

Dear Colleagues,

Forty-six graduates! What a blessing it is to see what God is doing.

As PAACS increases the numbers of trainees necessary to produce badly needed surgeons on the continent of Africa, the budgetary needs are increasing as well. We are moving ahead in faith and yet the stock market instability is disconcerting at this time of year when giving is generally slow. Fortunately, we are trusting in God to provide our need since this is His program and you can have a part in it. We would like to remind you to consider making a donation to PAACS and remember the organizations as you plan year-end giving. You can send a check to CMDA-PAACS, P.O. Box 7500, Bristol TN 37621 or donate online at <http://paacs.net/donate/>.

The Editors

h



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #135

September 2015



Changing the spiritual and physical health of a continent

Our vision: PAACS trained surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick.

Our Mission: PAACS exists to train and disciple African surgeons to glorify God and to provide excellent, compassionate care to those most in need.

Our goal: To train and disciple 100 African surgeons by 2020.

Bongolo Resident, Alliance Niyukuri, working with visiting anesthesiologist, Jeff Lane, on the other side of the blood-brain barrier.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

[From the Executive Director](#)
[Nzanzu 40th PAACS General Surgeon](#)
[Introducing a New Resident at SIM-Galmi](#)
[PAACS Ethiopia – An Appeal for Help](#)
[Poenaru Receives ACS Award](#)
[News Shorts:](#)

Applicants for PAACS Incoming Class
Delegates from MBH meet with Prime Minister
Medical Missions Summit Meeting

[Announcements:](#)

ACS Reception
Prescription for Renewal
Global Missions Health Conference

[Seen Around:](#)

[Prayer Requests:](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

In September, Robert Barto, the PAACS Chief Development Officer and I had the privilege of visiting two PAACS programs: Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon and Bongolo Hospital in Gabon.

This was my second trip to Africa this year but my first visit to our West Africa programs. The purpose of these visits was to meet our residents, program directors, faculty and to learn more about the PAACS programs in these countries. In addition, while visiting Mbingo, a videographer from Silent Images accompanied us and filmed the new PAACS video detailing the work of PAACS. This video will be available for viewing by the end of the year.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon

In Mbingo, I met residents from many parts of Africa. These residents come from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Cameroon.

While visiting the Mbingo program, I had the opportunity to follow the residents on rounds, view a surgery, attend mock orals, listen to case presentations and attend the resident bible study. I also had the privilege to witness firsthand the compassionate care the residents' provided and was touched as they prayed with patients on the wards. These residents want to make an impact for God's kingdom in Africa and bring their patients to the knowledge of Christ. The PAACS residents at Mbingo have a tremendous heart for the Lord and their patients. I was blessed by this experience.

Dr. Jim Brown, the Mbingo PAACS Program Director and the PAACS faculty are dedicated to not only the medical training and spiritual growth of these residents but are also interested in their well-being. They spend time with the residents and care for and support them in their endeavor to become surgeons. This is a very busy hospital with many cases but Dr. Brown and the faculty made time for their residents.



PAACS-Mbingo Team

Bongolo Hospital in Gabon

In Bongolo, the PAACS residents also come from various parts of Africa including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Burundi, and Angola. I met residents of high character, integrity, great intelligence and a passion for the work of Christ.

I was amazed at the bond between the residents in Bongolo. They were more like family than mere colleagues. Even the wives and children of the residents band together to help one another. I witnessed brotherly love and residents who uphold and support one another. The PAACS program at the Bongolo Hospital reflects an atmosphere of the New Testament church in the book of Acts. They serve one another. They rejoice in one another's triumphs and joy and they share in their brother's sorrow. This was a privilege for me to witness.

Dr. Keir Thelander, the Bongolo PAACS Program Director, and the Bongolo faculty (Zach and Jen O'Connor as well as



A Ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations
 L to R: Keir Thelander, Anatole Nzanu, Susan Koshy and
 Simplicite Tchoba (2014 PAACS graduate)

Simplice Tchoba) are wonderful mentors and have fostered this family atmosphere. The residents look up to and respect Dr. Thelander and his wife Joanna who truly care for these residents and their families.

The local church is highly involved with Bongolo hospital and PAACS. There is a wonderful cooperation and support from the church to the hospital and PAACS. On one of the evenings, the pastor of the local church invited all of the PAACS family to dinner. He wanted to show how much he appreciated PAACS and that he supports our efforts. It was an incredible blessing.

During this visit, I was honored to attend and speak at the graduation ceremony of Dr. Anatole Nzanu. This was an incredibly special day for me because this was my first PAACS graduation since becoming Executive Director. I also had the opportunity to follow the residents on rounds, attend daily chapel service and spend time one on one with each of the residents.

After these visits, I realized that each of our PAACS programs are unique in their workings and environment. Each PAACS program is truly distinctive and each has its advantages and challenges. Although the travel to these sites may have been tiring, I have come back energized with new ideas and thoughts for PAACS. I am now even more enthused about PAACS and its impact on Africa.

In His Service,

Susan A. Koshy, PAACS Executive Director

NZANZU 40TH PAACS GENERAL SURGEON

Dr. Nzanu Kipata Anatole from Bongolo Hospital in Gabon is the 46th PAACS surgical graduate. He is the 40th general surgeon to finish since the first PAACS surgeon in finished at the same program in the same month of 2002. The graduation ceremony for Dr. Anatole was held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at the church located at Bongolo Hospital. Approximately 400 people were in attendance at the event.

The day began with a church service conducted by Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Program Director and the Director of the Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. Dr. Thelander preached a powerful sermon in French and ended his sermon by washing Dr. Anatole's feet. It was very humbling for Dr. Anatole to have his teacher and mentor wash his feet.



Immediately after the church service, the graduation ceremony for Dr. Anatole commenced. PAACS administrators in attendance (Susan Koshy and Rob Barto), along with PAACS faculty and residents walked down the aisle of the church to their respective seats. Susan Koshy, PAACS Executive Director, the Pastor President of the Christian Mission Alliance Church and Keir Thelander, among others, spoke at the graduation ceremony encouraging Dr. Anatole to serve God and others as he moves forward in life.

The highlight of the ceremony occurred when the entire PAACS Bongolo family did a musical tribute to Dr. Anatole. They sang his favorite song "Who Am I" by Casting Crowns. It was incredibly moving and Dr. Anatole was touched by the love poured out to him by his teachers, colleagues and their families. As touching as that song was, Dr. Anatole wrote later, "The highlight of the ceremony for me was when they asked for my family to stand - and almost all of the congregation stood up including the residents and their wives! An important piece of my life has been written here and our hearts are bleeding as we are leaving this place. We are grateful for PAACS through which such a wonderful home and family was given to us."



Dr. Anatole returns October 1 to his home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with his wife Niva and their daughter. They will get their passports renewed and start the process of having his credentials recognized in the DRC. They will then fly home to the eastern part of Congo. Regarding his future plans, he writes, "I know God has a plan for us where to practice – it just hasn't been materialized to us yet but we believe soon it will be and then we will let you know. It is very unlikely to

be in DRC. So now we are going to visit parents while preparing for the FCS oral exam assuming that I passed the written test.”

Anatole’s wife, Niva, is the daughter of a previous graduate (the 3rd), Dr. Hubert Kakalo (2005), who presently practices in the Provincial General Hospital of Kisangani, DRC. Niva has been giving valued service as the administrative assistant to the PAACS Program in Bongolo. She is also the sister of the wife of another PAACS resident, Carine Malikidogo at PAACS-Mbingo in Cameroon.



INTRODUCING A NEW RESIDENT AT SIM-GALMI

The newest trainee at the PAACS-Galmi program is Elvis Mbanzabugabo. He has come to Niger with his wife Ndayishimiye Louise Delphin and their infant Ishimwe Nathan-Doxa.

He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Burundi and since then, has worked in three different hospitals, most recently at St. Ann Mission Hospital in Kenya where he has been improving his English in preparation to study with PAACS.



A Ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations



He met the Lord 13 years ago during a crusade led by a Rwandan evangelist. He was encouraged to apply to PAACS by his more senior resident at Galmi, Dr. Jean-Luc Kazoya.

My ambition to become a surgeon was driven by the condition of surgical care in my country, where there are fewer than 20 surgeons in a population of 10 million.

I was confronted for the first time with this unfortunate reality during my internship in a rural area of the country, where we had to refer any patient with surgical problem to a hospital more than 150 km away because of a lack of surgeons. The few surgeons we have are gathered in the capital. I continued to be broken hearted about this situation after I became a general practitioner.

When I heard about PAACS by a colleague, I was doubly interested because on one hand the training is of high quality and the other, being a Christian, I was convinced that I needed the framework of PAACS to continue to grow spiritually. Without delay, I sent my application which was subsequently considered. I praise the Lord because He has heard my prayer and that soon I will be able to improve the physical and spiritual health of the population of my country.

PAACS ETHIOPIA – AN APPEAL FOR HELP



PAACS was established in Ethiopia in 2006, at Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH) and has seen 6 residents graduate from the program, with 2 more graduating by years' end. This calendar year of 2015 (2008 by the Ethiopian calendar) has seen many positive changes and achievements for PAACS Ethiopia, including a new program director added to the surgical faculty at SCH, excellent examination performance by residents and a 5 year accreditation by HERQA the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency of Ethiopia.

PAACS Ethiopia ranked second amongst all the PAACS centers in the recent annual PAACS exam, with the top score for the junior exam and second highest for the senior. The 2 chief residents also comfortably passed the external exam set by the Addis Ababa University, which was hosted at the Black Lion Hospital in August. HERQA, the accrediting body for non-governmental educational institutions, granted us a 5 year accreditation and concluded that 'PAACS has been contributing immensely to the health sector by offering quality education aiming at alleviating the chronic shortage of surgeons in the rural and unseen parts of the country' and also made particular mention of our contribution to research, with publications and presentations in local and international journals and meetings.

SCH is highly conducive for discipleship and evangelism. Dozens of opportunity to witness and pray with and for patients present daily, and we have seen many come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ through the efforts of staff, including residents and faculty. The constant stream of Muslims seeking medical attention at our doorstep is an attestation to the unconditional medical care being offered to all and sundry. They come because, as Dr. Chew states, "They know we care, and we provide high quality services." SCH unofficially functions as the regional trauma center, mainly due to the excellent orthopaedic services headed by Dr Duane Anderson. Referrals for complex fracture care come from within and without the borders of Ethiopia, and even from the Black Lion Hospital (the university hospital) in Addis Ababa.

Surgery has overgrown its present facilities. The 4 operating rooms are inadequate to handle the flow and plans are afoot to build a new operating suite to accommodate the workload, with improved patient flow, pre- and post-op care areas and dedicated endoscopy/laparoscopic suites. Currently, there are 2 general surgeons, Dr Tewodros Tamiru, a 2012 PAACS graduate, and Dr Andrew Chew (program director). The exciting news is that Dr. Tim Love is slated to join us in the fall of 2017. In orthopaedics, Dr Duane Anderson and Dr Bob Greene hold down the fort and ob/gyn service is provided by Dr Mark Karnes. Radiology is serviced by Dr Karl Roth from Norway, who in recent times, has been giving weekly teaching sessions, showing off the capabilities of our CT scanner amongst other things. Visiting faculty so far this year have included a general surgeon, a pediatric surgeon, a thoracic/vascular surgeon, 2 maxillo-facial surgeons and several orthopedic surgeons, all contributing immensely from their subspecialties. The breadth of the work is wide and challenging but also immensely rewarding.

SCH is located in southern Ethiopia, 340kms from Addis Ababa and is easily reached by paved road. Sitting at 6600 feet above sea level, with daily maximum temperatures ranging between 68 – 86F, the setting is idyllic with the backdrop of Mount Damota, rising to 9800, facing you as you take your 3 minute walk to work each day. A soccer and volleyball pitch is onsite, as well as a small jogging track. For the active, there is the mountain to climb on your days off. Several large lakes teeming with birdlife are within 2.5 hours by car, and forays further afield brings one to UNESCO heritage sites of Lalibela and Gondar, and of course Axum where the St Mary of Zion church claims to house the ark of the covenant. The hospital grounds, which also houses the expatriate staff, is child-friendly, with a well set out playground and picnic area. The gardens are lush and abound with fruit trees including bananas, avocados, apple, mangoes to mention a few, and there is an abundance of flowers too.

PAACS Ethiopia is looking for more surgeon and orthopedic surgeons to join the exciting work in Soddo. Both Andrew Chew and Tim Love will be at Global Missions Healthcare Conference 2015, November 5-7 in Louisville, Kentucky – why not come and have a chat with us at the PAACS booth? You can get first-hand account of what life is like in southern Ethiopia at a PAACS training center and start to make your plans to join us in making a difference in Ethiopia.

POENARU RECEIVES ACS AWARD

Dan Poenaru, MD, FACS, has had many roles during his life. An academic pediatric surgeon from Montreal, QC, he has served as a missionary, established a pediatric surgery training program, helped establish a Christian Medical School, and oversees a program of assistance with the pediatric surgery graduates. Dan has played a vital role within PAACS, active on the commission since 2000. On

Tuesday, at 8:00 PM at the American College of Surgery's Board of Governor's reception, he will now receive the Surgical Humanitarian Award from the American College of Surgery and Pfizer Pharmaceutical for those efforts.

Dr. Poenaru made a life-changing decision to end his full-time academic pediatric surgical practice to move in August of 2003 from Canada to Kenya with BethanyKids, a faith-based organization devoted to the holistic care of children with surgical conditions and disabilities. With only seven beds available for children with pediatric surgical conditions upon his arrival, Dr. Poenaru partnered with previous award winner Dr. Dick Bransford and co-founded BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital (BKKH), which is now a 67-bed pediatric surgery unit with 15 outpatient clinic sites across Kenya, three pediatric surgical trainees, specialty nurses, and rehabilitation therapists. During his time in Kenya, he also ran multiple pediatric surgical missions in Somaliland and bimonthly clinics in Dadaab, Kenya and traveled and spoke widely through Africa.

Realizing his general and pediatric surgical training was insufficient to meet the demands of his new environment, Dr. Poenaru sought additional training and recruited volunteer surgeons from North America. Not wanting to turn patients away, he scrubbed in with these recruits to learn techniques in pediatric urology, neurosurgery, and plastic surgery. Soon becoming aware of the limitations of surgical practice and training in resource-limited settings, Dr. Poenaru established a pediatric surgery fellowship program in conjunction with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) which took its first resident in 2007. In partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA), he was able to attain accreditation for this fellowship program, making it the first certification in pediatric surgery available in the region. One graduate who was the second trainee, Frehun Ayele, was the first COSECSA-accredited pediatric surgery to be trained in Eastern Africa. The PAACS graduates, most of whom were COSECSA certified and coming from several African countries, have established satellite BethanyKids sites in Madagascar, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Sierra Leone.

Poenaru remained a strong advocate for increased resources for children's surgeries in Africa through his research into the global burden of pediatric surgery, at conferences, and through educational and promotional materials. His fundraising efforts contributed to the construction of the new operative block at Kijabe Hospital, an 80-bed children's center expected to open in 2016, and 15-bed inpatient unit expected to open October 1 at the Mbarara University Teaching Hospital (MUTH) in Uganda.



As clinical director of BethanyKids, Dr. Poenaru oversees the activities of all six African sites. He is closely involved with the local surgeons and staff, regularly visiting the sites to assist in their operation. For the last three years he has also been involved in a new undergraduate medical program located on the campus of the Myungsung Christian Medical Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he acts as part-time academic dean.

Poenaru first went to Africa (Congo) during medical school in 1986 and then went as a short-term surgeon to Kenya in 2000. He presently works in the department of pediatric surgery at McGill University and spends 4 months a year in Africa, although he hopes to soon increase that amount of time.

Poenaru states that he is pleased to receive the recognition from the ACS but hopes that it is matched or exceeded by God's approval. He plans to use the podium as an opportunity to profile missionary work as the foundation of contemporary surgical volunteerism. He hopes to use his acceptance talk as an opportunity to give glory to God rather than glory to himself or mankind in general. Humbled, he states that this award "makes it very unfair for the hundreds of others who are more deserving than me."

Poenaru is the fourth surgeon associated with PAACS in some way to win the award. Dr. Dick Bransford from Kijabe Hospital won the award in 2010; Dr. Louis Carter, editor of the PAACS textbook on rehabilitative surgery, won in 2011 and Dr. Russ White of Tenwek Hospital won in 2014.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **Applicants for PAACS Incoming Class:** PAACS programs are planning to take in 17 trainees in January (Galmi 1, Mbingo 1, Mbingo Head and Neck Fellowship 1, Bongolo 1, Arusha 2, Malamulo 2, Tenwek General Surgery 2, Tenwek Orthopedics 2, Kijabe General Surgery 2, BethanyKids at KH Pediatric Surgery, 1, PAACS-Ethiopia 1 and Harpur 1. September 15 was the deadline for most of the applications and the decisions should be made by the end of October for most of the programs. Following interest expressed by 74 potential trainees who sent in some information, 63 finished the application and documents sufficiently to be considered for inclusion this year. Four were reconsiderations from last year. Please pray for the various programs as they select our next class! The 2017 class will have approximately 19 slots available and those applications are due by September 15, 2016.
- **Delegates from MBH Meet with Prime Minister:** Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) has been seeking government recognition for its programs for over six years. The Prime Minister of Cameroon agreed to meet on 26 September with Professor Pius Tih, the head of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health services; Dr. Dennis Palmer, head of the Christian International Medicine Program at Mbingo and Dr. Jim Brown, Program Director of PAACS-Mbingo. Recently, one of the main sticking points has been the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MBH and the University of Yaoundé. MBH has been reluctant to sign because several stipulations in the proposed agreement were felt to be very unfavorable and costly to MBH. MBH had achieved a MOU with the University of Buea but the PM at this meeting made it clear that more was needed. After the PM demonstrated excellent leadership and negotiation skills, the meeting ended with a mandate from the PM to achieve a more suitable agreement to present to the PM by mid-October after which he will ask the Minister of Higher Education to produce a document recognizing the training programs.



Attendees at the recent CMDA-MedSend meeting in Charlotte



Susan Koshy, Yop and Yakoubou Sanoussi and Bruce Steffes at the recent meeting at the SIM headquarters in Charlotte.

- **Medical Missions Summit Meeting:** PAACS ED Susan Koshy and CMO Bruce Steffes attended the CMDA/MedSend Medical Mission Summit meeting held September 3 and 4th at the SIM (Serving in Missions) headquarters near Charlotte, NC. Almost one hundred representatives of dozens of mission agencies involved with medical missions were in attendance for the two days of lectures, networking and small group interaction. The SIM staff

joined us for devotions each morning and we were thrilled (and surprised) to have PAACS surgeon, Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi, and his wife, Yop, as the chapel speaker Thursday morning. Dr. Gisela Schneider gave an excellent talk on “Medical Missions in the 21st Century – Challenges and Opportunities.” The results of a survey of mission leaders were presented and discussed. There was a presentation on how agencies can partner with the US State department in times of crisis and discussion on the special member care and requirements for launching medical missionaries. It was a great challenge for all and a great boost for PAACS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **American College of Surgery Reception:** You are invited to the CMDA/PAACS reception on Tuesday, October 6 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency – McCormick Place in Room CC20 C/Field Room C on the second level. The address is 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60616.
- **Prescription for Renewal:** If you are attending Samaritan’s Purse’s Prescription for Renewal Conference held at The Cove in Asheville NC, October 9 – 11, Dr. Bruce Steffes and several of the PAAC Commissioners will be attending. Please make yourself known to us – and let’s talk about how you can go out under World Medical Mission and serve in a PAACS Hospital.
- **Global Missions Health Conference:** The Global Missions Health Conference is going to be bigger and better than ever before. It is scheduled for November 5 – 7 at the Southeastern Church in Louisville, Kentucky. You can register at www.medicalmissions.com now. On Friday evening, November 6, we will have a PAACS reception during the supper hour. Dr. Andrew Chew from Soddo Christian Hospital and Dr. Eric Mitchell, recently from Tenwek Hospital, will be sharing their heart. Please come and join us – and swing by our booth in the CMDA section of the display hall and say hello!

SEEN AROUND:



Left : PAACS Galmi Team

Bottom Left: Dr. Tewodros at Soddo constructing an ileostomy bag device with rubber straps and a plastic cap

Bottom right: Dr. Carol Spears speaking to the Global Missions Health Conference held recently in Nairobi.





Left: Dr. Steve Okota and Dr. Jacques Ebhele visit and pray with a patient at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Right: Dr. Tony Mwenyemali and his mentors and families celebrate the completion of his training period before his move to Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya.



Left: Dr. Jim Brown, Professor Pius Tih and Dr. Jason Axt in Mbingo

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for the three new residents who have begun training in Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon (Constance Ndum and Tabehe Freeman) and in SIM-Galmi in Niger (Elvis Mbanzabugabo). Pray for the ability of their families to adapt to the stresses of training and a new culture.
- Pray for peace and the cessation of civil unrest in Burundi. Three of our new residents and two of our present residents are from that country. Pray for their own peace of mind while separated from family. Pray that Denis Sinzinkayo will be able to leave Burundi soon and begin his training at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. Pray that he will be released by the authorities.
- Give God thanks for the large number of potential trainees. Pray that God will clearly direct in the selection of the next batch of new PAACS surgeons.
- Pray for the graduates who are settling into new locations – for the adjustment of their families, for their peace and for their effective ministry.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital (Pediatric Surgery) in Kenya, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia (both general surgery and orthopedics), and Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt. Praise God for the new general surgeon, Dr. Berg, at Kijabe Hospital – and pray for the family’s adjustment to Kenya.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year. Praise God that Bongolo has received a long-hoped for “authorization to open”.
- Pray for those on home assignment (Dave Thompson and Dan Galat who are in the US now) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Pray for Zachary and Jen O’Connor who came back for a six-week period beginning the end of September. Pray for Ryan Hayton and his family, presently on annual leave with his wife’s family in Australia.
- Dr. Jason Axt, a Post-Residency Fellow with World Medical Mission, will be returning in early November to the US to begin his pediatric surgical training. Pray that God will bless his dreams to develop a pediatric surgery program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon and that George Ngock, presently training at BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital, will join him. Pray that God will call other general surgeons to join the program at Mbingo. Pray for the new plastic surgery post-residency fellow also coming to Mbingo Baptist Hospital in October. Pray for Dr. Debbie Eisenhut who is temporarily seconded to Mbingo Baptist Hospital – that God will make this a permanent call.
- Praise God for continued healing for Dave Thompson from a post-operative complication and for the good progress for Russ White from his recent back surgery. Please pray for the Whites during a critical meeting in early October. Pray for a Program Director and his wife who was recently discovered to have chronic hepatitis.

- Pray for the need for orthopedic coverage at Tenwek from July through July 2016 while Dan Galat is on home assignment.
- Pray for the career PAACS faculty members who are under great personal and/or family stress. Pray for healing and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their day to day lives.
- Please continue to pray for a satisfactory solution to the new Ethiopian visa requirements for short-term faculty which could be very counterproductive for Soddo Hospital and PAACS.
- Pray for Harpur Hospital, its residents and its faculty members. Praise God that Hanna finally received his recognition as a surgical specialist after 21 months of trying and his wife, Mary-Lou, received her long-term visa. Pray for strength for Sherif as he carries on as the only PAACS surgeon until the Thompsons return in January.
- Pray that God will provide both surgeons and anesthetists for Harpur hospital from now through December 31.
- Pray for all the missionaries on leave at Bongolo which leaves only the Hofman family, the Thelander family and the Petersons to hold down the fort at Bongolo. Pray for strength and peace for them. Praise that Simplicite Tchoba (PAACS 2014) is staying another year on faculty.
- Praise God at the news that Dr. Tabetta Bradley and her husband Luke are planning to return to SIM-Galmi for long term service with PAACS and SIM. Pray for them as they prepare and gather support. Prayerfully consider whether you should help them in their support.
- Pray for God to provide the new Chief Medical Officer that He wants in this role.
- Praise for a volunteer who will help with conversion from our administrative databases to an internet-based database.
- Pray for those who will be attending the various upcoming conferences – that God will speak to their hearts about service or supporting others who serve.
- Pray for Dr. Poenaru as he addresses the attendees at the American College of Surgery award meeting – that God will receive the glory.
- Pray that God will provide the necessary finances for this year.

Editors:

Bruce Steffes, MD, MBA, MA (Bib. Min), FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA), FICS
David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS