

## **Friends of IMCK (text for presentation at 2024 CMN Conference)**

### **What I am part of: Friends of IMCK**

The Institut Médical Chrétien du Kasai (IMCK), or Christian Medical Institute of Kasai, was founded in 1954

- a medical laboratory tech school
- college-level nursing program
- a 160-bed reference hospital in Tshikaji
- PAX medical and dental facilities in Kananga

### **Intro: Who I am**

- William Pender, retired Presbyterian minister
- I have been hearing about Good Shepherd Hospital (a part of IMCK) since I was a child—missionaries itinerated at the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, GA.
- Privilege of serving as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville (2007-2020)—the home congregation to Bill Rule, one of the founders of IMCK...and Knoxville is where Bill and wife Effie lived in retirement (Bill and Effie: parents of CMN conference leader: Charlotte Rule White).

In considering the needs of IMCK, the current needs are staggering (disease, infant mortality, malnutrition, and so on). Addressing current needs is worthy, even sacred. Recall Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, who stops and assists the wounded man on the road (Luke 10:29–37). We fail ourselves (and others!) if we walk on the other side of the road when need calls out to us. But going further, how about addressing the road itself...making it safe for travelers today, tomorrow, years, even decades to come? That's the endowment endeavor...to improve the road to prevent more wounded travelers.

**IMCK Endowment Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM0MFVZfVzE&t=3s>

### **Wrap-Up**

This CMN conference is focused on education. For 70 years, IMCK has been teaching...nursing, medical techs, and being a teaching hospital setting for doctors in residency programs. Yesterday, in a Zoom meeting, you engaged with the director and students of one of the nursing programs.

I simply want to raise your awareness and pique your interest in FIMCK (Friends of IMCK)...this "endowment endeavor." In the Biblical tradition, the words of Deuteronomy to the early Israelites comes to mind: in the entry of the Israelites into the Promised Land means they live in cities they did not build, drink water from wells they did not dig, and enjoy the fruit from vineyards and orchards they did not plant (Deuteronomy 6:11). In other words, they did not start with "nothing," but they were "endowed!" In similar fashion, I know that I live in a town that I did not build, drive on roads that I did not layout, and have access to hospitals I did not establish. My education was endowed—from church kindergarten to graduate scholarships. And the list goes on. Endowments are the foundation of so much of my life.

Friends of IMCK—we are seeking to build similar foundation for our Congolese brothers and sisters. We have raised over \$1.6 million since beginning our effort in 2011, with a goal of \$4 million.

Please pick up brochure, or access the following:

- Website: <https://imck.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofIMCK>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofimck/>
- Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofimck8355>