

Need

While Uganda boasted many well-trained medical professionals in the early 1990s, these hard-working men and women struggled to administer the hospitals and clinics they operated.

Vision

So Dr. Carl Garry, an administrator from York University, initiated ICMI with his wife, Loraine Spencer Garry (a Library Science professional) and with Dr. Cherer Penny. From 1992 they recruited volunteers to go from Canada and teach short -- but intense -- courses in practical management skills that led to diplomas.

Their vision and hard work underlie ICMI's organizational history of outstanding community development assistance in Uganda. By using sound principles of development, the program has achieved a level where it is primarily self-maintaining under the principalship of Dr. Edward Mukooza. Canadian and Ugandan boards have grasped the challenge, cooperating to bring organizational management skills to hundreds of professionals from Uganda and other countries in East Africa.

Growth and Success

Through the years ICMI's leadership has succeeded in consolidating a thoroughly culture-appropriate curriculum. A first gathering of 75 alumni in 2007 recounted much appreciation for what the program meant to each one personally, and to the jobs they perform.

Most graduates have secured diplomas, but growth eventually included partnering with Uganda Christian University so that ICMI could confer degrees in addition to the original diplomas.



Some of ICMI's graduates celebrate with Dr. Carl Garry (in red) at the front of the newly-opened classroom block at Uganda Christian University, 2007.

Challenge

Associating with Uganda Christian University presented a new challenge to ICMI Canada. A \$250,000 fund-raising drive was mounted to assist in building a lecture and library facility on the UCU campus. The building opened in October 2007, debt-free. It is owned by UCU, and ICMI has a prepaid lease for a 20-year period.

Through all of these practical, helpful tasks, ICMI maintains a Christian perspective, giving God thanks for its opportunities of service. Class days begin with students singing hymns and giving devotional testimonies. Volunteers say it is impossible to work with ICMI and not be touched by its commitment. We can truly thank God for the program's success.



Over a thousand Ugandans have now graduated from ICMI's programs.

Treasurer Nigel Lomas gets ready to send a big cheque to Uganda in 2006.

Volunteers

Volunteers with ICMI range from experienced long-time professionals to students who are challenged with opportunities to serve. Two volunteers write:



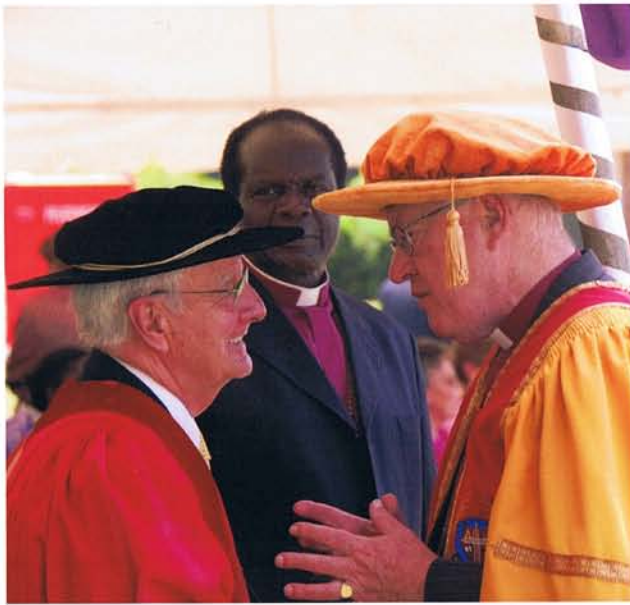
Chris Newcombe visits a hospital ward.

"After completing my undergraduate studies in Microbiology at the University of Victoria, I developed an interest in overseas volunteering as a way to serve and develop personally. My duties were instructing computer skills and acting as a second pair of hands around the office. I had unforgettable and life-altering experiences in my hospital time, dealings with people and immersion into Uganda's beautiful culture." Chris Newcombe is now a medical student at Queen's University.



Wayne Stewart (centre) with Lorene Freeman who chairs the Canadian board, and Dr. Edward Mukooza, acting principal of ICMI Uganda.

"No one can adequately describe the many benefits of a teaching mission to Uganda with ICMI. Many Ugandans had come from difficult circumstances... rebel activity... levels of poverty... and yet the students without exception were full of hope and spirit, never complaining, thankful for our help, always a joy to work with. This has truly been the experience of a lifetime. We gave a bit and received a lot, proof of the promise of our Christian life." Wayne Stewart is past executive director of the Calgary Foundation for the Homeless.



Professor Carl Garry shares a word with Lord George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, at the ICMI 2007 Convocation. Looking on is retired Archbishop Livingstone Mpalanye Nkoyoyo.

The future

So much opportunity confronts ICMI:

The curriculum has been refined to make it possible to set up the program in other developing countries. ICMI is currently in negotiations with Meserete Kristos College to bring the program to Ethiopia. Already students are coming to Uganda from other East African countries to study with ICMI.

The ICMI bursary fund needs to be increased to give a chance to deserving students who could not otherwise enroll.

A van is needed to transport professors and other Canadian volunteers while they are in Africa.

Textbooks and other library books will be needed for the program.

Become an ICMI supporter and/or member

Yes, I would like to support the work of ICMI:

With a membership of _____ \$75.00

With a gift of _____

With a monthly pledge of _____

I wish to pay by cheque

I wish to pay by credit card Visa MC

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This gift is eligible for a tax-deductible receipt.



The ICMI building at Uganda Christian University

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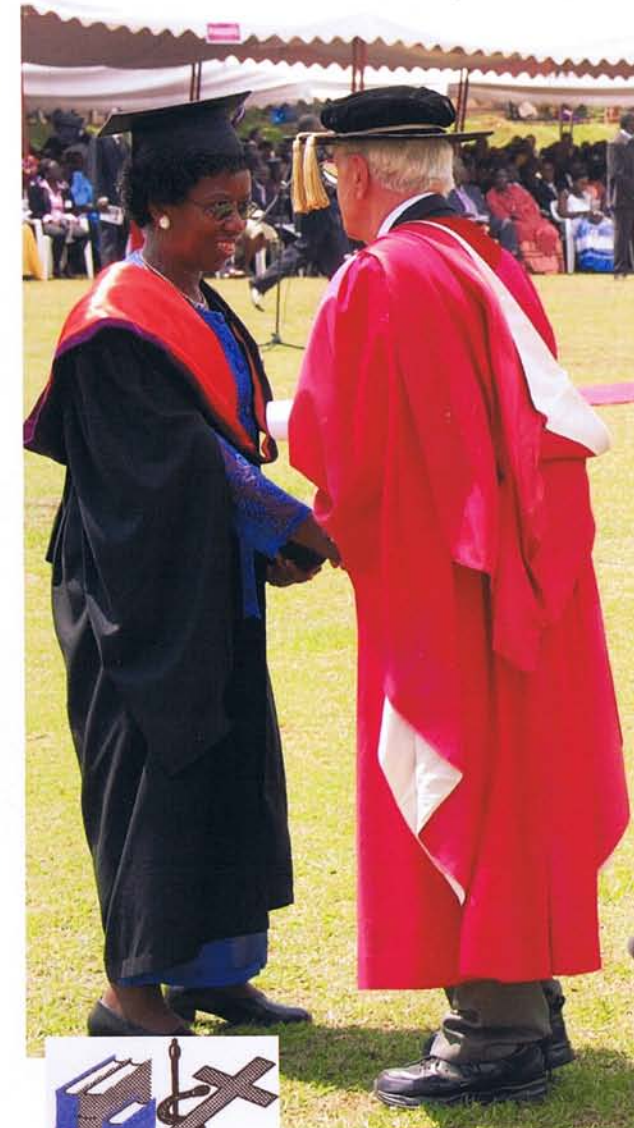
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International Christian Medical Institute (ICMI)



*Training professionals in
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