



# INSTITUT MEDICAL CHRETIEN DU KASAI

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

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**A Monthly Newsletter**

**Issue No 13 - November 2011**

In the weeks this newsletter was being prepared, the election process was quickening in the Congo. The democratic process using elections can bring hope and a vision of justice. But elections also create tension and fear of an unfair election change process. So this week, the emails and phone calls have been flying between friends in Congo and America, as we wait for news and as we hope and pray for justice and peace for Congo. Meanwhile the IMCK Board met several weeks ago, completing significant work and setting goals. Dr Denis Pirlot de Corbion has been striving to make important changes at IMCK for better financial stability and for improved quality care. That sort of change also can be difficult. But the greater community that surrounds IMCK - the staff, the students, the board, the faith based organizations that support IMCK, and most of all the sick people served by IMCK - that greater community has great hope and offers up prayers for the good of IMCK in their times of change. This newsletter gives information about that greater community: articles about an IMCK nurse, about the Board meeting & a Board member, about work of Cranberry Presbyterian Church, about the boundless work of Medical Benevolence Foundation, about the new Friends of IMCK organization, about the Fletchers, and about the "little ones" on the pediatric ward. Submitted by Charlotte White P.S. For late election info, google Enough Project or Friends of Congo.

### A New Face for IMCK PAX:

Many services operating at the PAX polyclinic (or IMCK PAX) have experienced distortions in operations because of the global economic crisis that hit private companies, public agencies, and non profit associations (ASBL or NGO).

However, since Dr Denis Pirlot de Corbion assumed leadership of IMCK, a leading light has appeared on the horizon in terms of organization of services. Foremost, the administrative and financial services have become normal and then computerized. Almost all actions are encoded. The IMCK PAX already has a new face [in business matters] similar to IMCK Tshikaji [sight of the hospital campus.]n (see page 2- PAX)

### Medical Benevolence Foundation Congo Activity Report Bill Simmons gave to Congo Mission Network Meeting

MBF works to raise support for the medical mission work of the partners of the PC(USA) in many countries around the world, but we focus particularly on Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Malawi, & Sudan. No country in the world gets more of our staff's attention than Congo. The needs in Congo are great, & the partnership is long & enduring.

Medical missionary support is a high priority for MBF and during this year MBF has contributed substantially to the support of the Fletchers and the Sthreshleys in Congo.

Medical mission projects supported by MBF this year include Bibanga Hospital, Bulape Hospital, Mbuji Mayi Hospital, and IMCK/Good Shepherd. CPK\* has received some assistance, particularly the Moringa program. We are currently considering a lengthy request from CPK Health.

MBF completed construction on the A-1 nursing school at IMCK last year. This year MBF's heaviest involvement in Congo is the complete renovation of the hydroelectric facility built with MBF financing in the mid 80s. Repairs in the last year have amounted to over \$50,000 and we anticipate that at least \$100,000 more will be needed. Dr. John Fletcher is doing a splendid job of leading this project. Another sizable IMCK project has been placed on hold: the renovation of the water system on Tshikaji station. To ensure the water supply, MBF just purchased & shipped two new pumps & spares to Congo, along with several thousand dollars of plumbing supplies. The next step is the renovation of the Tshikaji water distribution system. MBF has some funds set aside for that, but (Page 2, MBF Report)

### The IMCK PAX CLINIC is situated in the middle of Kananga, a city of about a half million people.

Christine Mushiya Kabemba is the nurse who administers the busy Gynecology Clinic at PAX Clinic.

Ms Kabemba graduated from the IMCK ITM nursing school in 1975 and started to work at the Good Shepherd Hospital that same year, two months after the hospital had opened. She worked in surgery, then internal medicine, then pediatrics and then for many years in maternity. In 1984, she was promoted to Manager of the Maternity unit and later as Manager of Gynecology. In 1998, she was transferred to work in Kananga city as Manager of Gynecology Clinic. When the maternity unit was opened at PAX in 2003, Ms Kabemba was asked to lead that. The Maternity unit is of vital service in the city. Then she returned to the Gynecology Clinic. She is a widow and a mother of five children, 3 daughters and two sons. She has worked with Dr. Hull, Dr Stamp, Dr Makin, and Dr Mubikayi. Ms Kabemba is known to be a diligent worker, who works well with other team members. Hats off to Christine Mushiya Kabemba and may God bless her. Submitted by Hippolithe Gibende



### **MBF Report Continued:**

more are needed. With the ongoing Hydro renovation project, IMCK does not have the extra capacity to undertake the water project at the same time. However, it will get done in due time.

MBF assisted in getting medical supplies to the Kasai and to various medical institutions there. Actually Larry Sthreshley and John Fletcher did the hard work; MBF provided funding.

MBF is partnering with the newly formed "Friends of IMCK" and is managing the endowment which we helped them create with the Presbyterian Foundation. MBF has enjoyed working with them on this since last February.

MBF has also served the CPC\*\* in other ways by facilitating rapid transfers of substantial funding for CPC education programs. We are in constant contact with folks in Congo, and it is our privilege to be able to support the various ministries there. It is also very rewarding to work with the churches and individuals in the USA who have a keen interest in Congo. Their dedication is inspiring to us.

MBF Report of Bill Simmons given at October Congo Mission Network.

\*CPK - Communauté Presbytérienne de Kinshasa;

\*\*CPC - Communauté Presbytérienne au Congo.



November 2011 Board Meeting. Picture from of Jo Stewart

**IMCK Board Meeting November 2011:** This meeting was very special in many ways. First, it ended at 1 pm (early) in contrast to past patterns. There were two new members, Ms Jo Stewart of Myers Park Presbyterian Church on behalf of PCUSA & Dr Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba, Assist Medical Coordinator of CPC from Mbuji Mayi on behalf of CPC. The meeting was especially unusual in the way the reports were presented: the Director's report, Finance report, Budget Report. The IMCK activities report was curiously missing.

The meeting mainly focused on projects to achieve that were short, medium or long term and included: new system of finance, a reevaluation of PAX Clinic, new system for payroll and service contracts, looking for a long term IMCK Director and Chief of Finances.

After the meeting, the following Board members, visitors and IMCK staff visited the PAX Clinic in down town Kananga to make proposals on its rehabilitation and upgrading: Dr. Larry Sthreshley, Dr Gaspard Mahuma, Dr Patrick Kabeya, Ms Jo Stewart, Mr Mike Stewart, Miss Helen Smith, Administrator Bernard Kabibu and Rev Kabasele Bantu Biabo. We expect proposals from each of them. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu.

### **Sharing Roots Between Cranbury and IMCK:**

In 2008, while First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Cranbury, New Jersey was looking for a relationship with a PCUSA Mission effort, we were inspired by the work of Mike & Nancy Haninger, the PCUSA physician-nurse missionaries at IMCK-Good Shepherd Hospital among people of the Kasai in Congo. Through them, our Church began a dialogue with IMCK. We were overjoyed when Mr. Bernard Kabibu visited our congregation in 2009.

Through emails with the Haningers & Elder Kabibu, we were informed of needs of the hospital, & our church began providing grants to IMCK and to health care programs of the Haningers. Since 2008, we have also dedicated funds to IMCK from craft & bake sales at our church's annual Mission Fair. To date, grants and gifts from FPC of Cranbury have totaled over \$25,000. We know that's just a "drop in the bucket" of the hospital's needs, but it has been a blessing for our congregation to know that we have been able to help care for our brothers and sisters in the Congo.

Our "Congo connection" was aided when we learned from Charlotte White that people of the Congo Presbyterian Church (CPC), who include staff and patients of IMCK, had another need. With the help of Rev. Sylvain Kazadi Muya, Director of CPC Development, some women of the Tshikaji congregation hoped to start a bread baking business to support their families and serve the IMCK community. The cost for starting this business was \$625, so FPC of Cranbury added this to our list of possible grants for the year. Happily we were able to provide that bread project grant to CPC this year. Now we are working on funding another CPC project to help 25 Kananga families purchase seeds and farming equipment. Over 300 years ago, Presbyterian missionaries also labored in Cranbury, a small New Jersey community which still has farms. So outreach to IMCK and the Congo Presbyterian Church are a natural extension of our community's roots, and we can only hope those roots will continue growing with God's blessing. Submitted by Carol Kientz

**IMCK PAX continued:** Indeed, Dr Pirlot de Corbion has not been limited there. He wants to give the PAX IMCK a pharmaceutical depot like Tshikaji. This depot will be stocked with essential medicines as part of primary health care.

Dr Pirlot de Corbion still has much to do to give the PAX Polyclinic a really new face. Submitted by Bakatusenga Buledi



The new organization, Friends of IMCK, is receiving donations for the endowment plan. Last week, a person called and is offering a **challenge grant up to \$10,000**. So all donations made before the end of 2011, up to the amount of \$10,000, will be matched!

\*Checks can be made out to the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) with "IMCK Endowment Fund" on the memo line and mailed to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090.

\*To donate **On Line**, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?source=WSRG> and follow the directions.

**IMCK Patient Care:** Get on the mailing list for letters from John & Gwenda Fletcher, missionaries at Tshikaji. Go to: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/fletcher-john-and-gwenda/> John just wrote a descriptive letter about his medical work at IMCK, telling about a little boy who needed surgery. Also pictured to the right, a little girl on the pediatric ward at the Good Shepherd Hospital, when I rounded with the Pediatric Head Nurse, Tshieba Kalubi Raphael. (He is not pictured; another nurse stands in the photo.) The girl was admitted with diarrhea & bronchitis & given IV fluids & medicine. Rounding with Mr Kalubi, we noted 2 children with meningitis, 7 with bronchitis, 5 with malnutrition, one with Sick Cell Anemia and one boy in a coma from a blow to the head. A tree was being chopped and fell on him. Almost all the children also had malaria, an opportunistic infection that slides in on top of other illnesses. Mr Kalubi asks for plastic toys (washable) for peds! Submitted by C. White



Keep up with USA/Congo Partnerships & News: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/> & [www.mbfoundation.org](http://www.mbfoundation.org) & <http://www.congopartners.org/> and [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/) (search IMCK Congo) and <http://congohelpinghands.org/> & <http://www.row.org/congo-kasai-2009-update/>. PCUSA and MBF sites have lots of information about Congo and IMCK. Learn about the Congo Mission Network meeting, the next groups going to Congo, Woody Collin's Congo work, ROW work. 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 and the need for certification. Learn about Congo at [www.wikipedia.org/](http://www.wikipedia.org/). Read, learn, get involved.

**IMCK Board:** Dr Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba is Medical Director of Hospital Centre in the large city of Mbuji Mayi. He graduated in 1994 from secondary school at Institut Mpokolo in Mbuji Mayi. He graduated from medical school in 2002 at the University of Lubumbashi. He attended the School of Public Health in Kinshasa, obtaining an MPH in 2011. He is an attending physician & Head of Internal Medical Service at the Hospital Centre. He also serves as Chief Medical Officer of Area Public Health. And finally, he serves as the Assistant Coordinator of the Department of Medicine for CPC (Congo Presbyterian Church.) He is married to Mishika Badibanga and they have three sons. When asked what his motto was, Dr Tshibemba said, "Dignity, legality and transparency." The IMCK welcomes him to the service of IMCK Board. Submitted by Bernard Kabibu Bimvulu

Dr Tshibemba, at the Board Meeting in November. Picture from Jo Stewart.



### Board Members of IMCK

**These were the representatives at the Nov 2011 meeting:**

- Dr. Larry Sthresley - PCUSA Rep; Chairman of Board
- Mr. Jeff Boyd - PCUSA Representative (Presby Church USA)
- Rev. Birakara Ilowa - CMCO Representative (Mennonite)
- Rev. Mboyamba Kabala - CPC Representative
- Mr. Tshishimbi Kasonga -CMCO Representative
- Mr. Laurent Kamizelo Kianza - CMCO Representative
- Dr. Gaspard Mahuma - CMCO Representative
- Rev. Tshidinda Mamba - CPC Representative
- Rev. Dr. Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi- CPC Representative
- Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion - IMCK Representative
- Ms. Jo Stewart - PCUSA Representative
- Dr. Patrick Kabeya Tshibemba - CPC Representative
- Mr. Simon Ntumba Tshitenge - IMCK Representative

**IMCK Administration:** [imckbusiness@yahoo.fr](mailto:imckbusiness@yahoo.fr)

Interim IMCK Director - Dr. Denis Pirlot de Corbion  
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 140 bed facility, and at PAX , 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 over 50 years. To help with supplies needed, please contact Charlotte White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com).

**How to make a donation for to IMCK:**

To give to the Friends of IMCK, go to <https://mbfoundation.secure-donor.com/fimck?> and follow the directions or write a check to Medical Benevolence Foundation and write For Friends of IMCK. Send it to Medical Benevolence Foundation, PO Box 96877, Washington, DC 20090.

To give through the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group of PCUSA, 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 checks to IMCK. Send to Wachovia Bank ([www.wachovia.com](http://www.wachovia.com)): Account number: 20000008628398; Account Owner: Institut Medical Chretien du Kasai; c/o Worldwide Ministries Div- Zaire. Then please send an email concurrently to Bernard Kabibu at IMCK (above address) informing him of the amount and designation, so IMCK can manage it appropriately.

To give through Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/E320202/>. Or write a check to Presbyterian Church USA; send it to PCUSA, Individual Remittance Processing, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Put "ECO#320202 - IMCK" on the check.

**Newsletter Matters:** Contributors this month: Bakatusenga Buledi, Gibende Hippolithe, Bernard Kabibu, Carol Kientz, Bill Rule, Charlotte Rule White, Bill Simmons, Jo Stewart. To add or remove a name from the mailing list, write to Charlotte Rule White at [CRuleWhite@gmail.com](mailto:CRuleWhite@gmail.com). Charlotte welcomes your suggestions or contributions.