

# INTERNATIONAL MENNONITE HEALTH ASSOCIATION



## CHECKUP

Serving God by providing resources and services to Mennonite and Brethren in Christ health programs in developing countries

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### INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT MURRAY NICKEL

with Glen Miller, Editor

#### Bio

*Tell us a little about your background.*

I was born in Vancouver but bred in Congo. I graduated from UBC in 1990 but did not finish my CCFP(EM) until 1999. After several smaller trips into other cultures, my wife and I and three kids finally moved to Congo in 1999 and lived there for six very turbulent years. Since 2005 I have continued to build relationships and experiences travelling to Congo several times a year. MB Mission has also used me as a consultant to develop their approach to social mission.

*What was it like to be raised in DR Congo and then return there as mission workers?*

I grew up in the context of the missionary community. In contrast, returning to the Congo we were the only MB missionaries. So it was the authentic Congolese church that hosted us, not an artificial community. This made it harder in some ways but better for forging relationships on a more equal footing. I also was able to see a new generation of visionaries and initiators that were not around before.

*What was your most exciting time?*

There was no one exciting time but pushing a motorbike with a flat tire through the sandy trails in the middle of nowhere rates pretty high. The experience left me sleeping in village huts with a friend and chasing after the once a week transport truck to get air from his air-brakes to fill up the tire.

*and your most frightening time (if any)?*

We never were really frightened. Foolish maybe, yes. Like flying on those crazy blacklist airlines into the interior. When Kabila senior died in 2001 and the whole city went ab-



Prayer for President-elect Murray Nickel



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ferd Pauls

Our Annual meeting in October was special.

1) It represented the 10th Anniversary of our founding. Thinking back to the first physicians that gathered in Denver to form Mennonite Mission Health Association, I could see again the vision that they had in trying to define what a new association could do that was not already done by many others. Rick Hamm, one of the original founders is no longer alive to celebrate with us. Others would have liked to have attended but for Health reasons could not. I thank God for all those that have made our Association what it is.

2) Last year we recognized the contribution Peter Kroeker made as a Board member and especially his encouragement to projects in India and Congo. On the first day of this year's meeting, his son Peter Nels participated in the discussions about receiving a bequest from the Kroeker Family through the Kroeker Foundation. This would be to support education at a Junior College in India and Medicine Credit projects in Congo with a substantial donation. One month later we signed a letter of understanding with Peter Nels (see picture above.) In the next weeks we will become responsible as an association for administrating these moneys. More information [see page 4](#)



Glyn, Peter Nels, Ferd



**Our PayPal account is now active. Please check it out from our website.**

## MEET THE BOARD

Ferd Pauls  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
President

Murray Nickel  
Abbotsford, British Columbia  
President-elect

David Wiebe  
Kearney, Nebraska  
Vice-President

Glynford Allen  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Treasurer

Bob Buhr  
Martinsville, Virginia  
Member-at-large

Glen Miller  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Communication

Doug Cressman  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Helmut Huebert  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Grace Klassen  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

John Martens  
Mishawaka, Indiana

Doug Snyder  
Waterloo, Ontario

Partners:  
MB Mission  
Mama Makeka's House of Hope  
Mennonite Central Committee

Emeritus Members:  
Jake Friesen  
Peter Block



**INTERVIEW** (cont) solutely silent for 2 days in anticipation of fighting that never happened, that was a little unnerving. Gunshots down our streets during an attempted coup was not comforting either.

**Who inspires or influences you most?**

Well...besides my father, and if we are talking within the context of poverty, then I have to say there are a number of people that have inspired me in different ways. Tos with his interesting ideas, Pascal with his initiative, Kimbao with his inspiring determination, Delphin with his holistic approach, and there are more.

**Education**

**What led you to pursue medicine and then emergency medicine?**

I wanted to do surgery but a slight miscalculation in having kids forced me to take the more realistic route of Family Practice. This led to the opportunity of being grandfathered into emergency medicine. I enjoy the ER; the action, the multi-tasking, the challenge and the more focused subject matter. It gave me something practical to teach when I was in Congo.

**IMHA involvement**

**You have participated on the IMHA board for several years now, as president-elect tell us a little of your vision for the next five years.**

My vision is that IMHA will become a forum or meeting place. A place where the resource poor and the rich can meet with mutual respect. I see it also as a bulletin board where professionals overseas can post their resource and service needs and professionals back home can make themselves aware and get involved more directly and within the context of relationship.

**What is the role of technology in the future of IMHA?**

Technology is important for a number of reasons. First, the web is a simple and effective way to communicate across long distances and involve many people regardless of time constraints. Second, it offers automated possibilities which should cut down on administrative costs. Third, it can become a guide for preparing appropriate projects, fostering accountable relationships and producing accurate up to the minute publicity.

**If a person was asking you about joining the IMHA organization, what would you tell her/him?**

I'd say it's an organization with great possibilities particularly for the busy professional who still wants to lend a helping hand to his or her colleague in need.

**IMHA partners**

**What role does partnership play in IMHA's future?**

Overseas, partnership is all about relationships. It is important for IMHA to develop relationships with certain proven people or groups in areas of need to build a bridge of accountability. Back home, partnership is about avoiding filling holes that are already filled. IMHA should work synergistically with organizations like MB Mission, Mennonite Mission Network and others.

**How do you respond to those who say that we shouldn't get involved in health care and other areas in developing countries be-**

[continued page 4](#)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Glynford Allen

**W**hat an amazing year! Looking back over fiscal 2011, we've completed our name change, elected a new President with a challenging vision for our organization, set up PayPal for those who wish to donate electronically, established a new web presence, completed a letter of intent to assume responsibility for a large pool of funds, experienced our first

Canada Revenue Agency audit (with only very minor amendments to our systems required), and expanded our support to various projects around the globe.

God has richly blessed us as we seek to serve others through IMHA.



Glen Miller

Board Meeting 2011

We will be changing to electronic-only format soon. If you wish to continue receiving the print version of **Check-up** let our office know.



## INDIA

**Mahbubangar Junior College Medical Public Health Worker Scholarship**

along with the **Peter Kroeker Scholarship** funds the tuition for 60 students at the 2-year medical public health worker program. (Total \$16,800) [Click to view](#)

**Shamshabad Bible College Nurse Educator Support**

helps teach public health principles and techniques to Bible College spouses and students. (Total \$2,500) [Click to view](#)

**Medical Student Scholarships** provide support for two candidates. (Total \$5,000) [Click to view](#)

**Dr Rick Hamm Memorial Medical Scholarship** provides support for an outstanding candidate for medical studies in memory of IMHA's inaugural president. (Total \$2,500) [Click to view](#)

**Nursing Studies Scholarship** (above) provides funding for an excellent candidate in the field of nursing. (Total \$2,000) [Click to view](#)

**Local Oversight** To oversee the IMHA funded programs a local professional is contracted to supply on-site expertise. (Total \$1,000) [Click to view](#)



## IMHA PROJECT PAGE



## DR OF CONGO

**Medicine Credit Program** supplies funding for medications and equipment to rural health programs in southwestern Congo.

(Total \$50,000) [Click to view](#)

**Residency Training Program** allows sponsorship of two interns for \$2,000 each. (Total \$5,540) [Click to view](#)

**Congo Mennonite Medical Association Support** assists the Congo Medical Association with their transportation costs for their annual meeting. (Total \$5,000)

[Click to view](#)

**Bon Berger Medical Centre Support** (right) assists the holistic ministry lead by Drs Pierre and Delphin in an impoverished area of Kinshasa. (Total \$50,000) [Click to view](#)



**Mungindu Health Zone "Seeds of Hope"** IMHA is partnering with AMED, a Congolese development NGO.

Mungindu is a rural health zone in Bandundu province with an active health leadership but little access to support. (Total \$80,000) [Click to view](#)

**Local Oversight** To oversee the IMHA funded programs a local professional is contracted to supply on-site expertise. (Total \$2,000) [Click to view](#)



## ZIMBABWE

**Mtshabezi Medicine Credit Program** (similar to the Congo project) assists the medical staff

of the Brethren In Christ Mtshabezi Mission Hospital (right) in southwest Zimbabwe. (Total \$10,000) [Click to view](#)

**Medical Student Scholarship** provides support for an excellent student. (Total \$2,500) [Click to view](#)



## PARAGUAY

**Alto Refugio AIDS Hospice Support** supplies materials and medication for people living with HIV/

AIDS in Asunción. (Total \$5,000) [Click to view](#)



## BOARD DONATION POLICY

When a project need has been met, the remaining restricted contribution will be used where most needed.

100% of your donation goes to the project of your choice as the IMHA Board is committed to cover administrative expenses.

## IMHA RECIPES

### Chicken Soup (Muamba Nsusu from Congo)

- 1 whole chicken, cut up, any parts, any amount
- 1 chopped large onion
- 2 Tbs red palm oil
- 1 small can of tomato paste
- ½ cup peanut butter
- Hot chilli pepper or cayenne pepper, to taste

1. Fill a large pot with enough water for soup. Bring it to a boil. Add the chicken and boil it until the meat is done and a broth is obtained.
2. While the chicken is boiling, gently sauté the onion in several tablespoons of red palm oil until the onion is tender.
3. Remove the chicken from the broth and remove meat from bones. (Save the broth and keep it at a low simmer.)
4. Combine one cup of the chicken broth with the peanut butter and tomato paste and stir until smooth.
5. Return the chicken meat to the broth and add the peanut butter-tomato paste mixture. Stir and continue to simmer until the soup is thickened.
6. Season to taste. Serve with rice.

Send your recipes to the editor.



# BULLETIN BOARD

Photos by Glen Miller



David Wiebe, keynote speaker



Ferd Pauls presents the President's report



10th anniversary celebration



Grace Klassen and Merrill Pauls



IMHA Award of Recognition 2011 Honoree Jake Friesen



John Martens joined in via Internet video



Treasurer Glyn Allen presenting budget proposals

## INTERVIEW (cont)

### *cause it only leads to dependency?*

The question is not to avoid getting involved. It is about how to avoid dependency. How do we treat our colleagues as colleagues? How do we create an environment of respect and confidence in one another? How do we encourage vision and passion from within? The need is there. It would be selfish for us, the resource rich, to ignore the needs. Merely throwing money at needs will not help either.

### *What is one thing you never travel without (as an ER specialist)?*

My passport and health card. The rest is already there. The point is for us to give others the opportunity to provide for us and serve us.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (cont)

will be published in the next Checkup.  
3) We had four board members resign, some after lengthy service. Tom Klein was one of the original members. He and Rick Hamm, our first president, went to the Jadcherla Hospital and put together an excellent organizational road map for the Hospital and our involvement with them as an association. Thank you to Tom, Frank Duerksen, Henry Tessmann and Merrill Pauls for their service on the board.  
4) For me the highlight was one of the last orders of business. We had prayed for someone to accept God's leading to become president. Murray Nickel responded. After the Board approved his nomination, we gathered around him and asked God to bless Murray and IMHA as we together continued to implement His will for us. IMHA is in good hands.

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We're on the Web at  
<http://www.intermennohealth.org>

## IMHA MISSION STATEMENT

**International Mennonite Health Association serves God by providing resources and services to Mennonite and Brethren In Christ health programs in developing countries**

Please pass this newsletter on to a colleague; It helps with administrative costs and reduces paper usage

