ICMI

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MEDICAL INSTITUTE (CANADA)
NUMBER FOURTEEN, FALL 2005

A TIME TO BUILD

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

A Time to Build

Dr. Wayne Stewart

By Wayne Stewart
From an address to the ICMI
Fund Raising Dinner, November 12, 2005

The writer of *Ecclesiastes* in the poetic words of chapter three has provided us both starting point and inspiration:
"To every thing, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. A time to plant... and ***a time to build.****"*

These words are particularly appropriate in light of the juncture at which the great dream of ICMI has found itself, the building of a physical structure to house the ICMI programs in Uganda.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that the time of which he speaks is God's time. God has given us ears to hear and the heart, mind and soul to discern His call. Like Isaiah when God asks, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' we must respond, 'Here am I -- send me.'

Building has been underway for some time, starting in 1987 when the Garrys, called by God to Africa, offered workshops in administration in Kenya. Called onward by an encounter with a Ugandan bishop, their work shifted to Uganda in 1989, only a few years after the ouster of Idi Amin.

By 1993, the workshops had evolved into a diploma programme in Health Administration as the building continued and the planting grew. Some years later, a Degree program was added.

Along the way, the circle was widened as more and more people joined in the great dream, inspired by a passion for God's work and the opportunity to serve that the dream offered.

In 2003, the dream encircled me as I was called to teach in the degree program. Among many lessons from my four weeks in Uganda, I discovered just how solid was the foundation and how important is the next phase, the physical building.

I also observed the positive impact on the ICMI students. Many of them had tales that saddened our hearts, stories unbelievable to those who have never known the kind of fear or poverty Africans live with every day. And yet through all of the poverty and pain, they remain full of Christian faith and hope.

Luke's gospel reminds those of us who have many blessings of our added responsibility to those with less. "From those to whom much has been given, much will be required." This also reminds us once again that God created all there is and what we have comes as a gift from God.

A time to build.

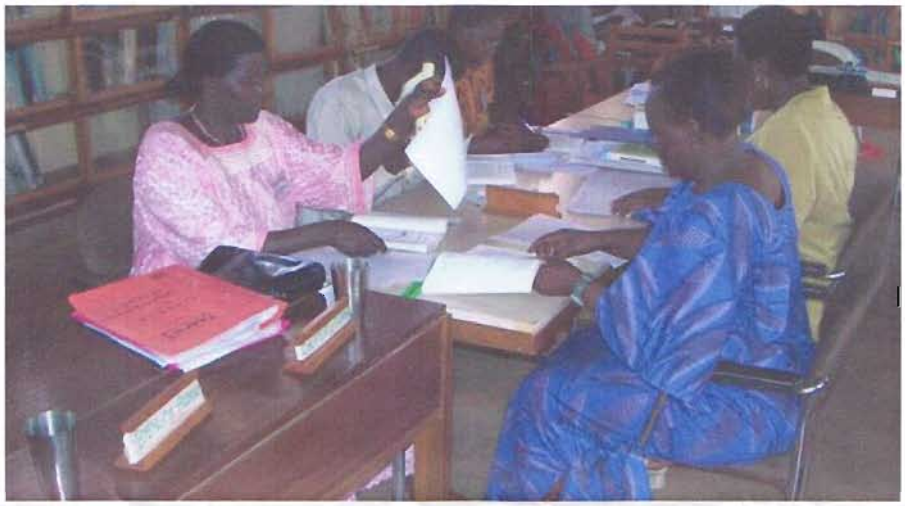
The foundation has been established. It is now time to take the next bold step as the great dream continues to unfold. It is time to build the physical structure, the building that will provide access to these important programs for future students.

A Memorandum of Agreement has been established with Uganda Christian University, requiring a substantial start by mid 2007. The deadline must have been divinely inspired. The time must be God's time and God's people must respond.

As we have been gathered into the ever widening circle of the great dream, we have been given the opportunity to serve God in a wonderful way. Let us all accept the challenge to support the great dream by committing a portion of the gifts we have received from a most generous God to this cause.

William Nicholson said: "Through these gifts we go where we cannot travel; witness where our voices cannot be heard; speak languages never learned and love those whom we have never seen."

It is indeed A Time to Build. It is God's time, the right time.



The building that ICMI has undertaken will provide an excellent facility for students like these.

Fund-raising dinner lays a foundation for building

On November 12, 2005, ICMI held a fundraising dinner at the Uplands Golf Club in Victoria. One hundred and twelve people attended the dinner and were seated at tables of eight.

The large dining room was alive with red, yellow and black balloons (the colours of the Ugandan flag) which floated from each table. Every table had a bright red wooden toolbox as a centerpiece, filled with green salal and a small black hammer decorated with flowers. The organizing Committee (Chris Crone, Mary Anne Kinloch, Lorene Freeman, Susan Benzon, Arden Moretti and Loraine Spencer Garry) decided on 'A Time to Build' (Ecclesiastes 3:3) as the appropriate theme for the dinner. Guests were all very surprised and excited to receive gifts that they could use in a building project (screwdrivers, measuring tapes, hammers, etc.).

Pastor Ron Michalski from Glad Tidings Church played a beautiful violin solo called *A Prayer,* written by David Foster . It was a very moving performance.

Dianna Antl, a mezzo soprano singer who is studying music at UVic , thrilled the audience with a stunning rendition of *Sanctus* by Charles Gounod. Dianna followed with a beautiful delivery of *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck. She was accompanied on the piano by Mary Rogers from Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria.

Dr. Michael Hadley did a superb job as Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening moving along smoothly.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, Wayne Stewart, who travelled from Calgary to give his address. The title of his talk was *A Time to Build,* a summary of which appears on the opposite page. Wayne spoke from the heart about his life-changing experiences with ICMI during his time in Uganda. He said that being in Uganda and hearing the students' life stories was truly a transforming experience.

Guests were clearly happy with the evening and generously donated $21,000 to be used toward the building which will house the new Institute of Social and Health Sciences.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this fundraising dinner such a great success.

Proposed ICMI building for the Institute of Social and Health Sciences. This composite perspective picture by Melissa Freeman shows the building as it will appear on site at Uganda Christian University. (The gentleman at the centre of the picture, with the shoulder bag , is Rev. Dr. Stephen Noll, Vice Chancellor of the university.)

W

As pa
have
to joi
a spe
and s
they
your
You

dening the Circle

of ICMI's current theme, 'A time to build,' members of the ICMI Board gun to look at various ways to widen its circle and invite more people he ICMI family. Carl and Loraine Spencer Garry have agreed to go on ing tour to various churches, service clubs and university student groups ak to them about ICMI's work in Uganda and the various ways in which n become part of it. If you would like to have Carl and Loraine speak to ganization please contact them at information@icmicanada.com. n telephone them at 250-592-0779.

Elise Roberts coaches a student in computer skills.

"I would say that teaching is one of the most challenging things I've ever done."

Elise Roberts

Bridging the Digital Divide

The digital divide between affluent northern countries like Canada and poor southern countries like Uganda continues to widen with the result that countries like Uganda are falling further behind in the digital world of modern communications. The consequences are enormous -- politically, economically and socially.

In an effort to help bridge the growing digital divide in Uganda, a divide which prevents rapid access to up-to-date information and modern communication, ICMI has developed a 24-station computer lab.

But building a technological infrastructure on its own is not sufficient. Ugandans need to learn how to use the new technology. In order to ensure that this happens, all ICMI students have to take two computer courses as an integral part of their programme.

The computer lab at ICMI is a virtual beehive of activity. Work in the lab is very intensive because most students have never touched a computer, let alone surfed the net. Instructors have to work with students on an individual basis which is very labour intensive and time consuming.

So how can ICMI do this? We have been blessed by a number of UVic student volunteers from Canada, most of whom are recent graduates in Microbiology or International Business.

Elise Roberts is the most recent UVIC graduate in Microbiology to volunteer to work with ICMI in Uganda. Elise is currently in Uganda helping to bridge the digital divide by assisting in the computer lab and working with students on an individual basis. She is helping to teach nurses and doctors, enrolled in the programme, how to get connected and retrieve vital information from the Internet, information which will help them to improve their performance.

This work is an important part of ICMI's attempt to broaden the circle by affording young student volunteers, like Elise, an opportunity to experience another culture and to share their gifts with Ugandan students.

Thank you, Elise, for volunteering to work with ICMI in Uganda for two months to help bridge the digital divide.

The current ICMI board:

L to R: Loraine Spencer-Garry, Lorene Freeman , Cedric Trueman, Bob Lake, Nigel Lomas, Stephanie Lawton, Garry Wickett, Carl Garry
Missing: John Barton, Marnie Bradfield, Cherer Penny

"On behalf of ICMI class we would like to thank you for all that you have enabled us to become. May the Lord reward you abundantly."

note from Health Administration Diploma Group 2, 2005

Cherer and Esme Penny cut a cake on the occasion of his retirement as President of ICMI, June 5. Dr. Penny served as President for twelve years. Lorene Freeman now fills that role.

Become an ICMI supporter and/or member

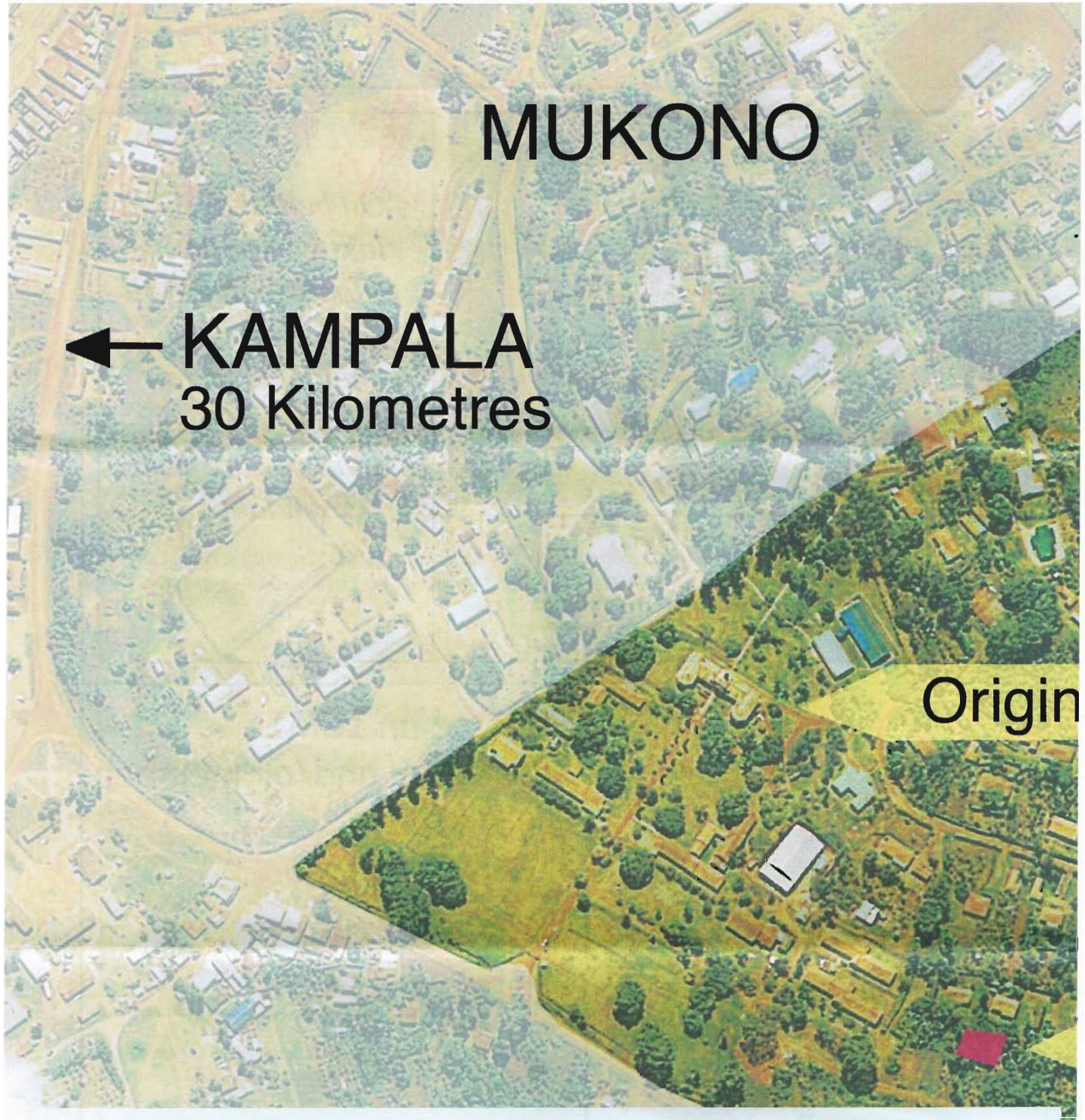
Yes, I would like to support the work of ICMI:

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 ☐
Card number _____
Expiry date _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
Telephone _____
Fax _____
Email _____

This gift is eligible for a tax-deductible receipt.



This aerial view of Uganda Christian University shows the site allotted to ICMI for its proposed Institute of Social and Health Sciences. With $90,000 now in hand, ICMI aims to raise $260,000 more to finish the first phase of the building. This will complete the 'skin' of the structure and finish the ground floor, leaving the upper storey for interior finishing in Phase Two.