

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



## friends of cme trust

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our update on Friends of CME Trust's activities and those of Centre Medical Evangelique in North-East Democratic Republic of Congo. Since we last wrote we've decided to reduce these communications to every 4 months, so apologies if you've been wondering where we'd gone...

### **GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF CME**

CME's first semester report up to June 2010 is summarized below. The semester marked the nation's 50th anniversary of independence and many celebrations were held throughout the country.

**Security** – Rebel activity in the region was active but didn't directly impact CME. However, the DRC government launched an offensive in June against the rebels which caused many displaced peoples and has directly impacted CME's work.

**Economy** – the DRC has managed to pay off its debts to the World Bank and IMF. The country waits to see how the government uses the funds previously earmarked for debt repayment. Will it fulfil its commitment to provide free primary education?

**Personnel** – the biggest challenges are the lack of an accountant at Nyankunde and the difficulties for the leadership team of being located in three sites with few means of effective communication.

**Construction** – Construction of the maternity building in Beni has started, with the walls already up to roof level (see photos, right). Bunia's maternity has been completed and Nyankunde's operating theatre is progressing well.

**Nursing schools** – At Nyankunde, 60 nursing students took their final exams and 50 passed.

**Hospitals** – over 4,000 pre-natal and 900 post-natal consultations were performed; another 15,000 general consultations took place; nearly 5,000 patients were admitted to the hospitals; 1500 babies were born; and 1,000 operations carried out. Hospital staff have also been active in the community, helping female victims of sexual violence, treating over 300 malnourished children at Nyankunde, and performing over 100 cataract operations.



### **SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS OF CME TRUST**

We are so grateful to those who provided funds to help CME achieve the patient care reported above. In the first semester, we sent over £32,000 which was allocated as follows:

- **Food for malnourished children: £2,200**

As noted above, a number of children in Nyankunde are still under-nourished. Some of these are orphans. Our funds help provide these children with a weekly 'food bag'.

▪ **Hospital subsidies: £6,300**

We continue to send £1,000 a month to help the 3 hospitals care for the most vulnerable: children and pregnant women. These funds are used for bed charges, operations, and, in some cases, food and clothing. Chaplains oversee the care of the most poor and also provide spiritual and moral support.

▪ **Maternity building at Beni/Sose: £10,100**

As shown, construction of the new maternity is underway! CME plans to move to the new site in early 2011. More funds are needed to finish the work as sadly the price of cement has recently increased by 20%. A reliable mains water supply and rain water collection system are being sought. Electricity will come from a generator. Our thanks to Dennis Tailor whose July Triathlon event raised £5,000 for this building! A further £15,000 is required to finish the ward. CME staff have been saving their own money to contribute, so far raising about £1,000. In addition, CME is asking local people, organisations and churches if they can donate funds. Maybe you can help too?

▪ **Nyankunde Schools: £13,200**

The new school year has recommenced with nearly 6,000 students returning (see some of these, right). Of the 232 teachers, 117 are being paid by the government and our funds support the remaining 115 who receive \$30 a month. The DRC government says it intends to pay for all primary school education this year. We wait to see. We need wisdom to know what to do when our current funds run out early next year. Our contact with the British government, which had also pledged funds, suggests that UK funds are being used to carry out a census of all the teachers who need paying. If so, it is likely to be a while until all the teachers are paid.



We received letters from students, teachers and parents thanking us for the support last school year. One student, Esperance (Hope) wrote that he could not have completed the school year without our help and would have been sent home. On behalf of the parents, Albert wrote 'During 2009/10 you carried the burden of studies of our children; we continue to be grateful to each one of you'.

▪ **Orphans in Beni: £700**

For some years we have been helping some orphans in Beni to go to school. This project is run by Claudine Masumbuko and Pastor Tsongo. At the end of last year, fantastically, some of these orphans reached the end of school! Now they would like to go to University. Wouldn't it be lovely if they could go? However, the costs are impossible for most parents, and are much more than school fees, so sadly we have had to say that we can't help.

**RECONCILIATION AND PEACE WORK**

Some of you know and support Masumbuko Kasereka – formerly Finance Director at CME. For some years he has been working to facilitate peace and reconciliation between the tribes caught up in the recent wars. His work, through OEIL organization, recently featured front page on Mission Aviation Fellowship's magazine. Some amazing stories were told including one of a woman whose entire family had been massacred but who is now caring for 5 orphans from the people group who killed her family.

**PHYSIOTHERAPY WORK AT NYANKUNDE**

Sadly Chris Phillips (Physiotherapist) from Guildford has had to be in the UK for several months for various reasons. However, Chris recently wrote to say that she is nearly ready to return to Nyankunde.

Slowly but surely lives are being rebuilt and hope is re-surfacing for the people of North-East DRC. However, the needs are massive and we are only scratching the surface. Your help and support is invaluable – thank you so much. More information & photos are on our website at [www.friendsofcme.com](http://www.friendsofcme.com). To unsubscribe from these updates, please email: [info@friendsofcme.com](mailto:info@friendsofcme.com).

Best wishes,

Chris Almond  
(On behalf of the Trustees)