

ICMI NEWSLETTER

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MEET OUR STUDENTS

ICMI is proud of the quality and commitment of its students. Here are a few we'd like you to meet:



L-R: Irene Wesongo Mahake and Rev. Evatt Muhwezi Mugarura

Irene Wesongo Mahake works in Entebbe Hospital as Senior Nursing Officer and Nurse In-Charge. She supervises the nurses and allocates duties. As a result of the ICMI Diploma Irene has improved her relationships within her family and learned to handle each nurse individually.

Rev. Evatt Muhwezi Mugarura is a priest in the Church of Uganda. After completing his ICMI Diploma he worked as the Coordinator for the Health Department of the Church of Uganda and as national Director for the HIV/AIDS programmes. Following this he was seconded to an American non-governmental organization which focused on health care delivery in five African countries. He is now back in Uganda studying for his degree at ICMI while working as the Executive Director of a youth leadership and health initiative.

Elizabeth Omagino Kasirye and Millington Asire are both degree students at ICMI studying for the Bachelor of Health Administration.

Elizabeth is a Senior Nurse working in the Community Health Department at Mulago hospital, and is a Roman Catholic. When she retires Elizabeth hopes to start a private health-related organization. Elizabeth's husband is a Cardiologist at Mulago Hospital, attached to the Makerere Medical School in Kampala.

Millington Asire works at Mulago Hospital as a Senior Orthopedic Officer where he is Head of the ward. He lives in the Mulago medical quarters and attends St. Luke's Church of Uganda at Mulago hospital. Millington says, "As a result of completing the ICMI Diploma programme, I have gained respect from both my colleagues and subordinates. I am now looking forward to graduating with my degree."



L-R: Elizabeth Omagino Kasirye and Millington Asire

Charles Kaggwa attends the Redeemed of the Lord Evangelistic Church. He is in charge of a government health centre and also works as the government TB and Leprosy Supervisor.

Florence Ida Ntono started a dental care unit in Jinja, then moved to the Fort Portal Hospital. After completing the ICMI Diploma she obtained a position with the Health Services Commission where she treats patients and gives advice on dental health.

Miriam Mukundi Stungu Lhuhairo is a Seventh Day Adventist who works at Ishaka Adventist Hospital. She is the Principal Tutor of the Ishaka School of Nursing. The training she received helped her to become a Tutor.



L-R: Charles Kaggwa, Florence Ida Ntono, and Miriam Mukundi Stungu Lhuhairo



STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

'In January ICMI was able to graduate 70 students with their diplomas and degrees in Health Administration.'

Dr. Carl Garry

*The Principal's Report
to the Annual General Meeting
September 6, 2008*

The past year has seen ICMI move from strength to strength. During this time ICMI has also had to face many new challenges.

The new ICMI building was officially opened in 2007 but there were many aspects of the building which were not fully completed. During the past year ICMI and its partner, Uganda Christian University, tiled all the floors in the building, completed installation of the three ICMI washrooms for students and staff, connected the washrooms to the main sewer line on campus and installed an Internet connection to the ICMI office and computer lab. New shelving for books was also installed in the library. We were able to complete all of this work with the generous support of our donors. Students now have a wonderful new facility in which they can learn and develop themselves.

In January ICMI was able to graduate 70 students with their diplomas and degrees in Health Administration. All of these graduates are now back working in their hospitals and clinics. Many have received salary increases and promotions.

The influx of new students to the programme remains strong. There are approximately 100 students enrolled in the ICMI diploma programme and 45 students enrolled in the degree programme, for a total of 145 students.

Canadian volunteers going to Uganda in 2008 include: Professors Michael and Anita Hadley, Martin and Mary Jane Spray, and Justin Mui, a student from UVIC. John and Martha Pluskauskas, Rev. Ralph Blackman and Marlena Tureski have volunteered to teach courses in January 2009. Loraine Spencer Garry and Dr. Carl Garry also expect to travel to Uganda in 2009.

God has given ICMI the gift of teaching and we need to share this gift with people less fortunate than we are.

In summary, the Lord has continued to bless the work of ICMI in Africa and I pray that He will continue to rain His blessings upon each of you, today and in the days ahead.

Dr. Carl Garry.
Principal, ICMI Canada

JAYNE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS



*Jane Postuk -- a lawyer,
and member of ICMI
Canada's board -- writes
home from Uganda,
October 2008*

First impressions

I finally arrived into Entebbe airport this morning at 9 am after two long days of in-flight meals and busy airports. Entebbe airport runs along the north coast of Lake Victoria, which makes the landing quite fabulous. We descended over the water and touched down, in what seemed meters from the beach. The plane parked on the tarmac, as in most African airports, and we walked down a staircase, across the tarmac to the arrivals building that was reminiscent of the old Maui airport. But instead of the sweet smell of Hawaii I was hit with the smell of Africa – which is a combination of diesel fumes and body odour. But fortunately, after two days of travel – I fit right in!

My first impression of Uganda is that it is a spectacularly beautiful country. It is the wet season now – very wet season —(so wishing that I had checked weather before I left!) so everything is very green and full. We had torrential rain yesterday afternoon with thunder and lightening which was all quite deafening under the metal roofs of the buildings here!

Teaching with ICMI

After angst-filled months of wondering whether I was really able to do this job, I have discovered it suits me better than anything I have done in ages. The information is familiar, the delivery seems to happen, the examples are ready and the enthusiasm for explaining simple concepts of law is for me refreshing. I find myself excited in the mornings as I prepare the lecture for the afternoon and then completely exhausted by 5:30 when we break for the day. I love to teach!



'They love the material and are really motivated to learn.'

I was originally asked to teach Contract Law, but as the course preparation progressed over the last few months, I am teaching, instead, a beginner business law course. We cover the philosophical basis of law, what "law" is, what the law is in Uganda, where it came from, how it is administered and the issues Ugandans are faced with in trying to access the law. We have also briefly touched on the trial process and the court hierarchy, and then moved Thursday into Torts - intentional and negligence. This is all in a week! They love the material and are really motivated to learn.

Tomorrow they are doing group presentations on Issues in Ugandan Law that they have been working on all week and probably all weekend. I had researched a number of topics before I came here, found articles for them to consider, and then allowed each group to choose what topic to present. We will be hearing about "Customary Law and Access to Justice for the Poor", "Judicial Reform – The Way Forward", (a paper of the Uganda Law Reform Commission) "Law and Access to Justice" (which will deal with the perception problems Ugandans have about accessing justice, and the mob justice that therefore results from this feeling of lack of empowerment). Then, perhaps most topical, "Will Traditional Rituals Bring Healing to Northern Uganda?" The news this week is that peace is at hand in that region after 20 years of war with Sudanese rebels and some of the students in that group are from that region or working with NGOs providing medical aid in the north. It should be a great presentation with some first hand experiences.

The students have many opinions and are very intelligent so tomorrow will likely be an afternoon of fireworks and lively debate. Other faculty members have been invited and the students are laughingly referring to themselves as a bunch of emerging lawyers. After one week they could put a few lawyers I have encountered to shame! Next Wednesday we move on to Contract Law proper.

I have 42 students in my class, ranging in age from 30 – 56. They are all sponsored by their employers and take three, 3-week semesters a year from work to study, and during each three-week session take two full courses. This group will graduate in October 2010 and I have been invited to come back for their graduation! I may well do so. They are all involved in the administration of health services in one way or another – hospitals, medical clinics, NGOs, eye care centres -- and include two priests (or more correctly, one priest and one pastor). This is an exceptionally bright group. They have grasped difficult legal concepts quickly and are able to discuss the material convincingly after one reading.



Singing together

The one thing it took us no more than one class to discover was a mutual love of music. We sing at the beginning of each class, and then, in between class discussion and lecture we sing *The Lord is my Light* by John Bell. I have men in this class who can sing like angels (great big baritone angels) and can pick a bass line out of the air.

One of the men discovered that *The Lord is my Light* can be done in a round, so he took charge, conducted us all, and it sounded magnificent. It is taking on a distinctly African sound! The tempo is cranked up a few notches and some interesting clapping goes along with it! Oh, did I say we dance a bit too when we sing! Anyway, I am in love with 42 strangers, and I couldn't be happier with the way life has turned out. Who would ever have thought?

Going to church

So, Church this morning was another cultural wonderland. We went to the cathedral in Kampala and the service, while Anglican in liturgy, was distinctly African in favour. The youth choir leads the beginning of the service. They look like, and are dressed like, the choir of Westminster Abbey (red frocks with white frill collars, above which are the most beautiful black faces you can imagine.) They look like they are going to sing Mozart but instead break into full southern gospel music -- African style. They grab the microphones; they raise their arms, they MOVE, they sing as tight a sound as I have heard kids sing, and – WOW what a sound. Then – everyone in the church knows the show and joins in.

I am sure the future of the Christian Church is on the African continent. Despite everything Africa has going against it, I have never encountered such living faith as I see here – everywhere. Not just where I am. Kids, teenagers; everyone – they all are on fire. The Church here is growing by leaps and bounds. It is more conservative than the North American counterpart, but given the background of war, pestilence and rampant STDs, this is not surprising. Even a local milk stand is called “Praise the Lord Dairy”! I am not kidding.

Exams

The students have been working really hard for the last two weeks. I gave them their midterm last Thursday and ended up spending all weekend marking papers – 40 papers with 3 essay questions each! Many of them figured if they wrote as many words as they could spell, it would all add up to a good mark. However, I was much relieved to find that at the end of the day I had a perfect bell curve without trying, and one absolutely magnificent paper that ended up with an A+.

Culture clash in the Law class

I had another funny incident the other day as I was doing my “Introduction to Contracts” lecture. I included a segment on the difference between covenant (in the biblical sense) and contract. I think I mentioned that I have two reverends in the class, so I asked them to give a presentation on Covenants. I began and introduced the subject: consensus, consideration, capacity, legality and intention. Then, I began to introduce the revs. I spoke briefly, by way of introducing the topic of covenant, about marriage as an example of a covenant, when one of the students (who has the delightful name of Sally Nancy) asked whether marriage wasn't more a contract than a covenant? I explained that marriage was an exchange of promise only, that there was no consideration given for the promises; therefore it was not a contract. I was on a roll! Then she asked, “Well what about the cows we give as the bride price – wouldn't that be consideration?” I had no idea what to say! Cows!!

‘One of the students asked whether marriage wasn't more a contract than a covenant? ... ’



Jaunt to Jinja

Our driver, Amos, is the nicest guy you could meet. He drove us to Jinja and back, takes us to and from the university, and anywhere else we want to go. (You don't ever, ever want to drive in Uganda.) He's about 23, just graduated from university with a degree in economics, looking for a job and helping us out for a couple of weeks.

Our jaunt to Jinja was wonderful. We drove about an hour and a half east from Mukono and stayed at a resort right on the Nile River. The location was fabulous and for \$100 per day I had the most exquisite cottage, complete with mod-con bathroom, mosquito net and comfortable patio furniture, plus three meals a day! From my patio I could see the Nile River. It was huge, wide, deep blue and very fast moving!



Bujugali Falls, Jinja -- delight of whitewater rafters.

Photos this page by Justin Mui

Guns

Every night I would say good evening and good night to the nice guy in battle fatigues who walked by my cottage with a big Rambo kind of gun!! Would you ever believe I would be unfazed by guns? They are everywhere here – shopping mall security, parking attendants – everywhere. Fortunately I have never seen one being pointed at anyone or being used. I suppose my friend knew how to use it --but on the bad guys only!

I have to say that I will look forward to the conveniences of home. The relentless power outages, the showers in a plastic wash bucket, and the dial up internet access, will not be missed!

Anyway, I am going to sign off. I have to prepare my lecture for tomorrow – “The End of the Contractual Relationship”. We have gone from Offer to Damages in just about a week. How I wish we could have gone that quickly in law school.

I will see you all very soon!

IN THE DARK



VICTORIA COUPLE TO TEACH NEW TESTAMENT COURSE

Rev. Ralph Blackman and his wife, Marlena Tureski, will be going to teach a New Testament course to ICMI degree students in Uganda beginning in January 2009. Ralph is pastor of St. George's Anglican church in Cadboro Bay, Victoria. Marlena is a cellist who has played with the Chicago and Vancouver symphony orchestras. Please pray for Ralph and Marlena as they prepare to embark on this important ICMI teaching mission with ICMI in Uganda.

BOARD DECIDES NOT TO PROCEED WITH ETHIOPIA PROJECT FOR NOW

In November 2007 a Committee of ICMI members prepared an educational programme for doctors and nurses in Ethiopia. After considerable discussion with representatives from Ethiopia, the ICMI Board decided not to proceed with the project at this time.

Christmas blessings to you

News of the birth of the baby born to be King was spoken quietly to his astounded mother. Zachariah was struck dumb for disbelieving it. Elizabeth got excited enough to sing, even though she was what's known in medical circles as an 'elderly primipara'. Joseph heard it in a (perhaps) reassuring dream. Angels hurled it in the brilliance of a night sky to the surprised camping shepherds.

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

It was October 4. It was the ICMI fund-raising dinner. The committee had erected a heated dining tent adjacent to the house. The lamb curry had been fussed over and perfected. The decor was superb. The auction items looked terrific.

And then the lights went out. The volunteers called BC Hydro at 3:45 PM. The voice on the phone said, "We don't know anything about it. Did you hear anything?"

"No."

"Well, call us back in two hours if the hydro is still off."

By 5:00 PM Hydro trucks had been dispatched to investigate the troubles. By then a windstorm was swirling leaves through the tent and into the hall, knocking over a table while the men were trying to anchor the tent to the house. The volunteers decided they must cancel the event.

Phone calls went out to the fifty-plus expected guests. But it was too late; some could not be reached. In the end, twenty-two people gathered for dinner.

Volunteers from Gordon Head (where the lights were still on) took food home to heat it up, then brought it back to keep warm in trays set over Sterno burners. Tables were set up in the kitchen. Candles appeared everywhere.

"It was surprisingly fun," said one participant.

Thanks go to all the hard-working, resourceful volunteers!

Two seniors, Simeon and Anna, were joyfully jolted when they recognized the boy at the temple where they hung out. The wise men became embroiled in an expensive and politically-charged trip when they realized the importance of the news.

All these people left their comfort zones to worship and serve the new-born King. May we do no less to help take His kingdom to the world He loves.

A LETTER FROM JUSTIN MUI



UVic student volunteer Justin Mui teaching computer skills

From: Justin Mui [mailto:jmui@uvic.ca]
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2008 12:39 AM
To: carl.garry@icmicanada.com
Subject: Uganda Update

It's been just over 20 days since I left Victoria. Things here in Uganda and especially at ICMI have been truly enjoyable. Both the students and staff are very supportive and easy to get along with. I don't think I could have asked for a better group of people to work and associate with on a daily basis.

As of right now, the BHA students are here; I believe they are currently completing their fourth semester. Though I am not teaching this particular group of students, I have managed to spend the majority of my time volunteering at the Mulago hospital in the Maternity Ward on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the remaining days are spent at the ICMI office attending to administrative work. Sister Tibifumera is the head nurse of the maternity ward and has been most accommodating. Though the trips into town are long, the experiences that I have gained through merely observing have been well worth it.



'This is Amos. He's been my staff driver and personal guide for the last week.'

During this period of time I have also been able to experience quite a bit of the cultural aspects of Uganda -- we recently came back from a long trip to Bushenyi where we attended a burial. Amos has been kind enough to introduce me to his numerous family members. It was very nice of him and I appreciate it a lot.



'Village boys from Bushenyi'

'Typical meal of rice, potatoes, beans and chicken. It's surprisingly good.'



I believe that we are actually heading to Jinja next week with the Sprays and Hadleys for a brief stay overnight. I think that this trip will allow me to enjoy more of the natural beauties and aspects of Uganda.

'The source of the Nile, at Jinja. Lake Victoria is on the left, the Nile River on the right.'

GET TO KNOW SOME ICMI BOARD MEMBERS

ICMI Canada has ten board members. Here's an introduction to three of them:



Jayne Postuk
BA (University of BC) LLB (UVic)

Jayne joined the Board of ICMI after teaching law to the BAdmin students in Uganda last October.

Jayne has a background in International Relations, Music and Law, and has recently started a MDiv program at Vancouver School of Theology.

She lives in Victoria, is actively involved in St. George's Church, and has three children ages 15, 20 and 23.



Loraine Spencer
Garry
BA, BLS
(McGill), MLS
(Toronto)

Loraine taught at three Canadian universities and served as a consultant to the Federal government. She is the author of three books.

Loraine is a founding member of ICMI and member of the ICMI Board. She has been going to Uganda to teach every year since 1992. Loraine will be teaching in Uganda in January 2009.

A committed Christian, Loraine is a member, reader and administrant at St. George's Church, Cadboro Bay, Victoria.



Garry Wickett
BA, MSW
(University of BC)

Garry retired after working as a medical social worker at the Royal Jubilee Hospital for nineteen years.

His concern for developing nations began as a youth when he worked in a first nations community. It also took him with his wife Adele to India under Canadian University Service Overseas in 1965.

On the ICMI board, he has taken responsibility for producing the newsletter (with Adele's help) since 1999. He is an active member of Saanich Community Church.

Become an ICMI supporter and/or member

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