

Dear Colleagues,

We celebrated Thanksgiving with gratitude for all that God is doing through PAACS. That includes all of you who support PAACS with your prayers and gifts. Thank you for being part of God's ministry.

When you receive this, many of our residents are in the middle of oral exams in Blantyre, Malawi. Please stop and pray for them!

This has been an extraordinarily eventful month. We had a great time meeting many of you in Louisville, Kentucky at the Global Missions Health Conference (put that on your calendar for next year), approved some very significant organizational changes which will increase the opportunities for your involvement and are finishing the month with several meetings in Malawi. In the meantime, excellent training of surgeons continues on unabated.

The end of the calendar year marks the time of year for your greatest generosity. After you have given to your church, please consider a gift to PAACS. The address for mailed gifts has changed. Please give on-line or send your check to "CMDA-PAACS", PO Box 7500; Bristol, TN 37621-7500.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #137

November, 2015



Dr. Andrew Chew addresses the 150 people at the Friends of PAACS Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky

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.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of PAACS:

At the PAACS semi-annual Commission Meeting this month, a great representation of people was present providing varying ideas and viewpoints. The hand of God was present and His grace, wisdom and presence were evident during the discussions and Commission decisions.

The meeting was highly successful and a lot of work was accomplished. We praise God for His continued hand upon this organization and give thanks for His leadership, guidance and Grace to PAACS.

We are particularly interested in diversifying PAACS with a focus on younger surgeons, female surgeons, African national surgeons and other specialties. If you know of someone qualified (Christian, interested in teaching and academics and with experience in surgery of the developing world) and who is interested in serving on one of the new Surgical Councils or on the existing Advisory Council, please contact the new Chair, Wayne Koch, at wkoch@jhmi.edu or 410-227-3839. You may also contact me at susan.koshy@paacs.net.

Blessing to all,

Susan A. Koshy, PAACS Executive Director

PAACS COMMISSION MEETING

By Susan Koshy

The PAACS Commission meeting was held November 13-14. Forty members of the Commission, Advisory Council, staff and guests attended the one and a half day meeting in Chicago, IL Two PAACS program directors and the President of the Board of Trustees and the Senior Vice President of the Christian Medical Dental Association (CMDA) came to the meeting.

Four PAACS Committees met prior to the Commission meeting. The Program, Curriculum, Spiritual and Advancement Committees met for two and half hours and had discussions on issues impacting the work of their committees, PAACS residents, faculty and programs in Africa.

The November Commission meeting agenda covered a number of topics impacting the administration of PAACS, residents and faculty, spiritual issues, policies, finance, fundraising and PAACS governance.

The Friday session of the Commission meeting began with devotions by Stan Key and a time of prayer. The PAACS Executive Director, Chief Medical Officer, Academic Dean and Spiritual Dean presented reports and updates on their work from the last several months.



The major issue of discussion during the Commission meeting pertained to the re-organization of the PAACS Commission. Dr. Doug Lundy, PAACS Governance Chair, led a two and a half hour discussion on changing the structure of the PAACS leadership. The Commission after a lengthy debate on the intricacies of the new structure approved a change in its structure and membership. The new structure is designed to increase the breadth of the Commission beyond medical doctors to include members from the marketplace, develop new specialty surgical councils, established term limits and include more people in the PAACS leadership in the future.

The new Commission will include the following positions:

- Four Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Two Members at Large
- One Member at Large for General Surgery
- Four Council members (General Surgery, Orthopedic, Pediatric and Head & Neck Surgery Council)
- Three non-medical personnel (These positions were not elected at this meeting)
- Loma Linda Representative

The Commission will be the governing body working on issues of organizational policy, governance, finance, fundraising, long-term planning and overseeing the work of its Specialty Councils, and Committees. Four new Specialty Surgical Councils have been created whose purpose is to work on the curricula and programs in each of their specialty areas. The four Councils are:

- General Surgery Council
- Orthopedic Council
- Pediatric Council
- Head & Neck Surgery Council

This new organizational change allows PAACS to be more inclusive and have more people involved with PAACS. This structure also creates opportunities that did not exist previously for people to become engaged and bring in new ideas, thoughts, knowledge and skills into the organization.

An election of new Officers and Commission members was also held on Friday. The new PAACS Officers are as follows:

Officers

Dr. Wayne Koch, Chair

Dr. Douglas Lundy, Vice Chair

Dr. Lelan Sillin, Secretary

Dr. Mark J. Snell, Treasurer

Commission

Dr. Bruce MacFadyen Jr., Member at Large – General Surgery

Dr. Louis Pisters, Member at Large

Dr. Thomas Robey, Member at Large

Council Chairs

Dr. Carl Haisch, General Surgical Council Chair

Dr. Dan Poenaru, Pediatric Surgical Council Chair

Dr. Douglas Lundy, Orthopedic Surgical Council Chair

Dr. Wayne Koch, Head & Neck Surgical Council Chair

The Saturday session addressed issues on PAACS programs, policies, finances and fundraising. The PAACS Treasurer presented the current PAACS finances and the 2014-2015 finances. He reported that the PAACS finances remain strong and PAACS continues to use its funds wisely. There was also discussion about various PAACS policies, a new strategic plan, the PAACS videos, and the search for a new Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the Commission discussed the need to help our PAACS

program directors and faculty deal with the very real issue of stress and burnout in the mission field. Finally, Dr. Gene Rudd, Senior Vice President from the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) presented a training to the Commission leadership on governance.

PEDIATRIC SURGERY BEGINS AT TENWEK HOSPITAL

Many years ago, a small group of surgeons prayed that God would provide more quality surgical care for the children of Kenya and beyond. The pediatric surgical training program with BethanyKids at Kijabe has grown and has graduated 6 pediatric surgeons with two full time faculty member. Now, across the Rift Valley and just a few hours away, Tenwek Hospital has its first full time pediatric surgeon, Dr. Michael Ganey. Also, a pediatric surgical fellow will soon be training in South Africa. They continue to pray that God will use them to provide quality



surgical care for the children and they hope that the training program at Kijabe and the pediatric surgical care can be strengthened at both hospitals by including Tenwek in its pediatric training program. Tenwek has been caring for children for many years with the skillful help of the general surgeons. The need for surgical care focused on children led Ganey to leave Tenwek in 2008 and return to North America to obtain a fellowship in pediatric surgery. Now, after many years, he has completed his training and is establishing a dedicated pediatric surgery service at Tenwek.

Tenwek currently has only one pediatrician. To care for these small and vulnerable patients, pediatricians, NICU/PICU intensivists, pediatric support staff and specialty equipment is required. Some equipment has been donated already and some will be needed in short order. In

particular, equipment for minimally

invasive surgery and pediatric urology is needed. Certainly disposable equipment is also needed including pediatric sized suture and silos for gastroschisis repair.

Ganey writes, "I'd love to see an excellent dedicated pediatric service with 24/7 coverage by pediatric surgeons. I'd love to be able to have general surgery residents take their pediatric



surgery rotations at Tenwek – such increased capacity is badly needed. Children’s surgery is rife with rare and complicated problems. Visiting pediatric specialists will be of great benefit to teach the Tenwek team, give time off and enhance the education of the residents.”

REPORT FROM ARUSHA LMC IN TANZANIA

By Wendy Willmore



ALMC faculty members who assisted with the resident application interviews (from left to right) – Dr. Samuel Mgelwa (faculty OBG), Dr. David Halter (faculty GS), Dr. Fred Minja (successful candidate), Dr. Mark Jacobson (hospital director ALMC), Dr. Julius Paul (successful candidate), Dr. Frank Madinda (program director), Dr. Jeff Kibira (faculty Ortho), Dr. Paul Kisanga (faculty GS, Director of Clinical Services ALMC), Dr. Wendy Willmore (program director), Christina Luginkira (matron, ALMC), Dr. Catherine Mun’gon’go (faculty PS), Dr. Happiness Rabel (Director of Clinical Services, SLH), missing: Rev. Gabriel Kimirei (chaplain), Judith Merinyo (admin assist and exam proctor)

Greetings from Arusha PAACS! It has been an interesting year. Like many, I suppose, there are ups and downs. This is our second year, functioning as a PAACS residency. Everyone is learning a lot. The residents have continued to discover how hard it is to be a resident: how hard they really have to study in order to pass the exams and keep up with all the demands of clinical work and research, how hard it is to continue to do it with a kind smile for our patients and the energy to advocate for them. We faculty and program directors have grown in our understanding of the demands and rewards of being good shepherds to our residents. We are learning, above all, that God is always faithful, and he will drag us through the furnace to remake us more into the image of Himself. We are learning to extend grace to one another during this process. We are enjoying the rewards of watching one another overcome.

We have experienced a number of blessings this year at Arusha PAACS. Our faculty has expanded by 3. This year marked the involvement of Dr. Samuel Mgelwa and Dr. Charles Sweke, our OB/Gyns at

ALMC. Dr. Mgelwa, in particular, has a great interest in education, and his contributions are felt by the program directors. Dr. David Halter joined us this fall. He has started working out at Selian Lutheran Hospital. This allowed us to run a trial rotation in General Surgery for 1 month in September for Dr. Lema. The rotation went well, and we have therefore planned for a full-time rotation there for 1 resident there next year. In January, Dr. Halter and Dr. Willmore will split two practices, allowing both to be half-time in both hospitals. We also hired an administrative assistant in May. Judith took some time off to bear her first child in June, but has now returned to work and is a great asset in keeping our many faculty and the residents organized. Our mentorship program just seemed to happen spontaneously as Dr. Kibira has volunteered unasked for the task of being a confidante to the residents.



Top Left: Several of us hiking.

Bottom left: PAACS resident Mugisha Nkoronko and his wife Vera sing a song she wrote about the blessings of Christian marriage together on Sunday morning during fellowship

Bottom right: Breakfast together at Oldonyosambu, from right: Wendy Willmore, Dave Halter and son Micah, Dr. Jackie Urio (Paul Kisanga's wife), Yamikani Limbe, Benson Lyimo, Sarah Halter, Alexis Kwamy, Frank Madinda Madinda, Happiness Rabel, her daughter, Gabriella; Paul Kisanga



October was a very busy month here in Arusha. In addition to the residency review committee meeting, we have also taken time out for our spiritual retreat and taken a day to admit new residents.

Our spiritual retreat was held again at Oldonyosambu. It was good to get away with some of our families and enjoy fellowship with one another. Alexis Kwamy (on staff at Younglife) was the speaker again (at the residents' request). His teaching focussed on the leper in Mark 1:40-44 (Jesus longs to touch all of us lepers) and the Good Shepherd in John 10:7-18 (What kind of shepherd are you?). We had time to share and pray together. He also lead us in some really great games emphasizing teamwork, communication and leadership. We played Bible Jeopardy for bragging rights. We talked endlessly of politics (the general election was October 25 here in Tanzania) and then watched Amazing Grace, discussing the ramifications for politics in our day, and our own lives now. We ate together, hiked to a local volcanic mine together, and laughed and laughed and laughed together. It was a gift to come apart and rest awhile.

Interview day was October 22. It was a tough day in some respects. We found out at the last minute (thanks to internet whiz kid Dr. Halter) that one of our candidates had plagiarized most of his application (including his testimony). It was our sad task to confront him and dismiss him from interviews with the admonition to change his ways. However, we were very pleased to accept two new residents, both of whom we know well from their internship days. Julius Paul and Fred Minja were appointed. We eagerly await their joining us in January. You will hear more from them at that time.

October 25 brought the general election to Tanzania. We are very grateful that our fervent prayers for a peaceful process were answered. The current hospital director at Selian Lutheran hospital ran for and won a seat in government. Also, on very short notice, the director of clinical services there, Dr. Happiness Rabel (who has been a huge friend to Arusha PAACS) obtained sponsorship to do a neurosurgery fellowship in Dar. We are happy for her and eager for her return. However, the diocese will therefore need to replace both of these leaders soon. Please pray that they will have the discernment to find others of integrity and vision to run the hospital, and that those chosen would become friends of PAACS.

We thank all of you for your prayers. We ask particularly that you pray for Dr. Lema and Dr. Limbe. They and a colleague from Bugando were the first Tanzanians to pass the written portion of the COSECSA MCS exam. Please pray that we have the wisdom to prepare them well for their orals, and that they have the presence of mind to perform well.

EVENTS IN MALAWI

The end of November has been very eventful for the PAACS program at the Malamulo SDA hospital in Makwasa, Malawi. Bruce Steffes, PAACS' Chief Medical Officer, visited for a week prior to the COSECSA (College of Surgery of East Central and Southern Africa) exams and Annual General Meeting, to inspect, encourage and advise the program.

The program in Malawi began in August of 2013 and as the picture below demonstrates, PAACS-Malawi is growing rapidly. Malawi has only 14 general surgeons in the entire country with a estimated population of 17 million. Even though there is not a trained orthopedic surgeon or a trained urologist at Malamulo, it is one of only a few places in the country which tackles fractured long bones and prostate surgery.



From Left to Right: Amiable Niyubahwe (1st year), Dustin D (visiting surgeon), Casey Graybill (Ob-Gyn), Bruce Steffes, D'Artagnan Debow (LLU 4th year resident), Greg Saunders (surgeon in Lilongwe), Ryan Hayton (PD), Elmoore Kamwendo (2nd year), Arega Fekadu (APD) and Surafel Mulatu (Soddo 3rd year resident).

This past summer the faculty was expanded by the addition of an ob-gyn surgeon, Dr. Casey Graybill, who has a five year commitment to the hospital. Dr. Greg Saunders, a general surgeon, comes down from Lilongwe upon occasion to lecture and to take call. All are Seventh Day Adventist missionaries. Recently, senior residents from the Ethiopian program have come to take a rotation and to fill in the



senior level resident leadership. Efeson Thomas recently returned to Ethiopia and was replaced by Surafel Mulatu. Both have added a great deal to the program.

Nearby Blantyre, the second biggest city in Malawi, is the site of the resident exams and general meeting of COSECSA. Nineteen PAACS residents will take the Membership of the College of Surgery (MCS exam) on Monday, November 30 and eight PAACS residents or graduates will take

the Fellowship exam (FCS) on Tuesday, December 1. At least twelve PAACS faculty members will be participating in the exam process.

Malawi itself is proud to have 8 Fellowship and 6 Membership candidates sitting for the exams. In a country with only 14 surgeons, this is a great step forward.

There will be a great number of other events going on during the week. Monday night will be the Surgical Association of Malawi meeting. Tuesday, the AO Alliance Foundation launch will occur and the COSECSA Council Dinner will be held. PAACS will also hold its dinner and celebration for the residents on that same evening. The African launch for the G4 Alliance (to which PAACS belongs) will be Wednesday night. Bruce Steffes, PAACS CMO, will also be attending the AGM of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges on Wednesday and the Permanent Council meeting of the G4 Alliance on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5. The scientific presentations will be Wednesday through Friday. Dr. Arega Fekadu will be presenting a paper on transcystic prostatectomy without post-operative irrigation during this time and the two junior residents from Malamulo will be in attendance as well as part of the hosting Malawian contingency.

PAACS-ETHIOPIA ATTENDS SSE MEETING

On November 26, 27, the Surgical Society of Ethiopia held its annual meeting at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa. The meeting was marked by very tight security.

Dejene Desalegn presented a paper entitled, “Dejene - Outcome after Craniotomy for Epidural and Subdural Hematoma in Southern Region of Ethiopia: A Single Center Experience.”

Ronald Tubasiime presented a paper entitled, “Pedestrian injuries in Road Traffic Accidents”.

Andrew Chew, the Program Director of PAACS-Ethiopia, presented, “The Impact of CT Scanner on Management of Traumatic Brain Injury – Experience of a Rural Hospital in Southern Ethiopia.”

Tewodros Tamiru, general surgeon faculty member at Soddo and PAACS graduate, made the biggest impact with a paper entitled, “Impact of the Short Term Visit by a Maxillofacial Surgeon on Knowledge and Skill Transfer in a Rural Hospital in Southern Ethiopia.” Some members of the audience did not believe that Dr. Tedi could have picked up such complex skills in such a short time (2 week visit by OMF surgeon). Dr. Tedi did point out that 3D CT and ongoing support (teleconsultations) from surgeon in the US was essential. The case presented was a bilateral LeFort type 3 fractures with tissue loss.

Dr. Segni Bekele and Dr. Frehun Ayele also attended the conference.

Several attendees accepted the offer to attend the PAACS-Ethiopia graduation ceremony to be held at Myungsung Christian Medical Center on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

INTRODUCING DYLAN NUGENT – TENWEK ORTHO

As I reflect on my first week as a consultant orthopaedic missionary at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet Kenya, I am reminded of the mental, emotional, and spiritual journey I and my family have been on for the last three years. Though I have felt a sense of calling to be a medical missionary since my early childhood, it was not until the middle of my residency that God really began to clearly direct where, when, and in what capacity I would serve.

As my wife Jessica and I began to think and pray about the future, we felt a deeper stirring in our hearts for missions. I had seen great needs in Haiti on a one-week medical trip, but I had also seen the great shortcomings of intermittent short-term trips, specifically, the lack of deep relationship building and the constant turnover leading to a lack of development of the national staff. We felt God was asking for more than just some of our time and energy, instead he wanted all of it. We began looking for opportunities and answers to satisfy the longings and questions of our hearts.



During this time, we learned of Tenwek Hospital and PAACS through the blog of a visionary orthopaedist (Daniel Galat, MD), who had committed to serving the Lord full-time at Tenwek while trying to begin a residency program for Kenyan and East African trainees through PAACS. Almost immediately, we felt a strong draw to Tenwek to join the ortho team in fulfilling our calling and Tenwek's vision of "Compassionate Healthcare, Spiritual Ministry, and Training for Service." I have always thought I would end up in an academic setting, so the idea of training and discipling residents surgically and spiritually seemed like the perfect fit. Our calling was confirmed after a one month visit to Tenwek in 2013 just before the first class of PAACS orthopaedic residents was selected.

Fast-forward two years: We arrived in Kenya last week as the first two residents are preparing to transition to the core orthopaedic curriculum after finishing their preliminary general surgery training, and we have just selected our third class of residents – including our first female trainee. The vision God has given to Dr. Galat, to me, and to our Kenyan partner Dr. Kiprono is alive and well, and we are thrilled about the progress He has orchestrated in the last couple years.

During my first week as a consultant, I have been extremely impressed by the quality of the PAACS general surgery and orthopaedic residents on our service. I have been humbled by their clinical knowledge and skills, and their willingness to help me learn the ropes in a new environment and defer to me as a consultant, despite my lack of experience. I can hardly wait to see what God does in us and through us as we grow together as a team and learn from each other, encourage each other, and minister to our patients. The fruit of our labors will be seen for years to come throughout Africa as our efforts are multiplied through the next generation of servant-leaders in health care being trained at Tenwek with the oversight of the PAACS leadership. In this season of thanksgiving, I am truly grateful God has called me and my family to be part of His work in Kenya.

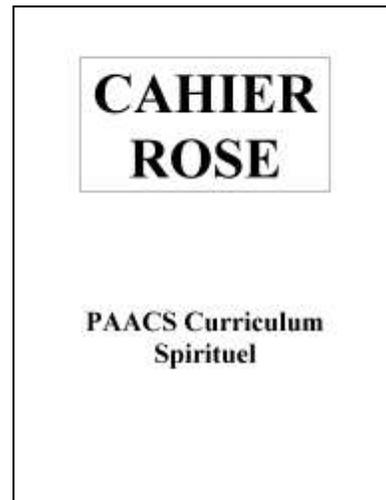
NEWS SHORTS:

- **New Spiritual Resource Available** – At the most recent Commissions meeting, Rev. Stan Key announced the availability of the "Pink Book". This is the third volume of the five planned

volumes. It is also available in French as the “Cahier Rose”. The last two volumes are expected to be made available before December 31, 2015.

This new volume has 213 pages in the English version and covers the following topics:

- Acts
 - Christ-like Character
 - Doctrine of Man, Sin, and Salvation
 - Mending Broken Lives (Part I)
 - Stewardship
- **Resident Selection Underway** – This year, there was an active attempt to increase the numbers of applicants and this was successful. Approximately 65 applicants 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).



Fifteen were selected. That would bring the total in January to 70 residents. A list of those accepted thus far includes:

- a. Galmi - Andrew John (Burundi)
- b. Bongolo – Elysé Nkuzimana (Burundi)
- c. Mbingo - Tresor Kibuka Mabanza (DRC)
- d. Mbingo H&N – Chege Macharia (PAACS grad Kijabe 2015)
- e. Malamulo - Lijalem Taye Garba (Ethiopia)
- f. Tenwek – Kimutai Sylvester Ronoh, Fridah Bosire, and Sinkeet Ranketi (all Kenyans)
- g. Tenwek Ortho – Tenwek Ortho – Juliet Thitai and Marvin Wekesa (Kenyans)
- h. Kijabe – Morgan Otido and David Jomo (Kenyans)
- i. Soddo – None will be taken this year
- j. Harpur – Michael Montaz
- k. Arusha – Fred Minja, Julius Paul

For the first time ever, this year a 100 MCQ basic science exam was written and distributed to all the eastern programs for use in the admission process to give them some meaningful feedback on the academic abilities of the candidates.

- **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 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, KenyaRelief

The format of the conference will include plenary and breakout sessions. PAACS will be a sponsor of this conference. More information and discounted early-bird (before January 3) registration is possible at 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*[™]. Find more information about the course online, including discounted hotel information. [<http://cme.stanford.edu/humanitarian/>] For registration assistance, e-mail stanfordcme@stanford.edu.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray to God for the good performance on the COSECSA oral exams. The residents are presently in the middle of them but no results are yet available. The MCS oral exam was held today (November 30) and the FCS oral exam will be December 1 in Blantyre, Malawi. Please pray mightily that our residents and graduates taking it will do their best and bring honor to the Lord, the programs and themselves as they take the exam.

- Praise God that we have selected residents for this coming year and that we will now have 70 residents in January. Pray for God to go before them, that they might be able to get released from their employment 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 the two new selections, Andrew John and Emile Nkurunziza, will be released by the authorities and will be able to leave Burundi and begin their training at SIM-Galmi and Bongolo Hospital.
- 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.
- 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 Dr. Keir Thelander and Dr. Debbie Eisenhut as they write their board recertification exams in early December.
- Pray for Dr. Casey Graybill 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 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.
- Pray for the need for orthopedic coverage at Tenwek 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 Dr. Nugent and his family as they adapt to 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 late 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. They have submitted the application to HERQA (the Ministry of Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance). They must find someplace to train their residents for the first two years (Soddo presently cannot do so due to

the lack of faculty) and/or find people who have believers who have already passed their MCS level exams.

- Pray for the potential new program at 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.
- Please pray for Dr. Daniel Gidabo (Soddo, 2013). When he graduated, he joined Government Hospital in Shashamane 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.
- 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.
- Pray that God will provide the necessary finances for PAACS this year. December is the biggest month for giving and can be the “make it or break it” month. Praise God that PAACS received the large grant of \$75K for the training of residents.
- Praise God for the good GMHC Conference in Louisville. We pray that God will continue to call the hearts of those who came to hear about PAACS and that they will become vital parts of this ministry if that is God’s will.
- Praise God for PAACS Commission meeting. Implementation will be challenging and PAACS still needs people to step up and join the various Surgical Councils and the Advisory Council. Pray that He will provide those people.
- Pray for the ongoing search for the new Chief Medical Officer. Pray for the selection of God’s choice. The application process closes December 1 and the first interview will occur this month.

Editors:

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