



*Khombe Medard, a nursing student in the Democratic Republic of the Congo describes how malaria has affected his family and his desire to save lives.*

## **Menno-Santé** Revitalizing Mennonite hospitals

I am Khombe Medard, a fourth-year nursing student at the Technical Institute of Mukedi, which is part of the Mukedi hospital in Bandundu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When I was 14, my grandfather was very sick with malaria. He was going to die. But he came to Mukedi hospital and even though he did not have money, the nurses and the doctors did everything they could to save his life. He was healed and he is still alive. That's why I said, "I want to do that too and save people's lives."

I also had malaria when I was young, but in nursing school I've learned preventive measures, like using a mosquito net and keeping the area around my house free of standing water where mosquitoes could grow. I study techniques for nursing care and specific subjects such as pediatrics, pharmacology, anatomy and community health.

Many people come to the hospital with diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, diabetes and tuberculosis. Nursing students help take care of patients at the hospital by taking vital signs and helping patients change their positions and make them more comfortable. When I graduate, I would like to work in the hospital or continue studying medicine in the town of Kikwit. After that, I want to become a doctor and return to work in Mukedi.



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## How MCC is helping

MCC and the medical coordination offices of the Congo Mennonite and Congo Mennonite Brethren Churches are working on a multi-year campaign to revitalize the churches' medical programs in Bandundu and Kasai provinces.

Health care professionals struggle to provide adequate medications and quality care. Medicine for treatable diseases such as malaria is in short supply. Doctors and nurses are underpaid or unpaid. Helping the hospitals to increase their capacity to treat people and provide medication will help provide improved care for the entire community and stability for the hospital staff.

After months of planning with the churches' medical coordination offices, MCC is providing medications and supplies to the Mukedi and Kajiji hospitals. With your continued support MCC will expand the project to serve additional hospitals.

## How you can help

Pray for the staff and administration who work tirelessly to provide quality health care with limited resources. Nurses are paid an average of \$6 per month. The hospitals do not have dependable electricity or running water.

### Give

**\$1,500** provides transportation (a driver, a reliable vehicle and a mechanic) and delivery for a three-month supply of medications to a rural hospital.

**\$500** helps maintain stable salaries for hospital office staff for one month.

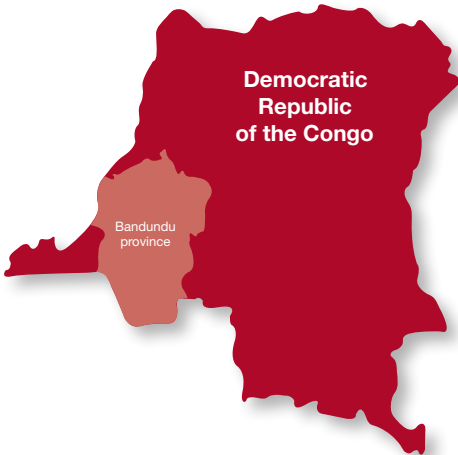
**\$28** pays for the daily medications sold at a hospital pharmacy. Proceeds from medications sold are used by the hospital to build up the pharmacy and to pay nurses and support the hospital.

**10 cents** pays for a quinine tablet to treat malaria.

**Donate online or mail** your contribution marked-"Menno-Santé"-to the MCC office nearest you.

Go to [mcc.org/congo/mennosante](http://mcc.org/congo/mennosante) for more information.

*If contributions to a project exceed the amount needed, MCC will use the donations to support similar programs.*



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