advancement of Women" and was a volunteer chaplain at the Bulape Hospital.

Jackie has had to overcome some difficult challenges in accomplishing great work in her career. She experienced a strong gender bias as she considered for positions of deacon and pastor. She broke tradition by becoming the first woman pastor in her parish. In fact, Jackie has a string of "firsts" that prove her strength and willingness to serve God with humility and compassion for others.

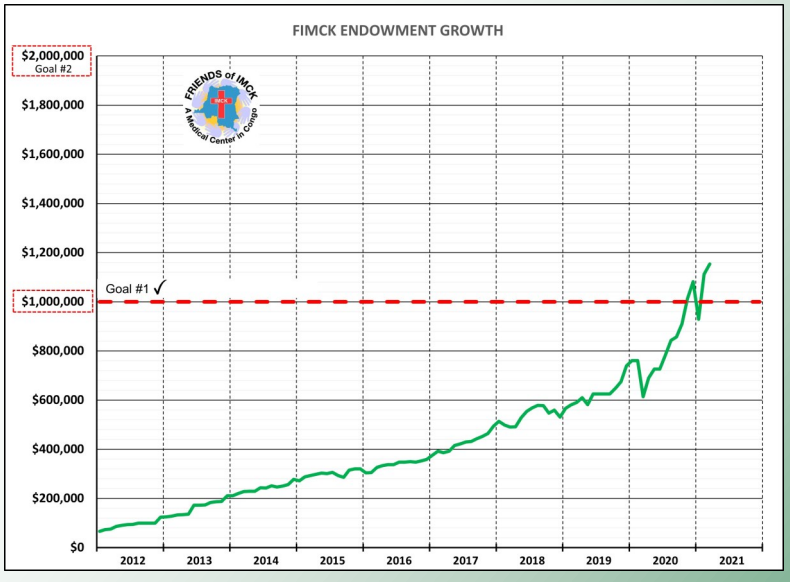
A book could be written about Jackie's life and we applaud the successes she has experienced in her career. IMCK is fortunate to have this strong spiritual leader who shines the light of Jesus Christ in all the work she does. God bless you, Jackie!

IMCK Endowment Update

Wonderful news! The IMCK Endowment Fund has grown to a point where disbursements to IMCK can begin.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the growth of this endowment. Your gifts will be saving lives in DR Congo and will provide IMCK a little breathing space as they struggle to meet the financial requirements of a medical program in a very challenging environment.

So, we pause (briefly) to celebrate this important milestone and then the work continues to push this fund to the next goal of $2M. We look forward to your continued support of the IMCK Endowment Fund.



Welcome our new FIMCK Board Member: Kent Galloway

We are pleased to introduce our newest board member, Kent Galloway. Kent worked in finance for 40 years, the last 27 as the CFO of The ICEE Company. He earned a BS in Accounting, a CPA certificate, and an MBA in Finance. Kent has participated in mission trips to Uganda and Zimbabwe and recently published "Courage in the Congo: A Doctor's Fight to Save the Pygmies," based on 27 years of letters written by his second cousin.