

# INTERNATIONAL MENNONITE HEALTH ASSOCIATION *intermenno.net*



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

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## SPRING MEETING REPORT

by [Glen Miller](#), Editor

IMHA had its first spring board meeting this past May. We have normally met as executive but with video-conferencing becoming more efficient and cost-effective we wanted all board members to be able to participate and contribute.

### **New members**

We welcomed Mark Shelley, David Huebert and Warren Froese as new members to the board and received significant input from Art Friesen. Grace Klassen was affirmed as board secretary, filling a vacancy from the AGM.

### **Project vehicle**

Murray presented a PowerPoint and led a discussion on the new project vehicle of IMHA, outlining a systematic approach to new partners and projects. The term 'partner' will now refer to the grassroots organization carrying out the project. Other NGOs will be referred to as 'networking associates.'

The main points discussed include: the seeking out of dynamic community-based partners who would present project proposals; the use of on-line based project submission and reporting; the division of bursaries from other types of projects; and the importance of effective supervision, both on-the-ground and with IMHA accounting structures. For a full list of [partners and projects](#) see below.

### **Publicity**

The new website was presented with its interactive features and password protected area for members. (Members, contact the [communication director](#) for password information.) We encouraged one another to promote IMHA using our contacts.



## CONGO TRIP 2012

By Murray Nickel

June 1, 2012

Greetings everyone!

The fall Congo trip is starting to take shape. If you are thinking about coming, it's time to start planning. The trip will be divided into several parts. Each part is explained below. Over the coming months the trip will evolve but this information should give you a good feel for how things will roll out. I have also provided a budget but this too is subject to change. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

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Board Meeting Spring 2012

Glen Miller

## SPRING MEETING REPORT (CONT)

### **Finances**

The finalized financial statement for 2011 was approved and the board thanked the treasurer for his efforts and expertise. The structures are in place to manage increasing donations.

### **Networking Associates**

We worked through what it means to be a networking associate and how we can work together to best serve our future community partners.

### **Prayer**

The meeting finished with prayer for discernment in using gifts to support our partners in a way which is pleasing to God.

See column to right

## MEET THE BOARD



Murray Nickel Abbotsford, British Columbia President	Doug Cressman Winnipeg, Manitoba
David Wiebe Kearney, Nebraska Vice-President	Warren Froese Winnipeg, Manitoba
Glynford Allen Winnipeg, Manitoba Treasurer	David Huebert Winnipeg, Manitoba
Grace Klassen Winnipeg, Manitoba Secretary	Helmut Huebert Winnipeg, Manitoba
Bob Buhr Martinsville, Virginia Member-at-large	Mark Shelly Rochester, New York
John Martens Mishawaka, Indiana Member-at-large	Doug Snyder Waterloo, Ontario
Ferd Pauls Winnipeg, Manitoba Administration	<b>IMHA Associates:</b> MB Mission Mama Makeka's House of Hope Mennonite Central Committee
Glen Miller Winnipeg, Manitoba Communication	<b>Emeritus Members:</b> Jake Friesen Peter Block

To read the full meeting minutes from the IMHA Spring Board meeting click the IMHA icon.

## SAVE THE DATE

Mark November 16 & 17 on your Calendar for the IMHA AGM in Winnipeg, Manitoba and via Internet



## MEMBER UPDATES

David Wiebe, former medical missionary to India and current board member, has published a book with his brother, Paul. It is called *In Another Day of the Lord*. It describes the Mennonite Brethren missionary efforts going back to the 1890. It is available from [Kindred Productions](#)

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

## MINING JUSTICE & THE DR OF CONGO

From a report by Tricia Prosser

I was asked to share about Mennonite Central Committee's campaign called Mining Justice, particularly within the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

So first, a little bit of background on MCC's Mining Justice campaign. Around the world, Canadian companies are at the forefront of the mining and resource extraction industry. Seventy-five percent of all mining companies in the world are based in Canada, and in 2008 there were approximately 1200 Canadian mining companies operating in 100 countries around the world.

Canadian mining operations around the world are a mixed blessing. On the one hand, mines provide jobs, they invest in a host nation's economy, and often contribute towards schools, clinics and other projects. But there is another side. Jobs are often short-lived and the financial benefits to the economy are meagre. Mines often displace people from their homes, destroy land, and contaminate water supplies. Frequently, the people who occupy the land – often, Indigenous peoples – are not adequately consulted. And sometimes, Canadian mining operations contribute to human rights violations, violence and armed conflict.

MCC's partners in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and DR Congo tell us that the practices of Canadian mining companies are contributing to their suffering, and have asked MCC to partner in creating change within this sector.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is rich in natural resources such as gold, diamonds, and copper, in addition to many minerals that are important in the electronics and industrial sectors. However, the country faces a high level of poverty: the World Bank estimated in 2005 that 71.3% of the Congolese population lives below the poverty line. The mining industry makes up a large portion of the country's GDP, with the World Bank estimating that 10 million Congolese are in some way supported by the mining industry. The Eastern DRC, a key conflict region in the country, is rich in tantalum (coltan), tin, tungsten, and gold, many of which have been identified as "conflict minerals" in the area.

Armed groups in the Eastern DRC are often motivated by profits from the mining industry, and finance their violent campaigns with revenue from resource extraction. The human rights abuses committed by these groups include



rape as an intimidation method and other forms of brutal violence. Armed groups, including Congolese rebel groups,

[continued page 4](#)

## INDIA

### **Shamshabad Bible College Nurse Educator Support**

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

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

## DR OF CONGO

**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 for web page](#)

**Medicine Credit Program** supplies funding for medications and equipment to rural health programs in southwestern Congo. (Total \$50,000) [Click for web page](#)



**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 for web page](#)

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

## ZIMBABWE

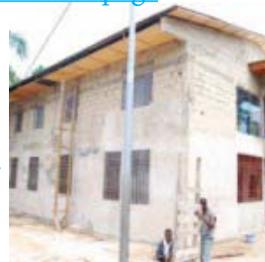
**Mtshabezi Medicine Credit Program** (similar to the Congo project) assists the medical staff of the Brethren In Christ Mtshabezi Mission Hospital (right) in southwest Zimbabwe. (Total \$10,000) [Click for web page](#)



## PARAGUAY

**Alto Refugio AIDS Hospice Support** supplies materials and medication for people living with HIV/AIDS in Asunción. (Total \$5,000) [Click for web page](#)

## IMHA PROJECTS



## IMHA BURSARIES

### **Mahbubangar Junior College Medical Public**

**Health Worker Scholarship** (India) 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 for web page](#)

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

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

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

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

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



## 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

### **Gallo Pinto (Rice and Beans Costa Rican version)**

2 cups rinsed cooked black beans  
2 Tbs canola oil  
1 chopped medium onion  
2 minced garlic cloves  
3 cups cooked white rice  
1 tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp ground coriander  
½ tsp ground ginger  
2-3 Tbs Worcestershire sauce  
Salt & black pepper, to taste  
Fresh cilantro  
Sliced green onion

To cook black beans:

1. Soak 1-2 cups dry beans overnight in 6 cups of salted water. Bring to boil and simmer until tender, about 40 minutes. Save liquid for cooking rice – 2 cups liquid (water + bean water) to 1 cup raw rice.

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat.
2. Add onion and sauté until it just begins to soften and turns color.
3. Add garlic and sauté for about 5 minutes, or until onion is golden.
4. Add spices and Worcestershire, and stir into onion and garlic.
6. Add the beans and then the rice.
7. Combine the rice and beans evenly and cook until mixture is heated through.
8. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve hot.
9. Garnish with some chopped cilantro or green onions if you prefer.



# BULLETIN BOARD (SPRING MEETING)

Photos by Glen Miller



Murray Nickel leading a discussion on partnerships



IMHA members talking with members across the continent



Ferd Pauls giving an update on IMHA associates

## MINING JUSTICE (CONT)

rebel groups from neighbouring countries, Congolese army officers, and local militias, may either control the mines directly or impose illegal taxes on the transport of minerals on routes they control.

Working conditions in the mines are unsafe, and workers are often forced labourers. Armed groups use systematic extortion and demand illegal payments from the local population. Civilians who try to resist have been met with violence and intimidation.

In 2008, estimates are that the resources trade may have earned as much as \$185 million for armed groups in the Eastern DRC. The vast majority of these minerals are sold to North American consumers in electronics, such as MP3 players and cell phones. Meanwhile, the profits from these minerals are used to fuel violence and suffering while local people gain little in return. While natural resources did not start the DRC's conflict, they are a main economic driver of the violence.

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We're on the Web (new address) at  
<http://www.intermenno.net>

This past April, three of MCC's Congolese partners met with government officials in Canada and the U.S. and officers in the United Nations to ask for assistance to address ongoing violence in eastern Congo. I [Tricia] had the privilege of attending an event in Winnipeg where these guests shared. Someone in the audience asked the question "What do you want Canadians to do about this?" The answer was simple. Petition your government, so that Canadian companies operating in other countries will be required to comply to the same environmental and human rights standards as when they are working in Canada.

Consumers also play a role in this process, and MCC urges its constituents and supporters to consider how their investments, purchases and lifestyles link them to mining activity and how these do or do not align themselves with our faith, beliefs and the teachings of Jesus Christ. It's important to remember that the choices we make as consumers affect people around the world. There are a number of resources available on the Internet that can help you in making more ethical choices about the way you would choose to consume. I would encourage you to take the time to consider what loving your neighbour means in light of your investment, purchasing and lifestyle decisions.

### 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



# CONGO TRIP OVERVIEW FALL 2012

## 1. Medical team



Delphin Kapasa has invited interested medical people from overseas to come to his clinic for one week to hold a “free” clinic for the community. I’m not yet sure of the details but I imagine it would go something like this: in the morning you would see patients and order lab work. In the afternoon you would go over the results and finish off with the patients. At least

three days of the week there would be an interactive medical teaching session in the afternoon. During the second week, training would be arranged for the staff and possibly opened up to the community. The purpose of this trip is to provide basic health care for a very poor community, training for clinic staff, community health awareness and advocate for the clinic before the local government.

## 2. Business team

Tos Mukwa’s believes that social development is most effective when local businesses are engaged. Tos is a self-made administrative consultant whose ideas are in demand not only in Congo but in other countries around the world. His vision, however, is to see more of an exchange of business ideas and investments take place between the north and the south. According to him, there are many investment opportunities in Congo that go unnoticed that are in need of a financial boost and guidance. These same Congolese initiators are the people that support local schools, clinics and churches. He has been asking me for years to invite business people to Congo for an exchange and vision tour.



## 3. Agriculture association trip

Edgard Kimbau has been working with small agriculture associations for over ten years. Though he has met many obstacles, he continues to work with farmers helping them to attain economic viability. He measures economic



viability by their ability to send their kids to school, support the local church and ability to sustain social projects in their villages. Presently, his organization has decided to focus directly on a fairly remote and impoverished community of 100,000 outside of Kikwit, called Mungindu. Contact me (Murray) for further information.

## 4. Boma trip

Boma is a rapidly growing port community. Recently, a pastor friend of mine planted a church in the area. The original building blew down but a second building has now been set up in its place.

Community self-sufficiency is one of his priorities. We would like to take a trip out there to see what he and his congregation is doing and how we can help them.



## 5. Zimbabwe trip



Mtshabezi Hospital is a 110 bed facility serving a poor community in southern Zimbabwe. It was originally a part of a Brethren in Christ mission station but is now

is managed and supported locally. We would like to visit to do a short vision tour of the facility.

**Visa:** You need a valid passport with at least 6 months before its expiry date. It takes about 3 weeks for visa processing. The cost is about \$120. Deadline: 1st week Sept

**Invitation letter:** This needs to be acquired before applying for the visa. I need your names (as they appear on your passport) and nationality. Deadline: 2nd week of August.

**Plane ticket:** I find the best time to buy tickets is 2-3 months before the trip. The cost should be around \$1800. This can be receipted through IMHA. Deadline: 2nd week of August

**Room and board:** The cost is about \$40-\$50/day depending on if you share a room or not. This can be receipted through IMHA as well. Deadline: (for booking) mid-July.

**Transport:** Transport is arranged on the fly, so to speak. It costs about \$30/day in Kinshasa. Out of town trips will cost about \$300 depending on how many people. Transport to the farms will like cost about \$200 more. Airport transport costs are between \$50-\$100. There is also a \$50 airport outgoing tax.

**Budget** (rough draft - will not finalize until August)

Immunizations and antimalarials		on your own
Visa (courier and invitation letter fees included)		\$200
International transport		\$2000
Room and board		\$50/day
Kinshasa transport		\$30/day
Interior trip transport	Kikwit	\$300
	Boma	\$300
	Mungindu	\$200
Airport transport and tax		\$150
Other expenses (includes going out to eat, etc.)		on your own
Zimbabwe (flight, local transport and room and board)		\$1000
Totals (estimate!!)	Basic (Kinshasa for 2 weeks)	~\$3500

For those of you planning on the side trips, consider the following:

Extras - Kikwit trip	+\$300
- Mungindu trip	+\$200
- Boma trip	+\$300
- Zimbabwe trip	+\$1000

Tax receipt: A final more accurate budget will be arranged in August at which time you can pay IMHA the agreed upon amount. IMHA will issue a receipt (USA or Canada) for that amount. I will arrange payment of all the above items through IMHA. If there is a savings (money left over), the balance will be considered a donation to IMHA. If there is a shortage, I will ask for the balance from you and there will unfortunately be no receipt. If you do not need a receipt, don't worry about any of this!

**Other notes**

- For you who are involved or interested in the medical part of the trip, we will need to gather clinic supplies, equipment and funds to pay for clinic expenses (medicine in particular) over the coming months
- For those of you who are concerned about me being able to handle all the logistics of this trip, Faith has agreed to come along to help with the flow.
- For all you medical people - I need to make you official, so to speak. I need a photocopy of your medical degrees, the name of the university that you might be affiliated with and a photocopy of the first page of your passport. If you are just thinking about going and not totally committed, consider sending it to me anyway just to make sure that things are ready. Deadline: not sure yet, likely some time in August.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Flight depart -	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Flight arrival -	Medical clinic	Outing with Bon Berger staff and others				
	Business seminar					
			Boma	Boma	Boma	
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3
	Kin medical activities					
	Bus to Kikwit	Agri-associations	Agri-associations	Back to Kinshasa		
Early depart time		Kikwit business	Kikwit business		Possible depart times	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Trip to Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe		
Possible depart times						