

Dear Colleagues,

We are always excited around resident selection time – who will God bring to us? In this edition of the PAACS Bulletin, we have a glimpse into the heart of a resident who earnestly seeks God's will for his life and another glimpse into the life of a PAACS graduate who is serving in a hard place.

This is the time of year of conferences and COSECSA testing – and we are thrilled with the new PAACS videos that will help spread the word. One is already out and the other, focused on the recruitment of residents, is slated to be released in early December. Make sure you see the first one and be on the look-out for the second. Download them and share the work of PAACS with your friends, neighbors and church family.

Next week is the Global Missions Health Conference ([www.medicalmissions.com](http://www.medicalmissions.com)) in Louisville. Please stop by our booth and say hello – and join us for the Friends of PAACS get-together during the supper hour on Friday night. See you there!

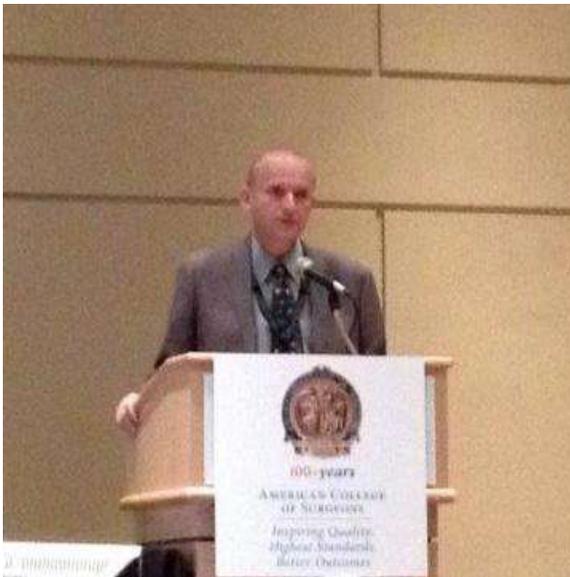
The Editors



## The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #136

October, 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.

Dr. Dan Poenaru addressed the gathering at the American College of Surgery after receiving the ACS-Pfizer Humanitarian of the Year award.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Friends of PAACS:*

*This has been a very busy and exciting time for PAACS. We have completed several projects to increase the visibility of PAACS and to educate people about our mission and work. All of this has been possible through God's grace.*

*In September, we mailed our 2015-2016 Prayer Guides to our PAACS family. This 21-day Prayer Guide contains the photographs and prayer requests of our PAACS faculty and residents. We covet your prayers and ask that you join us in praying daily for the PAACS programs, residents and faculty. There is a tremendous spiritual warfare in the mission field and it is only through our prayers that we can plow the ground for God's work and purposes. It is prayer that will bless PAACS and the lives of our surgical residents and faculty and ultimately impact the continent of Africa for the Kingdom of God.*

*In October, PAACS exhibited at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) meeting in Chicago, IL. The exhibit showcased the work of PAACS and highlighted the need for surgical training in Africa. The purpose of the exhibit was to increase the visibility of our organization in the surgical community; a goal we accomplished. More than one hundred surgeons visited our PAACS booth and spoke either about their current activities with PAACS or their desire to become involved. We also participated in the CMDA Surgical Section Reception hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Adrian Park (Dr. Park is the current Chair of PAACS). Many surgical residents attended this reception to learn more about volunteering with our PAACS programs in Africa or within our leadership. It was exciting to meet young surgeons who desire to serve God and to do His work in Africa. These are the future missionaries, PAACS surgical faculty and leaders of this organization.*

*Also in October, PAACS launched its new PAACS video. This heartwarming video was produced by Silent Images and describes the mission and work of PAACS. It highlights the need for surgeons in Africa, describes the PAACS program (both surgical and spiritual) and describes the impact that we are having on the continent. We need your help in communicating the message of PAACS and the new video. The PAACS video can be viewed on the PAACS website at [http://paacs.net/about\\_paacs/paacs-media/paacs-video/](http://paacs.net/about_paacs/paacs-media/paacs-video/) and downloaded from <https://vimeo.com/142163635>. Please share the video with*

*your friends, colleagues, churches and families and spread the mission and vision of this organization that is changing the health and spiritual landscape of a continent.*

*I praise God for all that He is doing for PAACS and helping to complete projects that increase the visibility of the mission and work of our organization. Please join me in praying that as PAACS grows that we will stay focused on the purposes of God. Pray that we will continue in our mission to train a generation of surgeons in Africa that will bring glory to God and serve His people who are in greatest need.*

*In His Service,*

*Susan A. Koshy, PAACS Executive Director*

## **SERVING THE LORD IN THE DRC**

*[Editorial Note: This was taken from the second edition of the St Luke PAACS Alumni Surgical Society newsletter published in October, 2015.]*



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 every day, 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!

## REPORT OF A ROTATION AT KAPSOWAR HOSPITAL

By Mark Waithaka Mwangi

*[Editor’s note: PAACS is always looking for rotations at mission hospitals that will serve two purposes – to promote their medical experience and to promote their understanding of mission hospitals. The purpose for the first is obvious but the purpose of the second is to encourage them to see Africa not just with the heart of a caring surgeon but with the heart of a Christian who wants to make disciples. Kapsowar Hospital is an African Inland Church hospital that needs help in surgery and needs resources to improve its function as a faith-based hospital. Dr. Bill Rhodes has been the sole surgeon there for many years. Mark Waithaka Mwangi is a fourth year resident at the PAACS-Kijabe program. Please pray for him and others who are considering service to the “least of these.”]*

“It’s the nature of the beast” is one of several aphorisms I have heard spoken by Dr. Bill Rhodes. He is a general and plastic surgeon who has been serving in AIC Kapsowar Hospital, in Elgeyo-Marakwet

County, Kenya, for the past seventeen years. The Beast he often refers to is the hospital-theatre “animal” and its daily “meat” is the different demands and services available, the personnel issues and the resource limitations.

I had heard of Kapsowar Hospital but never considered it as a place to live and serve. The reasons for this were many. It was far away from anywhere and anyone I knew, and it was an area with a different spoken language, Marakwet, a Nilotic dialect of the larger Kalenjin tribe. I have a Bantu heritage. There were also security concerns in this area during times of political tensions or strife.



PAACS Resident Mark Waithaka Mwangi and Dr. Bill Rhodes at Kapsowar Hospital

As soon as my wife, Sarah, and I arrived, along with my colleague Beryl, a breathtaking vista of patterned farms next to unspoiled nature spread before us awed us. Driving on a murrum<sup>1</sup> road through a thickly canopied natural forest, then through hills and valleys with crops in various stages of maturity; I could hear God speak through nature. It is simply a beautiful place, with a river just ten minutes’ walk from the hospital. This was something that a city boy like me could gladly get used to.

The hospital is a referral center for most of the county, including Eldoret town. The patients come from far and wide to avail themselves of the high-quality, affordable surgical care. It is amazing that Dr. Rhodes has been instrumental in sustaining this work, doing it mostly alone. He is a double-

boarded general surgeon and plastic surgeon. On this rotation, he served as my mentor and teacher in a myriad of ways. Working with him has been vital in shaping my way of thinking and problem-solving.

“A patient will always find a way to beat your surgery,” is another of his sayings, which makes the point that you must take measures to mitigate any complications by anticipating them.

A memory I’ll always carry with me is the day Caleb<sup>2</sup>, a 3 year old boy, was discharged from hospital, alive and well! His story is that of a post-operative complication. A routine tonsillectomy was done without any remarkable events until he started coughing up bloody fluid. He aspirated the blood and was in the grip of severe, potentially lethal, aspiration pneumonia.

I witnessed great teamwork in a hospital that had only a ‘vision’ of an ICU – just the bare makings of one. God enabled us to keep him alive on a theatre ventilator. Advice from a network of pediatricians in Kijabe and past ICU teachings from my own rotations there came in handy. His mother said that she has never seen a surgeon spend the night watching over his patient, an example modelled by Dr.

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<sup>1</sup> A form of laterite (clayey material) used for road surfaces in tropical Africa.

<sup>2</sup> Name changed.

Rhodes. The theatre was shut down for three days! We rejoiced when he was discharged, well and with a full life ahead of him.

My family and I would love to serve God through this and similar places. It has been a memorable experience.

## **ATLANTA TEAM AT GALMI HOSPITAL, NIGER**

By Ken Rutledge, MD

God answered our prayers when, as a team, we asked to team how to best meet the needs of the SIM-Galmi hospital in Niger. Because of the generosity of so many, we were able to deliver a large amount of much needed and appreciated medicines and medical supplies/equipment to the Galmi Mission hospital. We as a team were greatly blessed as well.

SIM-Galmi hospital is located in a very rural area in the midst of Africa's poorest nation of Niger. The population is 98% Muslim. The hospital is like an oasis of God's love and healing in the middle of extreme poverty and suffering. Our team of five was a dream team to travel with...all friends, all mature Christians and all seasoned short-term mission travelers. Together, we shared in some amazing opportunities to see God's hand at work. We each served in our areas of expertise (urology, oncology, gastroenterology, pharmacy and chaplaincy). We appreciated their efforts to integrate us into many aspects of the hospital experience – surgical rounds, clinics, surgery, teaching in conferences, sharing in spiritual life meetings and discipleship. Our personal interaction with the PAACS surgical residents was a true highlight as we witnessed their devotion to the Lord in their prayers for patients, sharing the gospel and showing the love and compassion of Christ in service to a very desperate and hurting population.

***Did you know that there have been 1116 visits by short-term faculty since the inception of PAACS, provided by 705 short-term missionaries? Thank you all!***

Elvis Mbanzabugabo is a 36 year old first-year trainee from Burundi. Married to Louise Delphin, they have a 7 month old Ishmwe Nathan-Doka. He graduated from the University of Burundi Medical School in 2011 and served at the Kirundo and Bhiga Hospitals before moving to the St. Ann Mission Hospital in Kenya. He moved deliberately to improve his English to improve his chances of being accepted into the PAACS training program. Elvis came to know the Lord in 2002 in response to an evangelist from Rwanda.

For us, one very inspiring experience was witnessing the "White Coat" ceremony for Dr. Elvis. During this service of dedication, time was spent in prayer over him; he was challenged with the PAACS requirements; his feet were washed by his mentors and then he received the symbolic White Coat. It was very meaningful and powerful and all in attendance were greatly moved.

In contrast to that joy was the deep heartache over the incredible pain and suffering of the patients. One little 2 year old boy came into the hospital with a large tumor on his kidney. He was malnourished, anemic, in great pain and desperately needing surgery. Like so many of the Galmi patients, unfortunately, it was too late to help him and he was sent home to die. That type of scene happens on a daily basis as the people come with diseases and injuries too far advanced to be able to help.

Our hearts were also broken over the suffering of the large number of typhoid fever patients (3 or more each day). They came in severe pain and needing surgery; one to two die every week. It's hard to believe how much suffering we saw that could easily be prevented just by immunizations which are not available in that area.



Top Left: Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi and Dr. Joe Starke help Dr. Elvis don his White Coat.

Top Right: Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi and Dr. Joe Starke help Dr. Elvis wash the feet of their trainee.

Bottom Left: The Atlanta CMDA team has joined the PAACS team for this photo.

A great memory that I came home with is the time I spent with the senior resident, Yves Mpongo who is from the Congo. We brought modern endoscopy surgical equipment and taught him how to use it. . Watching his enthusiasm and excitement was a true heart filler. Getting to know him, as well as the other PAACS residents and the missionary doctors, was truly a highlight. Their commitment, dedication and hospitality were inspiring to our team.

What else can be said? Glory to Jesus Christ our Lord and Jehovah-Jireh our provider who gave us a rich, full blessing, deeply filling our souls. I thank God for the Atlanta team and for all who have provided and prayed for us. Please join me in praying for Joe and Mame Starke, for the staff and residents at Galmi Hospital, and for the continuation of the divine work He is accomplishing there. Please also remember the lost and suffering people of Niger!

Psalm 95:1-3 says, "O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods!"

## **REPORT FROM THE ACS CONFERENCE**

By Rob Barto, CDO

It was a pleasure to represent PAACS along with Executive Director, Susan Koshy, while exhibiting at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress meeting at the McCormick Place in Chicago October 5th-7th. It was an amazing atmosphere with hundreds of people present and having the PAACS display booth set up in the midst of over 200 of the most advanced medical and surgical technology companies in the world.

Given the efforts of so many organizations to stand out among the crowd, I was pleased to see a large number of people stop by to speak to us. Some were already familiar with PAACS, or already involved as volunteers and leaders. Many others were surgeons or surgical residents curious about the mission of PAACS and what our impact represents for the people of Africa and the surgeons PAACS trains. A lot of good conversations took place and many left feeling an interest in getting involved in some way.

We were able to add many names to the pool of PAACS friends who will want to learn more about us in the future. They'll also be interested in keeping track of how things are going for our program, residents, volunteers, faculty and the patients and families who receive surgical and spiritual care. Some may become volunteers in the future and maybe even donors to the organization.

Lastly, PAACS was able to cohost with CMDA a reception on Tuesday evening that enjoyed a packed and enthusiastic room. Remarks were offered by Commission Chair, Dr. Adrian Park and Executive Director, Susan Koshy. Several individuals in the audience were also able to express their personal stories and experiences with PAACS, its mission and what being involved means in their lives. The spirit of service and commitment among the PAACS family was palpable. We look forward to being part of the ACS meeting again in the future and thank you to those who stopped by and spent time with us!

## **NOTE FROM PAACS GRADUATE**

Ngoe Anthony Nesoah was a 2013 graduate of Mbingo and after graduation, served first in the far north of Cameroon until the danger from the Boko Haram became too great. He is now serving at Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon. He wrote recently:

*Dear Brethren.*

*You all were and shall always be my teachers, mentors and family. Soon it will be two years of my Graduation from the PAACS program. From the core and innermost part of my being, I just want to say "God bless you" for all you did for me. For giving me the chance to become one of you. For your patience, fortitude, love, brotherhood, and support.*

*And, for all my weaknesses and inadequacies, deficiencies, short-comings and rawness, you all saw, knew, or came to know, and still gave me the chance to yoke with you all as a family. You mentored, schooled, taught, encouraged and walked that walk with me,*

*And above all, you believed in me, even when I did not believe in myself, and the world did not give me the chance. Brethren, God bless you. May God bless the entire PAACS family.*

*My family, my mentors, my brethren and He held my hands and "They called me brother"*

*With all good wishes in Christ-Jesus, and with utmost thankfulness, gratitude and in all humility.*

*Your brother, disciple, and student. Proudly PAACS! Nesoah*

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **100% Pass COSECSA Exams:** The MCS (Member of the College of Surgery) and the FCS (Fellow of the College of Surgery) exams were written Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Usually, the second year residents (and a few third year residents) write the MCS exam and the chief residents or graduates write the FCS exam. Both exams are two-part exams. This was the written part and if they pass, they are allowed to sit the oral exams to be held November 30 (MCS) and December 1 (FCS) exams in Blantyre, Malawi. For the first time ever, all PAACS residents who sat the exams, passed. Four others from PAACS will be re-taking the orals with them.



Bongolo: Jacques Ebhele, Akin Anatole Nzanzu, Marco Faniriko, Alliance Niyukuri Mbingo: Tony Mwenyemali, Kabba, Juana

Ethiopia: Tewodros Tamiru, Dejene Desalegn, Segni Bekele, Ebenezer Gezahegn, Gezahegn Tilahun

Kijabe: Amos Chege Macharia, Shelmith Muthee

Tenwek: Philip Blasto Ooko, Damaris Ndambuki Mbalu, Justus Obonyo Lando,

Wairimu Ndegwa, Victor Sowayi Alubokho, Victor Sowayi (Ortho), Fasto Lado Yugusuk (Ortho)

Galmi: Yves Mpongo

Arusha: Emmanuel Lema, Yamikani Limbe

- **Resident Selection Underway** – This year, there was an active attempt to increase the numbers of applicants and this was successful. Approximately 65 applications were complete or nearly-complete and are being considered for next January. There were approximately 15 more who were left from previous years or who submitted only partial applications (insufficient for consideration).

Selection is still ongoing. A minimum of 16 and as many as 19 in total could be selected. That would bring the total in January to 71 – 74 residents. A list of those accepted thus far includes:

Galmi - Andrew John (Burundi)  
Bongolo – The first choice applicant did not respond and an alternative is being approached.  
Mbingo - Tresor Kibuka Mabanza - (DRC)  
Mbingo H&N – Chege Macharia (PAACS grad Kijabe 2015)  
Malamulo – 1 or 2  
Tenwek – Kimutai Sylvester Ronoh, Fridah Bosire, and Sinkeet Ranketi  
Tenwek Ortho – Juliet Thitai and Marvin Wekesa (possible 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Kijabe – Morgan Otido and David Jomo  
BethanyKids at Kijabe – 1  
Soddo – 1  
Harpur – 1  
Arusha – Fred Minja, Julius Paul

For the first time this year, a 100 multiple-choice-question basic science exam has been written and distributed to all the eastern programs for use in the admission process in hopes that it will give them some meaningful feedback on the academic abilities of the candidates.

- **PAACS Video Released** – The first PAACS video in several years was recently released and has been very well received. The 4:04 minute video can be seen at [http://paacs.net/about\\_paacs/paacs-media/paacs-video/](http://paacs.net/about_paacs/paacs-media/paacs-video/) and has been posted on our Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/paacs](http://www.Facebook.com/paacs)). As of October 31, it has been viewed by over 13K on Facebook.

The video was produced by Silent Images ([www.silentimages.org](http://www.silentimages.org)), “A nonprofit organization that provides charities with professional photography and video services that educate and inspire viewers to give, go, and pray.” A videographer recently accompanied Susan Koshy (Executive Director) and Rob Barto (CDO) on their trip to Mbingo. Silent Images is headquartered in Matthews, NC, near Charlotte.

If you would like to share it for a group, it can be downloaded in HD from <https://www.dropbox.com/s/w2jpaisu3onbksd/PAACS%20Video%20Oct%2015%20-%20HD.mp4?dl=0>

A second video designed to encourage recruitment of African physicians is in the process of editing and will be released in December.

- **Long-Term Faculty Needed for Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon** - We need surgeons who are willing to come long term to live and work at Mbingo. We must have long term, committed, on the ground faculty living in Cameroon to grow and sustain our program. We need surgeons who are willing to teach. We are here to train African surgeons to do the work. More than 90% of surgical cases at Mbingo are done by residents under supervision.

We need good mentors for the residents. We need people who are willing and desire to invest in the lives of the surgical residents. We also need committed and mature Christians as long-

term faculty. Long-term faculty must be believers. They must be able to transfer their Christian character and maturity to those they are teaching.

It is not easy to become a long-term missionary. We need people who have weighed the cost, and have a clear sense of call. We need people willing to serve God and His people and who want to make an impact for God's kingdom.

- **Mobilizing Medical Missions Conference** – The Mobilizing Medical Missions (M3) Conference will have its inaugural meeting in Houston, February 19th and 20th, 2016. The conference is designed to: 1) Bring together healthcare professionals who have a desire to be involved in medical missions; 2) Let them be inspired and challenged as they hear from men and women who are actively engaged in medical missions; and 3) Give practical ways that they can be involved.

They are inviting physicians, nurses, dentists, and those in residency training. They have lined up the following speakers (partial list):

Kent Brantly, MD—Elwa Mission Hospital in Liberia, Ebola survivor  
Dick Furman, MD—Co-founder, World Medical Mission  
Russ White—Tenwek Mission Hospital, Kenya  
Mary Hermiz RN, PhD—Career missionary nurse and educator  
Issam Ra'ad, MD—Founder, Health Outreach to the Middle East  
Carlan Wendler, MD—Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi  
Bob Goff—Founder, Restore International and author of “Love Does”  
Jenny Dyer, PhD—Executive Director, Hope through Healing Hands (Gates Foundation)  
Todd Price, MD—Founder, International Medical Outreach  
Mark Topazian, MD—Mayo Clinic, active in short-term missions  
Allan Sawyer, MD—Glendale Arizona, active in short-term missions  
Steve James, CRNA—Founder, Kenya Relief

The format of the conference will include plenary and breakout sessions. More information and discounted early-bird (before January 3) registration is possible at [www.m3missions.com](http://www.m3missions.com).

- **Global Humanitarian Surgery Course** - The Center for Global Health and Innovation at Stanford University School of Medicine (SUSM), CA, will host a one-and-a-half-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) course, February 27–28, on humanitarian surgery missions in developing countries. The fourth annual international humanitarian aid skills course will review common conditions encountered in resource-limited environment. Through a variety of techniques, including skill stations and simulation, the course will provide instruction on common procedures performed in resource-limited environments. The course also will offer the essential elements of surgical safety, ethics, and cultural considerations in such settings. Specific skill areas that will be taught include orthopedic dislocations and fracture management with traction pins and external fixation, cesarean sections, post-partum hemorrhage, burn management and hand cutting of skin grafts, burr holes, and hysterectomy. The course is open to both physicians and interested allied health professionals.

Register by January 24. Space is limited. SUSM designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Find more information about the course online, including discounted hotel information. [<http://cme.stanford.edu/humanitarian/>] For registration assistance, e-mail [stanfordcme@stanford.edu](mailto:stanfordcme@stanford.edu).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **PAACS at GMHC – Louisville:** PAACS will once again be displaying at the Global Missions Health Conference to be held November 5-7 at the Southeastern Christian Church in Louisville, KY. Over 2500 participants interested in medical missions are expected to attend. It is expected to be the biggest such convention to date.

Several of the break-out sessions will involve PAACS faculty members. PAACS will have a booth in the CMDA (Christian Medical & Dental Associations) area of the main exhibit hall. We hope you will stop by to say hello – and talk about how you can become more involved with the ministry that is PAACS’.

Please put on your calendar the PAACS meeting open to all who are interested. You will pick up your box supper and meet in “Room 21” SMC 303 in The Block Student Ministry Center on Friday evening at 5:15 PM. It is scheduled to last an hour. The new video and a brief presentation on PAACS will be given for those who don’t know much about our organization. There will be brief presentations from Todd Lavery and Andrew Chew, followed by an open forum question and answer period. Please come and invite your friends!

Next year, the GMHC will return to its usual second weekend of November time slot.

- **PAACS Commission Meeting to be Held in Chicago:** The November semi-annual PAACS Commission meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, IL on November 13 and 14.

The meeting starts on 11:15 on Friday morning and is scheduled to go through 1:30 PM on Saturday afternoon. In addition to the usual business of the Commission, restructuring of the organization and the elections of officers will be important matters before the commission. With the growth of sub-specialty training, restructuring to permit proper attention to each specialty is necessary.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for the good performance on the COSECSA exams. The MCS oral exam will be November 30 and the FCS oral exam will be December 1 in Blantyre, Malawi. Please pray mightily that the 27

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## GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR

We are recognizing in *The PAACS Bulletin* those gifts given to PAACS in honor of someone or in memoriam. If you would like to give such a gift, just state so in a note included with the check.

Gifts were given in the last eighteen months:

*In memory of Dr. Mark Lovett from Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Lovett*

*In memory of Dr. Alexander Gwan-Nulla from Drs. Daniel and Meesha Gwan-Nulla*

*In memory of Jean Vaughn from Chip Vaughn*

*In honor of Dr. John and Margaret Tarpley by David Hill and Janet Lynn Chestnut*

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. James Jewell by Joseph and Josephine Mowad*

*In honor of Dr. Ken Rutledge by Katherine Fox.*

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Steffes from R. Eddie Davis*

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people taking it will do their best and bring honor to the Lord, the programs and themselves as they take the exam.

- Pray that God will clearly direct in the selection of the remaining new residents. Pray for God to go before the newly accepted trainees, that they might be able to get released in a timely fashion and that they will be able to make all the plans they need to make. Pray for peace of mind for them and their families. Pray for their mental and emotional preparation for the training.
- Pray for peace and the cessation of civil unrest in Burundi. Several 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 and the new selection, Andrew John, will be released by the authorities, allowing them to leave Burundi and begin their training at SIM-Galmi and Bongolo Hospital.
- 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, Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia (both general surgery and orthopedics), and Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt.
- 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 who came to Mbingo Baptist Hospital in October. Pray for Dr. Debbie Eisenhut who is temporarily seconded to Mbingo Baptist Hospital through April, 2016 – that God will make this a permanent call.
- Pray for those on home assignment (Dave Thompson, 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 will be returning to Bongolo Hospital in Gabon soon. Pray for the soon return of Ryan Hayton and his family from their annual leave.
- Thank God for continued healing for Dave Thompson and for Russ White after their recent surgeries. Pray for a Program Director and his wife who was recently discovered to have chronic hepatitis.
- Pray for Dr. Casey Graybill (new Ob-Gyn to be introduced next month) as she adjusts to Malamulo SDA hospital in Malawi and for the continued maturation of that program. In particular, also remember the Hayton family in Malawi as they handle the stress of a recent diagnosis of type 1 diabetes mellitus in their young son, Benson. Pray for all of our faculty members as they wear many hats while juggling so many responsibilities. 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.

- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year. Pray for the ongoing negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Mbingo Baptist Hospital and the University of Yaoundé that will permit recognition of their program by the government.
- Today (October 31), COSECSA inspected BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital in response to their request for a third year of accreditation as a teaching center for Pediatric Surgery. Please pray that this will be fully approved.
- Pray for the need for orthopedic coverage at Tenwek from July through July 2016 while Dan Galat is on home assignment. Pray for the successful start of the new orthopedic FCS training at Tenwek.
- Pray for Harpur Hospital, its residents and its faculty members. Please pray for strength for Sherif as he carries on as the only PAACS surgeon until the Thompsons return in January. Pray that there will be no further issues with the governmental security agency.
- Pray for the new application for orthopedic training in Ethiopia, involving both Soddo Christian Hospital and the CURE hospital in Addis Ababa.
- Pray for the new application for the Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Togo to begin training in 2018. Pray for wisdom and the requisite development of the hospital and the surgical faculty.
- Pray for the Bataneni family and all the PAACS graduates who find themselves in need of help, prayer and financial support.
- Pray for Hubert Kakalo (Bongolo, 2005) who has requested prayer. He had moved to Kisangani to be the medical director of the general hospital at the request of the local people. He recently was replaced without warning (political and tribal reasons were behind it) and is seeking God's face for the future. In particular, there is a clinic for indigent patients that he would like to see succeed.
- Please pray for Dr. Daniel Gidabo (Soddo, 2013). When he graduated, he joined Government Hospital in Sheshamene but is now being transferred to Dodola District Hospital where no internist, gynecologist or pediatrician is available. It is around 350 Km southeast of Addis Ababa. He is taking home 7,000 EB after taxes (approximately \$350) each month. Pray for his service in this remote area, for his testimony and for the financial constraints under which he is laboring.
- Praise God that Dr. Jeff Lane, an anesthesiologist and part of the PAACS Advisory Council, has been officially approved as international Workers for The Christian and Missionary Alliance to Bongolo Hospital. Next steps include raising support, learning French, and other training. Please pray that God will guide and assist them at each step.
- Pray that God will begin to open the eyes, minds and hearts of the PAACS trainees – that they will see the fields white unto harvest and seek to serve Him as missionary surgeons.

- Praise for a volunteer who will help with conversion from our administrative databases to an internet-based database.
- Pray that God will provide the necessary finances for PAACS this year. Pray for wisdom regarding a large grant that may have to be returned because of the inability to fulfill certain criteria.
- Pray for the GMHC Conference in Louisville. Pray that God will speak to many who need to follow His call to join career missions and that some of those will be led to us at our booth to discuss their involvement with PAACS.
- Pray for the upcoming PAACS Commission meeting – that God would direct the deliberations, decisions and elections.
- Pray for the ongoing search for the new Chief Medical Officer. Pray for the selection of God's choice.
- Pray that God will mightily use the new videos and the 2015 Fall Prayer Guide to spread the news of PAACS and to convince the hearts of those who should be serving Him.

Editors:

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