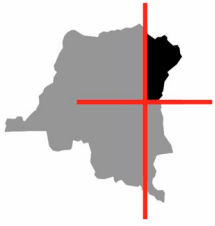


'...helping to bring hope to the people of the democratic republic of congo.'



## friends of cme trust

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June 2011

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your interest in the poor of Eastern DRC where CME continues its work to bring healing and hope. Set out below is a summary of CME's annual report for 2010, a first hand account of life at Nyankunde from a British doctor, Joy Robinson, who worked there for 6 months during 2010 and an update on our two major projects – the schools at Nyankunde and new hospital at Sosé near Beni.

### **CME Annual Report 2010:**

#### **Taken from the report by Dr. Mike Mpio, Medical Director of CME**

268 people worked for CME during the year at its 3 sites in Beni, Bunia and Nyankunde.

*[Photos right: Staff and children at Nyankunde]*

**Patient contact:** 11,000 were seen in its community health programs, including HIV/AIDS awareness. 615 malnourished children were seen at Nyankunde of whom 349 were able to leave the program, while 4 sadly died. 19 women asked for help (in 2007 the number was 402 – a reduction which reflects the improved security in the region). There were 30,000 new consultations; over 9,000 patients were treated in the hospitals; 2,300 operations were performed and 3,100 babies born. 5,800 patients received financial help in 2010 when they could not afford their medical fees. CME maintains its desire not only to help people with their physical needs but also spiritual. Its chaplains reached over 115,000 people during the year through various activities and were delighted that 2,501 committed themselves to following Jesus.

**Medical training:** CME continues to run University courses (ISTM) for 341 students at Bunia and undergraduate courses (IEM) for 59 students at Nyankunde. The ISTM was inspected and re-approved by the government during the year. Other universities had to close for failing to reach the standards.

In his summary, Dr. Mike says: 'While we haven't changed big things in this world during 2010, we have without doubt brought much to our population and we believe that this contribution has helped improve the condition of many human lives'.

#### **First-hand Account of Nyankunde, from British doctor Joy Robinson**

'It was a very valuable and blessed time in those 6 months, mostly for the opportunity to live alongside some very faithful and committed people. Pretty much all stay at personal financial and often emotional cost. They did not often talk of the events, but the memory of pain was very acute. For a number of months all hospital staff went with minimal/no pay. That was in part due to the government defaulting, but also due to low patient numbers and their inability to pay for treatment. I did see an increase in population in the 6 months, and significant regeneration of many buildings. The chaplains are just great men and I used to enjoy watching their interaction with the hospital staff in devotions, as well as their untiring hospital rounds to talk with patients. They manage much of the funds/distribution of food



for those patients who can't pay as well as the children's nutrition funded by Friends of CME Trust. All the doctors I met through the 3 sites were conscientious. Coming from the UK it was clear what an absence there is of postgraduate training. I am sure there will be some logistical challenges in moving to Sose but it is a beautiful build in a really peaceful area. Certainly it will be much used. I saw a few cases sent to CME from the government and other hospitals, often post-op complications, and I can only see that continuing.'



*[Photos above from Joy: The 2 on the left show the existing Operating Theatre while that on the right shows the new one funded by us which CME hopes to move to soon (see below).]*

### **Nyankunde Schools Work**

Sadly, CME has seen no increase in funds from the DRC government since we last wrote. Some of you kindly responded to our last letter and said you wanted to give to the teachers salaries. However, we are still way short of the £2,200 we have been sending each month. As a result, we feel that we must stick with our decision to stop the project after our June payment when the school year ends. We don't know what the future holds at present and we continue to hope and pray that the DRC government will start to pay the 115 teachers who we have been supporting in recent years. When we started the project in 2006 there were 120 teachers receiving no government salary and 2,700 children. Now there are 230 teachers and nearly 6,000 children. We very much hope that a local solution can be found and that our past support will be built on not undermined by the problems of the DRC. Thank you to those who have been able to help these children over these last several years. Please now consider diverting your gifts towards our funding of CME's medical work. If you continue to donate after July and don't contact us, we will send the money to CME for patient support. We will monitor the children's situation closely in the new school year and update you in our next letter. We are willing to reconsider our decision if the need remains and we receive pledges for sufficient funds.

### **New Hospital at Sose near Beni**

Some medical work has begun at the new site, but water and sanitation issues still need resolving before all activities can be relocated. These pictures show that a water source has been found and that the 3 buildings are nearly completed.

Since our last letter we have received £4,200 towards the resolution of these matters. Thanks to Dan and Cara who raised £1,300 in the Brighton half-marathon. Dennis Tailor is cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats (the whole length of Great Britain!) in July to help raise money for this too. To sponsor him, please contact us, or the Just Giving website: <http://www.justgiving.com/Dennis-Tailor>



Thank you from us all.

Chris Almond  
(On behalf of the Trustees)