

Dear Friends and supporters of IPASC,

I am writing to tell you about changes to the Friends of IPASC Trust. Richard Williams has resigned as a Trustee and Chairman of the Trust. This is due to pressures on his time. He will continue to visit Aru once a year to advise and monitor IPASC and to offer training to both IPASC and the Diocese of Aru. The Trustees wish to thank him for his commitment since 2009.

The Trustees are pleased to tell you that they have invited Mark Brown to be a trustee and he has agreed to be Chairman. Mark was well known to Pat Nickson, has visited Congo with his family and is returning in November this year. He has had a long standing interest in IPASC.

I am also writing to update you on IPASC's current financial situation. IPASC's main European funder has not yet renewed its funding for the next 3 year phase of their work, although they are clear that they fully intend to do so.

The funders are setting ever more stringent criteria for bids for funding and we have been helping IPASC to adapt its funding bid to meet these.

Amuda and the team at IPASC have sent their amended submission but have yet to hear back.

Some members of staff have been laid off; some are taking extended holiday leave. Staff are struggling with morale, but bearing up under very difficult circumstances. Their commitment to IPASC and the health care of the most vulnerable people of the communities in N.E. D.R. Congo is indisputable.

The Diploma and University programmes are still running, but operational programmes have been reduced.

For those who can pray please do so and for those able to give financially, we wish to support IPASC staff as much as we can in order to maintain the great team and expertise that has been built up there. The easiest way to do so is through the website www.ipasc.net.

This is a critical time for IPASC and the work that they do. We long for their great work to continue unabated.

Amuda will be visiting the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in October/November to attend courses over a period of four weeks. This reflects the measure of confidence they have in him and the work of IPASC.

Kind regards



Gill Brown Secretary

Friends of IPASC Trust