



Welcome to the second edition of the PAACS Alumni Newsletter celebrating the St Luke PAACS Alumni Surgical Society. In this issue, we focus on Dr. Jack Barasa, one of our first PAACS graduates to be serving as an Assistant Program Director in Kijabe, Kenya and Dr. Jean Claude Bataneni, a PAACS general surgeon serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a missionary surgeon. We also highlight the surgical equipment needs and teaching needs of our PAACS Alumni out on the mission field. Many of them are serving at poorly equipped hospitals, which limit their surgical capabilities. Please contact our graduates, if you see a need that can be met. Finally, continue to lift up all of our graduates in prayer. As you can see by our Alumni map, PAACS is slowly filling up Africa with gifted surgeons who are healing the sick and sharing the Good News of Christ.

— Thomas C Robey, MD
Editor; trobey@mcw.edu

See One, Do One, Teach One

— Jack Barasa, MD

“See one, do one, teach one,” is the surgical model of academic surgery. Dr. Jack Barasa has fulfilled all three roles with PAACS. He is currently the Assistant Program Director of the PAACS training program at Kijabe Hospital, Kenya. His wife, Ima, is a pediatrician at the same hospital and they have two children, Tanya (age 5) and Jonathan (20 months).

Jack was the first resident to complete his general surgery residency in the PAACS program at Kijabe Hospital in 2012. After a short time in South Africa to complete some elective training, he transitioned to a junior consultant at Kijabe right after residency and then was promoted to his current position. His biggest challenge since graduation has been “realizing that there are many more responsibilities as a consultant than he imagined as a resident and learning how to balance these responsibilities with the other activities in his life.” Dr. Barasa believes his PAACS residency prepared him well for his current position. Having been a former PAACS resident, Jack feels he has a good relationship with his current residents who are now under his leadership and he understands their plight. The learning is mutual now. He is a role model to his residents and believes all PAACS residency programs can someday be run by PAACS graduates but this will require “more training on management skills and medical education.”

Dr. Barasa receives a salary from the hospital that supports his family. His typical workday begins with teaching conferences at 7 am followed by rounds in the hospital. Three days a week he is in the operating room teaching and assisting his residents and one day a week he is in clinic. He takes overnight call twice a week and has one weekend of call every other month.



He is involved in a weekly bible study with his colleagues from the hospital and attends a local church. When asked about sharing evidence of Christ working in his life and at the hospital, Jack responded, “The tremendous growth in the surgical department and at Kijabe Hospital as a whole is solely God at work.” He has also seen God’s work through miraculous healings in his patients and many men and women accepting Christ into their lives.

Dr. Barasa hopes to stay involved in teaching surgical residents for many years to come. We as a PAACS family hope that many other PAACS residents become program directors like Jack some day, mentoring and training future African surgeons to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Jack does not believe the transition for most residents will be a difficult one because “the training I got was very rigorous and prepared me well.” Please pray for Jack and his family - for continued growth in all areas of his life and learning how to balance the different demands on his time. Most of all, may the Lord continue to lead more PAACS graduates into leadership programs at various training programs across Africa sharing the light of Christ with other trainees.

What A Privilege!

We are therefore ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us. – 2 Corinthians 5:20



by Stan Key,
PAACS Spiritual Dean

A shoe company sent two salesmen into a primitive area to sell shoes. After surveying the territory, the first salesman wrote: “Dear sir: I have terrible news. No one in this country wears shoes! This is an impossible situation. You must have been crazy to send me to a place like this. I quit.”

A second salesman, however, saw the situation very differently. He wrote: “Dear sir: I have wonderful news. No one in this country wears shoes! This is a great place to work. Thank you for choosing me for this assignment. Please send 10,000 pairs of shoes immediately.”

Let me ask you, what is your attitude about being sent as an ambassador for Christ into a world where you are surrounded by secularists, atheists, pluralists, hedonists, agnostics, humanists, spiritualists, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and pagans? Are you angry at God for giving you such an impossible assignment? Do you want to throw up your hands in despair and quit? There is no hiding the fact that the assignment we have been given is challenging. Jesus never minimized the difficulty that would be faced by those who took his Gospel into the world.

Luke 10:3 - *I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

John 15:20 - *A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

But if we see only the difficulties and hardships and think only of the cost involved, we radically misunderstand what we have been sent into the world to do. To be an ambassador of Jesus Christ is pure privilege! The magnitude of the task indicates the greatness of the mission! Rather than complaining, why not look to God and say, “This is a great place to work. Thank you for choosing me for this assignment!”

Serving the Lord in the DRC — Jean Claude Bataneni, MD



Dr Jean Claude Bataneni graduated from the Bongolo Hospital PAACS residency program in Gabon in 2011. He and his wife Christine are both serving as missionary physicians at Nebobongo Evangelical Hospital in the northeast corner of their home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It was always their dream and they felt, God's calling, to return to the hospital where Jean Claude was born and both of their parents worked. They had also promised their church that they would return someday. They have four boys, Luc (6), Andy (4), Joey-Theodore (3) and Aime (16 months). Christine works as a general practitioner at the hospital and is in charge of the medicine and pediatric cases. Jean Claude is the

only surgeon at the hospital and also acts as the Medical Director. He is also the Assistant Medical Director of the Health Department of his National Church. To lessen his surgical burden, Jean Claude has trained three other young doctors at the hospital to help him take care of some of the emergency and more routine cases. He also has a nurse who is able to operate independently on some cases.

The hospital is in a very remote area of the DRC and Jean Claude's presence has been a huge blessing to the village and its people. His impact on the hospital has been tremendous. God has blessed his surgical practice and Nebobongo has become the trusted surgical center in their region of the DRC. His surgical repertoire has expanded and he is doing many cases that he never learned during his residency but God has allowed him to gain further experience. His foundational training as a PAACS resident has been the key for him to master other cases. There is still much to improve – for instance he cannot do orthopedic cases at the hospital because he lacks the equipment. He also finds himself overwhelmed at times with his

multiple administrative, surgical and church duties.

Spiritually, Jean Claude feels he is growing but it remains a challenge especially in a remote village where everyone feels like you are "Superman" and you don't have an accountability partner and/or spiritual coach. He does get support from his local church and pastor. He sees Christ working in his practice everyday, often performing healing miracles in his patients and protecting his family from surrounding dangers each day. The Batanenis have asked for our continued prayers regarding their spiritual growth as well as the safety and well being of the hospital staff and their family.

Another challenge for the Batanenis has been their financial support. The hospital cannot afford to pay him a salary so Jean Claude relies on full time missionary support to provide for his family. "The Lord has been gracious and provided just enough to allow me to stay at Nebobongo," reports Jean Claude. Recently however, their support has dwindled to almost nothing. A small wage from the government has allowed them

to cope during this dry time for donations. Jean Claude's biggest concern going forward is how are they going to educate their children and will they be able to afford it. They would also like to purchase a vehicle at some point. The Bataneni family would like to thank those in the PAACS family who have contributed to their fund over the last several years. Those interested in supporting the Batanenis can make a tax-deductible donation through CARES, 6705 E 81st Street, Suite 152, Tulsa, OK 74133.



Through it all, the Batanenis keep on trusting the Lord and His calling. There is no place they would rather be than helping the very people and community who raised them. The PAACS family is proud to have them as our own missionaries!

Graduate Needs

All our graduates need more surgical supplies, sutures and instruments. Below are more specific recent requests. Please contact them if you can help!

Dr Jean Claude Bataneni
jcbat25@gmail.com

SIGN nail set, oxygen concentrators, suction machines and insulin, OR beds, surgical gowns and linens, endoscopy equipment, surgical instruments (especially ortho and GYN), portable US machine, bovie machine, suture, Orthopedic Surgeon, Physical Therapist, ObGyn, Med Peds Internist.

Dr Gerald Ekwen
gekwen@yahoo.com

Flexible cystoscope & video tower, TURP set, laparoscopy set, reusable stapler device, rigid bronchoscopy set/FB removal equipment, tissue expanders, chest tubes/pleurovacs, central line kits, Zimmer dermatome, Trauma Surgeon, Urologists, Minimally Invasive Surgeons.

Dr Elijah Mwaura
elijahmwaura@yahoo.com

SIGN nail set, Padget's dermatome, Orthopedic specialists.

Dr Anthony Nesoah
ngoanesoah@yahoo.com

any surgical equipment (especially Thompson retractors) and any visiting teaching surgeons.

Please Pray for Our PAACS Graduates

MALI
Philadelphi Dembele

GUINEA
Jean Faya Yaradouno

SIERRA LEONE
Aiah Lebbie

LIBERIA
Jerry Brown

GHANA
Ighohwo Etuh

NIGERIA
Chukwudi Okorie

CAMEROON
Jacques Ebhele
Gerald Ekwen
Domain Fuka
De Gaulle Mifila
Anthony Nesoah
Henry Ndasi
Yali Ramazani

GABON
Simplice Tchoba
Ruffin Loua

DRC
Jean Bataneni
Hubert Kakalo

ANGOLA
Paulo Baltazar



ETHIOPIA
Frehun Ayele
Solomon Endrias
Daniel Gidabo
Tewodros Tamiru
Haileyesus Tesfaye

KENYA
Jack Barasa
Elijah Chege
George Ngock
John Kennedy Muma
Kamene Mwanzia
Jack Okumu

TANZANIA
Catherine Mung'ong'o
Henry Ine

BURUNDI
Gisita Nkeshu

UGANDA
Martin Situma

MALAWI
Arega Leta

SOUTH AFRICA
Agneta Odera

MADAGASCAR
Heuric Rakotomalala
Elson Randrianantenaina
Sahalnirina Rasamimanana
Roseline Razanamampionona

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