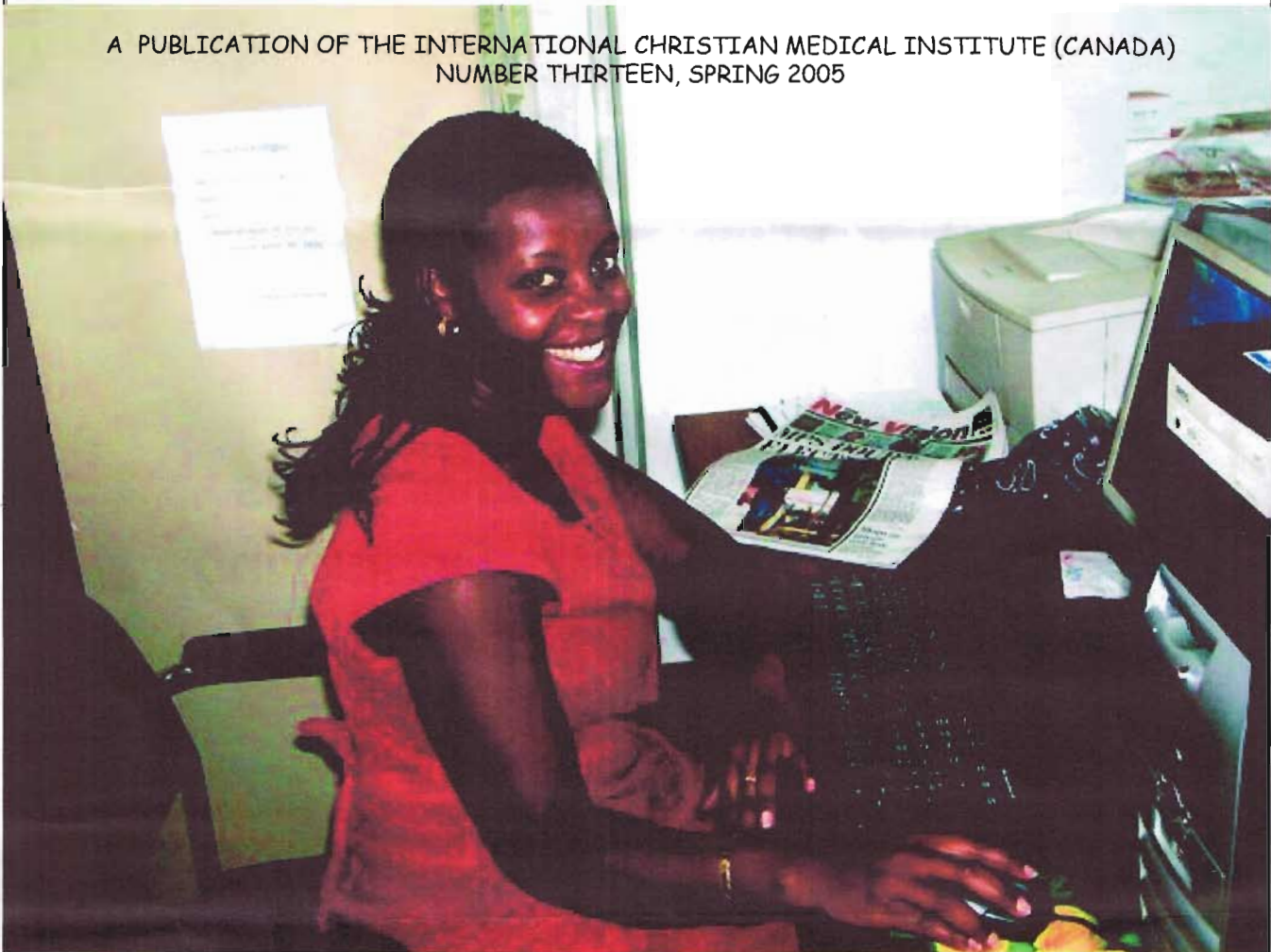


# ICMI NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MEDICAL INSTITUTE (CANADA)  
NUMBER THIRTEEN, SPRING 2005



## Students excited with new computers

Clarisse (shown above) works happily on one of the five new computers purchased for the computer lab. ICMI Canada donors generously donated funds to purchase three of the computers and ICMI Uganda purchased two. This brings the total of new computers to fifteen, which enables students to have increased access and facilitates a better teaching environment in the lab. With the availability of these new computers, ICMI is currently looking at ways to build capacity by introducing computers into a number of different courses. Thanks to everyone for helping to make these purchases possible.

1710 BEACH DRIVE, VICTORIA, BC, CANADA V8R 6J1  
PHONE (250) 592-0779 FAX (250) 592-0526 E-MAIL [information@icmicanada.com](mailto:information@icmicanada.com)  
WEB SITE [www.icmicanada.com](http://www.icmicanada.com)



## Scholarships for Deserving Students

*Connie Nyafwono Bwire*

Connie Bwire writes, "I am the second born of seven siblings, happily married with four children. After attending Iganja Secondary school for my "A" Level, I was admitted to the Mulago Midwifery Training School where I earned a Certificate of Registration in Midwifery in 1992. I was posted to Tororo Hospital where I worked as a Maternity Ward in-Charge until 1998 when I was transferred to the District Health Office as the District Nursing Officer.

"In 2003 I joined the ICMI Diploma Programme from which I graduated in 2004. Upon receiving my qualification from ICMI, I was appointed Coordinator of the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Campaign in the District.

"I belong to St. Peter's Anglican Church in Tororo where I participate regularly in Scripture reading, singing and sharing.

"I want to acknowledge the importance of ICMI in my life. I am very grateful for the scholarship that ICMI has given me to pursue my Bachelor of Administrative Studies with ICMI. May God reward you abundantly."

*Connie graduated from ICMI's Diploma Programme with a First Class. She is currently enrolled in the degree programme where she is maintaining her high standing.*

## ... Scholarships for deserving students

Joyce Acakara writes,

“My father was a retired teacher and I am the second born among ten siblings. I come from Soroti district and I am a single parent to two wonderful children. I obtained advanced senior secondary school studies at Tororo Girls School. My tertiary education was at Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery, Jinja School of Ophthalmic Clinical Officers and the International Christian Medical Institute where I completed my Diploma in Health Administration. After receiving my diploma, I was offered a higher post as Senior Principal Nursing Officer at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital.



***“Having studied counselling, I was able to counsel staff members who suffered post traumatic stress due to the serious rebel activities in Soroti.”***

*Joyce Acakara*

I belong to a fellowship of Christians called the Independent Baptist Church of Soroti. I am a choir member and sometimes help out with the translation of songs and health programmes broadcast on the church radio station. Occasionally, I join the home visiting team to preach the Gospel. In the Womens’ Fellowship I am one of the interpreters. I enjoy these activities because it is service to the Lord.

What I gained from the Diploma Programme:

1. Computer literacy has enabled me to produce official work without a pool typist
2. The ability to use e-mail and the internet has made communication easier.
3. Learning how to do research has been helpful to the hospital and I am now able to help colleagues do research.
4. Having studied counselling, I was able to counsel staff members who suffered post traumatic stress due to the serious rebel activities in Soroti.
5. Knowledge of accounting has enabled me to participate with confidence in the budgeting process. I can now ably manage the finances allocated to my department.

I am very grateful to ICMI for all I have learned and I look forward to studies in the Bachelor of Administrative Studies programme. Thank you for supporting me.

**If you would like to assist a student with a scholarship or Bursary please contact Dr. Carl Garry at [carl.garry@icmicanada.com](mailto:carl.garry@icmicanada.com).**

# Uganda reviewed

*What's it like to teach at ICMI?*

*By Martha Pluscauskas*

In 2004, we were travelling through Victoria and hoped to visit the Garrys because Loraine and I had been friends since we went to Library School in Montreal. As John and I made plans to spend an evening with Carl and Loraine we spoke about their teaching in Uganda and how we had often thought of volunteering to go to Uganda but wondered what we could do there. We did not think that our backgrounds as school administrators had prepared us to make a contribution to the work of ICMI.

To our surprise, the Holy Spirit must have been at work because as we visited, Carl turned to John and asked "How would you like to teach the Humanities to our students in the Bachelor

of Administrative Studies program". Dumbfounded, we said we would talk to each other about it and let him know. At home we decided to put our trust in the Holy Spirit and set out to plan a program which would meet the needs of the ICMI students.

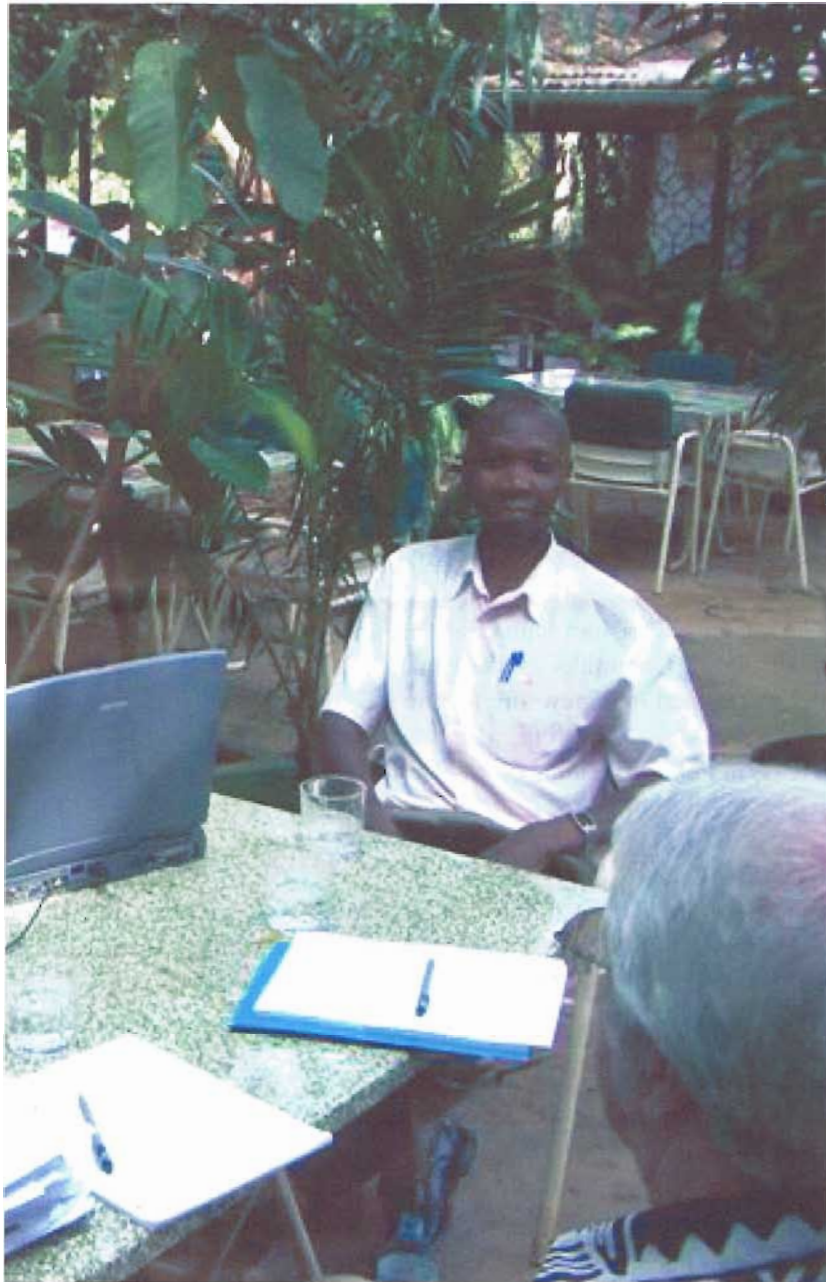
The most helpful resource we had while we were preparing our Humanities course was a set of introductory letters from the students in the diploma program which Loraine had sent to us. As we read the letters, the imagined "Ugandan health care workers" became real persons, individuals with hopes and dreams, families and neighbours, careers and recreational activities. In each letter, we could see the faith, hope and love which was a part of their daily lives and knew that this was the anchor to which we would fasten our course. The BAS program includes one Humanities course to give the students a taste of the humanities subjects.

Knowing this, we decided to offer a course which was a "sampler" of humanities subjects. We drew on all of our background knowledge and on that of many of our friends and former colleagues. We finally chose readings and discussion topics in the fields of human personality, political thought, philosophy, and literature and put together a course pack of materials which we would take to Uganda. As well, we developed a program of journal writing, both group journals and personal journals, by which the students would respond to the ideas in the course. While we were teaching we added a section on world religions, a subject which John had taught long ago. The topic arose from a piece in the Sunday supplement to the *New Vision* (the local newspaper) on



*John and  
Pluscauka  
student*

***"Our 1  
weeks  
teachi  
a mag  
for us.***



“Where was God looking during the tsunami?”

Our three weeks teaching was a magic time for us. John and I had been teachers all our lives but we had never before taught as a team. We loved working together and had a wonderful time with the 22 Ugandan health professionals who were taking the course. I can think of no better way to appreciate people from another culture than to spend 45 hours with them discussing the Humanities. So often, the students asked questions which would take us down unanticipated pathways so that it became hard to distinguish teacher from student. We were very impressed with the cooperative spirit of the students; their mission was not just that “I should succeed in the course” but that “all of my colleagues should succeed as well”.

Now that we are home, we talk about the experience frequently. We think of what changes we would suggest to the course, how we would focus even more on the journal responses, what we would add, what we would modify, what we would leave out. We are still teaching and learning the Humanities every day and our fondest dream is that our students are as well.

In the King and I, Anna tells us that “If you become a teacher, by your students you’ll be

taught”. We have been taught by our experiences in Uganda, and we carry in our hearts the spirit of the Ugandans with whom we shared our ideas and experiences. We will never forget them and our world has been changed by what they have taught us through their faith and love of God and each other.

## Continuing Medical Education: lessons on CD

Dr. Robin Bolton, an ICMI member from Sudbury Ontario, is preparing a three segment CME on *Health Promotion, Population Survey and Program Evaluation Methods and Epidemiology* for Ugandan doctors and nurses. ICMI will provide the funding for the presentations to be burned onto a CD, duplicated and distributed to hospitals, clinics and individual doctors in Uganda. This new and innovative approach to CME will make the information more widely available to Ugandan health professionals, especially those who are working in more remote areas of the country. The computer training provided by ICMI in its Health Administration programme together with the increased availability of computers in the country will ensure that people will be able to access the material on disk at their hospitals and clinics. Dr. Bolton, who worked in Uganda for many years and more recently taught with ICMI, has put a lot of thought, time and effort into this project. Thank you Dr. Bolton!

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# BUILDING for the future



*A faculty meeting is held in the garden*

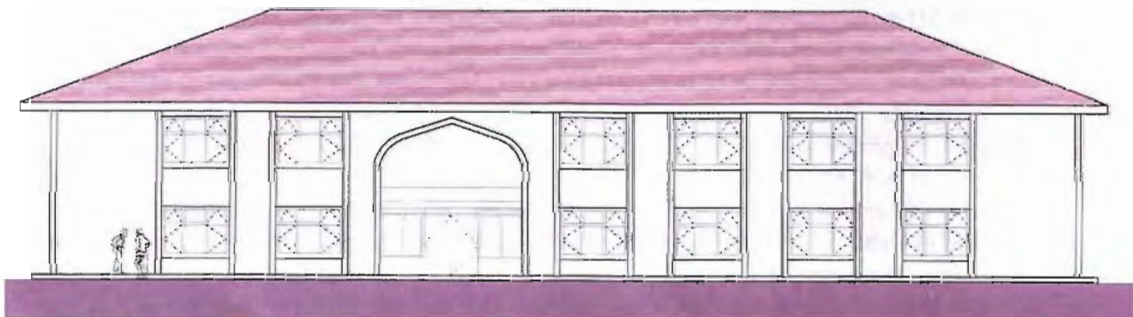
Plans for the ICMI building on the campus of the Uganda Christian University are moving ahead. After considerable discussion by members of ICMI's Building Committee and several meetings between representatives from ICMI and UCU, agreement was reached on a new site for the building. David Scarth prepared a new set of Concept Drawings for a two storey building, which were approved at a meeting with Stephen Noll, Vice Chancellor of UCU, in February 2005. Norman Jackson, a Quality Surveyor working with UCU, has been authorized by ICMI to prepare cost estimates for the building and a set of detailed plans.

It is estimated that the building will cost approximately \$500,000 Canadian dollars, a serious challenge for ICMI, but with the Lord all things are possible. The ICMI Board will be meeting to plan various fundraising activities to bring this important initiative to fruition. ICMI is also applying to various foundations for funding assistance with the project.

The new building will provide space for much needed additional classrooms, a computer lab, library and offices. Two of the classrooms can be converted into a large conference area suitable for Continuing Medical/Nursing Education workshops and other large events.

More importantly, the proposed new building will not be just a matter of bricks and mortar, but rather an important gateway providing students with a door from the outside world to the inner world of the mind and the spirit. It will be a place where Christian principles will be at the centre of the learning process. A place where students, like the three wise men, will learn from their experiences and go back to their places of work by a different route from that by which they came.

ICMI is grateful to Cedric Trueman, David Scarth, Bob Lake, Bill Freeman, Carl Garry and John Barton for their work on this project. We are also grateful for the work of Norm Jackson at UCU for his wonderful cooperation. Please pray that funding will be made available for this important project.



*Concept drawing for the front of the ICMI building*



*The class of 2005 poses with teachers. Generosity from Canadian friends helps keep these valuable programmes going.*

On November 12, 2005 ICMI will be holding a gala

## Fundraising Dinner. . .

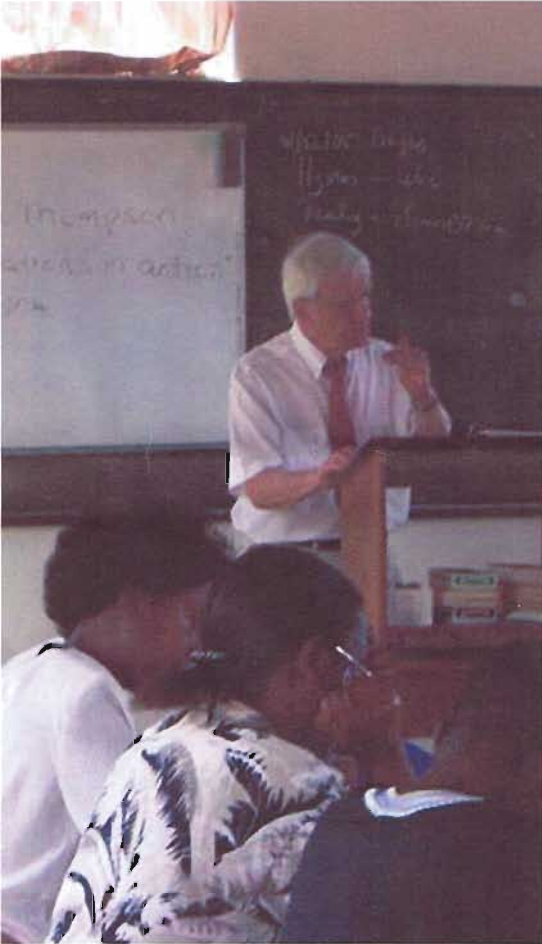
. . . at the **Victoria Golf Club**. It's going to be a fabulous evening and a great opportunity to meet old friends and learn more about ICMI 's programme in Uganda.

There will be lots of **gourmet food** and excellent **entertainment**.

Members of the Fundraising Committee will be providing you with more detailed information about the event,

but in the meantime please be sure to mark **November 12, 2005** on your calendar.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the dinner !



*Above: Dr. Carl Garry teaches Management Theory to health administrators.*

## Dr. Cherer Penny steps down as president

After serving as ICMI President since its inception, Dr. Cherer Penny has submitted his resignation as President.

Under Dr. Penny's capable leadership, ICMI has developed and grown beyond all expectations. During his tenure, Dr. Penny provided ICMI with strong spiritual and practical leadership. He will be missed for his clear thinking and gentle manner.

Cherer and Esme Penny will be spending approximately six months each year in sunny Mexico. He has agreed to continue serving ICMI as Past President.

Thank you Cherer and may the Lord bless you for your tremendous contribution to the life and growth of ICMI.

Lorene Freeman, ICMI Vice President, will serve as Acting President until a new President is chosen at the next Annual General Meeting.

## 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 enclose my cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax receipts available)