



International Christian Medical Institute (Canada)

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UGANDA UPDATE 1998

NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

New Programme Coordinator:

Dr. Edward Mukooza is a graduate of Makerere University Medical School. He registered for our Health Administration course in 1995, and after graduation with his diploma at the top of his class in 1996 he was engaged as a Teaching Assistant in Counselling and Human Resources Management. He was appointed Programme Coordinator in June 1997 with responsibility for the Health Administration programme, and the Continuing Medical Education (C.M.E.) programme. Dr. Mukooza is a committed Christian who brings a great deal of energy and vitality to the programme. Samalie, Edward's wife, is a secondary school teacher in Kampala. The I.C.M.I. Board is pleased to announce Dr. Mukooza's appointment as Programme Coordinator, and it looks forward to working with him. Please pray for Edward and Samalie.

Honorary Graduates:

Dr. Henry Kasozi from Kampala, and Dr. Jim Sparling from Victoria, were the recipients of Diplomas *Honoris Causa* at I.C.M.I.'s graduation ceremony held on March 21st, 1998, at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel. Dr. Henry Kasozi, a Radiologist and member of the Makerere Medical School, received the award in recognition of his work as Chairman of the I.C.M.I. Advisory Committee since its inception where he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Institute.

Dr. Jim Sparling, a specialist Respiriologist, was recognised for his deep commitment over the years to I.C.M.I.'s work in Uganda. Jim has made four visits to Uganda since 1993 in order to help improve the diagnosis and management of Tuberculosis in Uganda. In January of this year Jim went back to Uganda and spent three months there setting up a TB Out-patient Clinic at Mengo Hospital, a Church of Uganda Hospital located in Kampala. Jim Sparling is a member of the I.C.M.I.(C) Board and its Executive Committee. Please pray for the doctors, nurses, and patients at the new TB Clinic at Mengo.



Left:

The new Programme
Coordinator,
Dr. Edward Mukooza

Below:

Dr. Henry Kasozi and his wife at the
graduation ceremony.

Equipment and Drugs Donated to Uganda:

- 2 IBM-compatible computers
- 1 Monitor
- 1 Canon Printer
- 1 Bi-polar multiphase microscope
- \$ 5000 MAP pack of drugs.
- 8 Study Bibles



Since January, the above list of medical equipment and drugs have been taken to Uganda for use in hospitals and in the ICMI programme. We express our grateful thanks to the donors. ICMI has also purchased a 1989 Toyota Corolla Station Wagon for \$3,500 U.S. from a missionary doctor in Uganda who is returning home to Germany. It was a real answer to prayer and we thank the Lord for making it possible for ICMI to purchase this much needed car for use in the program.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME:

Dr. Carl Garry and Loraine Spencer-Garry were in Uganda during February and March this year for the third semester of the Health Administration Programme. Twenty Ugandan health workers successfully completed the programme and received their Diplomas at a very colourful graduation ceremony on March 21st. This brings the total number of Ugandans trained by the Institute to 110. The top student, who addressed the graduation on behalf of the students, asked us to convey their gratitude and thanks to ICMI and its supporters for making the programme possible.

EXCERPTS OF A SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI TO AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE.

“Thank you, Your Excellencies, for the opportunity to share some thoughts about the spiritual condition of the peoples of Africa. As I observe the tribal differences, religious divisions, poverty and disease, lack of sufficient educational opportunities for our children, political upheaval and racial strife, it becomes obvious that the principles of Jesus Christ have not penetrated Africa enough.

It may seem strange for some of you to think that I would say this about Christ, because I know many of you may think this is too religious and not a very practical solution to the problems I have just mentioned. Furthermore I know that most of you do not think of me as a very religious man - in fact I do not think that about myself. My wife is a much better believer and prayer person than I am. However, I do think that those of us who claim to love God ought to love one another - this is one of the most basic attributes of a follower of Christ.

As the years have gone by, even though I have not become a member of any particular religious group, I have decided to follow Jesus Christ with my whole heart. I find in Him the inner strength, the precepts and the lifestyle that can help me and all the people of Uganda to solve the problems we face as individuals and as a nation.

It is an interesting fact about Jesus Christ that people in every nation of the world, regardless of religion, consider Jesus the greatest authority on human relations in history. His views on that subject have transcended all religions and cultures. With that in mind, I want to stress at least three significant precepts that Christ taught and modelled, which, if practised, will help Africa - forgiveness, humility, and love.

FORGIVENESS: Jesus Christ is the only person ever to come up with the idea of unconditional forgiveness, even of ones enemies. He went so far as to say that if you don't forgive, then God cannot forgive you. In countries where animosities and division go back for generations, even thousands of years, how can peace come to a person or a nation if at some point we do not forgive, and let God take vengeance on our enemies, if that is what He decides to do?. In the final analysis, it hurts us more to hate than it does to those we hate. Therefore I have come to the conclusion that the message of Christ on forgiveness is the only practical solution to healing a nation's wounds and bringing unity.

HUMILITY: This is one of the most important attributes of a good leader. When you observe leaders at all levels of society throughout Africa, you find them being overcome by power, greed, and self-interest. Somehow, after they have attained the prominence and positions of trust, they forget the people, their poverty and need,; they forget that they could become a great instrument of help to their country, and instead they begin to live like dictators and little kings. Only with a humble spirit by which we recognise that we who have been given opportunities greater than most are in fact servants of God rather than masters, will we be able to move our countries from Third World status and to lead our people to a new day. The Scriptures say 'God resists the proud, but gives help to the humble'. If you have time to pray for me, please pray that God will give me the strength, wisdom and sense to be a humble servant.

LOVE: It has been fascinating to me to discover that for centuries people who have been the most thoughtful, the most

respected, and who have made the most lasting contributions to the human race have all agreed that the greatest and highest purpose for their lives has been to seek to love God with all their heart, their mind, soul, and strength. These are people like Moses, the great Lawgiver; Abraham, the man of faith and father of nations; William Wilberforce, the leader against the slave trade; Mother Theresa, the compassionate mother to the poor; and so on. Jesus Christ said the sum of all the Law and the Prophets is to love God and to love one another.

If love for God and love for one another were the rule and prevailing attitude in our nations and communities, all problems would move gradually to resolution. Even when love is not the rule for most of the population and only exists among the few, great things can happen that give hope and life in a world starved for love and caring.

Today, as we meet together, let us resolve to take Jesus Christ out of the religious setting in which we have imprisoned Him, and walk with Him along the dusty roads of Africa where He feels much more at home. “

(Editor: This reminds me of a verse in Habakkuk 1:5 "Look at the nations, and watch, and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.") God bless Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda.

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CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP:

On March 23rd, one hundred and eighteen Ugandan doctors and nurses participated in an ICMI sponsored workshop in Kampala. Tuberculosis was the topic chosen for this year's CME, and it was led by Dr. Jim Sparling, a respirologist and an ICMI Board member. Many senior Ugandan doctors participated in the workshop underlining their concern regarding the increasing number of Ugandan patients who are testing positive for Tuberculosis. Workshop leaders included Dr. Francis Odatu, Head of the Ugandan TB Control Unit; Dr. Okot from Mulago Hospital, and Dr. Bellinger, Medical Director of Rubago Hospital. The workshop was designed to increase awareness among doctors and nurses of the growing threat of TB worldwide, and the importance of the Direct Observation Treatment protocol. According to Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the WHO, "the number of infectious persons will surpass 2 billion by the year 2005...and if infectious persons are not cured, new infections will continue at the rate of one per second".

Interested in going to Uganda with ICMI? Please contact Dr. Carl Garry, 1710 Beach Drive, Victoria, V8R 6J1 or Phone (250) 592.0779 - Fax (250)592.0526