

ICMI NEWSLETTER

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Twenty-two students completed the program in Health Administration successfully and received their diplomas in a colourful graduation ceremony held at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel, Saturday March 6, 1999. This group of graduates brings the total number of graduates from the programme to 135. Three of the 1999 graduates were from other East African countries.



TRIP TO UGANDA

Eleven ICMI members traveled to Uganda in February of this year. The team included Dr. Stuart Kenning, a respirologist, Dr. Brian Carr-Harris, a dentist, and his wife Sara, Lorene Freeman, Diane Hutchinson and Norah Fisher, three nurses from Victoria, Neil McLean, a medical student, David Flaig, an accountant, and his wife Sharona, Loraine Spencer Garry and Carl Garry.

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NURSES TEACH QUALITY CARE

Three Registered Nurses from Victoria, BC, responded to a request from Loraine Spencer Garry, on behalf of ICMI (Canada) and the Ministry of Health (Uganda), to provide a Continuing Nursing Education Programme for Ugandan nurses. Each of the Canadian nurses has many but varied years of nursing experience.

Norah Fisher, with a background in intravenous therapy and medical nursing, is now in the community as a Parish nurse and provides wellness clinics. Lorene Freeman, formerly a nursing instructor, has a quality improvement role in seniors' nursing homes. Diane Hutchinson nurses on a surgical ward having worked in maternity and critical care. Their diverse background brought varied perspectives to the programme. However, it was the Christian faith that inspired these women to commit themselves to this ministry.

The nursing team left wintry Victoria on February 21, 1999, arriving to a more than temperate Ugandan climate of 48 deg. C. With a population of one to two million people in the city of Kampala, it was reassuring to confirm that English was indeed the working language.

Following several site visits of Kampala hospitals, this Christian team offered two nursing education programmes. The first was given at Mbarara University, and the second at the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau in Kampala.

The "Quality Caring — A Nursing Perspective" programme included the following topics: spiritual care, tuberculosis, diabetes, palliative care, and maternal and child health. Each component involved a discussion of moral and ethical dilemmas. The shared goal for these women was to have a cultural exchange of nursing knowledge and practices. The Canadians did not want to assume that greater funding made nursing in Canada superior. Instead, effort was made to show respect and understanding for Ugandan nursing skills and caring attitudes. Jocelyn Tindiweegi, the Principal Nursing Officer from Mbarara University Teaching Hospital, volunteered to provide the presentation of Maternal and Child Health. Meryce Mutyaba, an instructor at Mengo School of Nursing, adopted Tindiweegi's outline, and presented the same topic in Kampala. Each sessional discussion was expertly chaired by a local Ugandan nurse.

In total, one hundred and twenty-five participants ranging from students to senior nurses, received numerous booklets and other handouts to share with peers from their home agencies and hospitals. Considering the economic status of the attendees, their five-dollar fee was a substantial investment for the Ugandans. Gratefully, ICMI (Canada) was the major source of funding for this workshop.

Dr. C. Garry has indicated that this was the first education programme of its kind to be held in Uganda in over twenty-five years. Verbal reports as well as written evaluations rated the programme a valued experience with strong recommendations that nursing education be continued by ICMI (Canada).

Such an accomplishment can only be achieved with the combined effort and energy of many supporters. Under the leadership of Drs. Carl and Loraine Spencer Garry, the guidance of the Health Administration Programme Coordinator-countryman Dr. Makooza, and the assistance of the other team members, the event surpassed expectations. Fisher, Freeman and Hutchinson thank these people and those at home for their prayers and constant support.



L to R back row: Norah Fisher, Diane Hutchison, Lorene Freeman. Front: Sister Philip Nsidagda, teaching assistant, accounting, Rubaga Hospital.

NEW STUDENT INTAKE

The first semester of the 1999-2000 academic year in Health Administration began on June 14, 1999. Dr. Edward Mukooza, the Programme Coordinator, says that there are 27 students enrolled in this year's programme. He received over 35 applications but a number of hospitals were unable to raise the fees. This is the first year that computer training will be added to the curriculum.

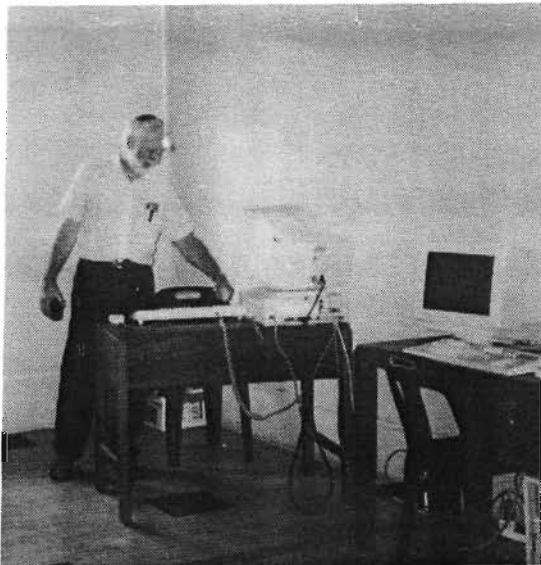
COMPUTER LABS

The ICMI team brought a lot of equipment and supplies with them from Canada, including thirteen computers, to be donated to the people of Uganda. Additional computer and electrical equipment was purchased in Kampala in order to set up two computer labs, one for use by ICMI students in space made available by UPMB, and the other for use by medical students at Mbarara University. ICMI was required by Ugandan Custom Authorities to pay an import tax of \$550.00 US on these computers. I believe that this was a comparatively fair assessment given the fact that we were permitted to take five computers in to the country tax free.

At Mbarara three computers were set up to form a network and medical students can now access the medical journals on CD-ROMS which were made available by Jim Sparling. Both computer labs, which were set up with the help of Neil McLean, are now fully operational.

In June 1999, Dr. Edward Mukooza began giving computer instruction to students enrolled in the Health Administration programme. At present it is a voluntary extra curricular activity but all the students have chosen to participate

We are in the process of recruiting computer trainers to come to Uganda in February 2000 to begin to formally integrate computer training into the health administration programme. Praise the Lord for making these computer labs possible.



Dr. Stuart Kenning in the computer lab.

HIV/AIDS ASSISTANCE

Prior to leaving for Uganda with my husband, Brian, I had a call from Lonnie Spencer Garry, who said she had a job for me to do — visiting the homes of AIDS patients with the team from the HIV clinic at Mengo Hospital. I went wondering what I had to offer — I have little or no medical training

But I found that with my many years of raising two children, running a small farm, and assisting Brian in the clinic I was far better prepared than I originally thought. I made many wonderful new friends in Kampala and eagerly await my return to assist the wonderful team from the HIV clinic in Mengo Hospital. It has also come to my attention that they desperately need some financing to assist them in purchasing more pharmaceuticals. They also are in need of knitted afghans or quilts for the comfort of the patients in homes and those visiting the clinic who sometimes lie on a bare concrete floor.

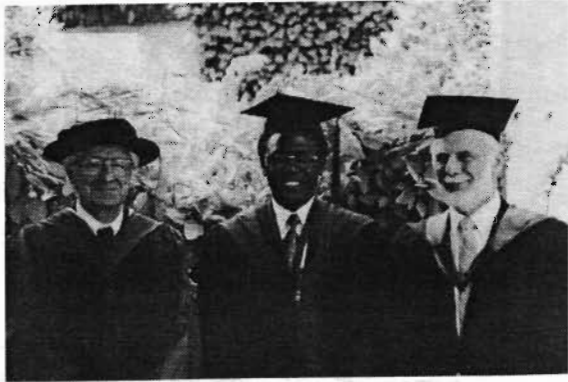
Sara Carr-Harris

TB CLINIC AT MENG0 HOSPITAL

The TB outpatient clinic established at Mengo hospital in February, 1998, by Dr. Jim Sparling was the subject of a review on February 2, 1999, by Dr. Stuart Kenning. It continues to operate regularly with twice weekly clinics, one adult and one paediatric, and averages 100 patient visits per week.

Patient records and treatment protocols are in accord with those of the National TB and Leprosy Programme. Dr. Francis Adatu, Director of the national programme, is very supportive of the work being carried out at the Mengo Clinic. Sufficient medications are available and it is estimated that over 75% of patients complete treatment. Dr. Kenning reports that this is a very worthwhile project that has functioned well over the past year and deserves our continuing encouragement and support.

Jim Sparling reports that Mengo Hospital has received a grant for the TB Clinic from the Saanich Rotary Club. The money is to be used for equipment and to create an office for the clinic. An additional grant for training and education of staff the TB Clinic is expected to be made early in 2000. Jim has worked hard over the past 18 months to obtain these much needed funds for the clinic. He plans to travel to Uganda in September 1999 to provide assistance and encouragement to the staff at the clinic.



Dr. Carl Garry, principal (L), Dr. Christopher Kyohere, honorary graduate, Dr. Stuart Kenning, Chairman of the graduation, which was featured on both Ugandan television stations.

DENTAL CLINIC

In February, 1999, Dr. Brian Carr-Harris and his wife Sara left for a three week visit to Uganda with the ICMI team. Dr. Carr had arranged in advance a posting to the dental staff of Mengo hospital and for Sara to assist with the hospital's HIV outreach program. Thanks to donations from Ash Temple Ltd. of Canada, many dental supplies including gloves, masks, anesthetics, instruments and materials were taken to Kampala. The clinic at Mengo was highly appreciative of these much needed items.

Mengo is the oldest hospital in the country, founded in 1897 by Sir Albert Cook. The present dental clinic was established in 1980. The clinic was opened in a room in the outpatient department but the demand for dental services was high and the clinic has now expanded into five surrounding rooms. The current facility is crowded and needs upgrading.

Uganda is a developing country with a small number of health care professionals. There are only eighty dentists in the country of over twenty million people. (Twenty of the dentists are in Kampala.) Many Ugandans have little or no access to care.

During the time in Kampala Sara and Brian were busy at the hospital. As the equipment in the dental facility was limiting Brian assisted mainly with surgical cases. Sara was involved with the hospital's HIV program of home visitation.

UGANDA DIABETES SURVEY

In 1997, Dr. Cherer Penny, ICMI's President, travelled to Uganda to participate in a Continuing Medical Education programme for Uganda doctors. Cherer brought over with him a number of glucometers which he distributed to doctors from different hospitals around the country. The doctors were given copies of a questionnaire to give to patients who would also be given a glucometer test. Four hundred and sixty questionnaires have been returned and Cherer has begun collating the results of the survey. An initial frequency distribution has been made and the cross-tabulations have been started. It is an important undertaking and the results are expected to be beneficial to Ugandans who, in certain, tribes, appear to be increasingly threatened by diabetes. Loraine and Carl have volunteered to assist Cherer with the analysis and presentation of the survey results.

BISHOP ELIPHAZ MAARI'S VISIT

ICMI has invited Bishop Eliphaz Maari, Vice Chancellor of the Uganda Christian University (UCU), to visit Victoria in August 1999. The purpose of his visit will be to give us an opportunity to get to know him and to discuss a mutually beneficial affiliation between UCU and ICMI. During his stay he will be a guest of the Garrys where, hopefully, he will be able to enjoy some quiet rest and relaxation.

BON VOYAGE MAURICE

On Wednesday, June 16, 1999, Dr. Maurice Rutakingirwa, returned home to Uganda following a successful one year training period in Cardiology with Dr. David Kinloch here in Victoria. Maurice's training was made possible through ICMI and David and Mary Anne Kinloch who opened their hearts and their home to him. Bon Voyage Maurice and we look forward to hearing good things from you in the future as a result of the training which you have received.

ICMI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ICMI Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 28, 1999 at St. George's Church Hall. Please keep this day clear on your calendar. You will be receiving further details about the event.