

Dear Friends of PAACS:

*Kenney Isaacs, a Vice-President at Samaritan's Purse, says, "The quality of our work is the platform for our witness." That is how PAACS approaches it as well. We are a unique program with nothing similar in the wide world. With God's guidance, we pray that our stumbles will be few and that we will stay focused on Him.*

*Dave Thompson founded PAACS – and next month, he reaches the end of his missionary career. Read what he has to tell us and consider writing to tell him what Becki's and his ministry has meant to you.*

*We recognize the fact that with the litany of disasters this year, one after another, it is easy to grow fatigued in giving. However, PAACS is facing a lean year and yet God seems to be opening opportunity after opportunity in country after country. Please consider a significant gift as you plan your year-end giving. You will be investing for eternity – and making a real difference now.*

*The Editor*



# PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

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

**No. 161  
November, 2017**

**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.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear PAACS Family:

November has been another busy month for PAACS. Our team exhibited at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY, November 9-11<sup>th</sup>. During the Friends of PAACS meeting, Dr. Sherif Hanna, the PAACS Assistant Program Director from Harpur Hospital in Egypt, provided very interesting insight into both PAACS and his experience with this ministry. The exhibit and event provided an opportunity to highlight the work of PAACS and meet people interested in the mission and vision of our organization. Throughout the conference, it was incredible to see many young people excited about serving the Lord on the mission field through global surgical education and discipleship. We hope many of them will become engaged with PAACS in the near future.

In addition, PAACS held its Fall Commission meeting, November 17-18<sup>th</sup>. We had 68 people attend this one and half day meeting of the PAACS Commission, Councils and Committees. There was great diversity in the meeting with seasoned PAACS leaders, program faculty from Africa, several female surgeons and emerging young surgical leaders. This allowed for new thoughts, innovative ideas, greater wisdom, and even differing opinions and suggestions. There was also great enthusiasm from the leadership about the growth and future direction of the PAACS organization.

Finally, it is almost the end of 2017. Thank you for your support and prayers for PAACS this past year. Please prayerfully consider giving to PAACS before December 31<sup>st</sup>. We have the largest budget to date and we need your support to ensure that we are able to fully train the 84 surgeons that will be part of our training programs by January 2018. May God bless you for your sacrificial giving on behalf of His kingdom. Please donate at <https://www.paacs.net/donate/> or send a check to:

CMDA-PAACS  
PO BOX 1118  
Bristol, TN 37621

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH,

Executive Director

## PAACS COMMISSION MEETING

By Susan Koshy, Bruce Steffes

PAACS held its 2017 November Commission meeting November 17-18 in Des Plaines, IL. Sixty-eight members of the Commission, Advisory Council, Surgical Councils, staff and guests attended the one and half day meeting. It was a full meeting with many new faces around the table. It is exciting to see so many people interested in the PAACS ministry.



Sixty-eight people attended the PAACS Commission and PAACS Council meetings near O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. It was the largest meeting to date.



Dr. Wayne Koch, Chairman of the Commission, leads his last meeting in that role.

The four Specialty Councils (orthopedic, head and neck, pediatric and general surgery) met on Friday, November 17th and spent two hours discussing issues impacting each of their surgical specialties. They also elected new Chairs for each of these Specialty Councils. These new Chairs will serve a two-year term. Dr. Carl Haisch (General Surgery) Dr. Michael Skinner (Pediatric Surgery) Dr. Wayne Koch (Head and Neck Surgery) and Dr. Doug Lundy (Orthopedic Surgery) were elected as the Chairs. In addition,



Orthopedic Council hard at work Friday morning.

four PAACS Committees met prior to the Commission meeting. The Program, Curriculum, Spiritual Development, and Advancement Committees met on Friday to discuss the work in each of their areas.

The Friday session of the Commission meeting began with a devotion and prayer. Rev. Stan Key, PAACS Spiritual Dean, delivered his last devotion to the Commission in the role of Spiritual Dean. He is stepping down from this position. This was a time of committing the meeting into God's hands and asking for His wisdom and preparing the hearts of the leadership to listen and seek God's guidance in all of their decisions.

The PAACS Executive Director, Chief Medical Officer, and Academic Dean presented reports and updates on their work for the last several months. On Friday afternoon, following these reports, the Rev. Doctor Stan Haegert gave an excellent presentation on the topic of burn-out recognition and prevention, entitled "Open a Space and Pour in Grace: How You Can be a Source of Renewal for Missionary Physicians." A previous missionary to The Gambia, he is now serving as a resource to those with burn-out. The ministry run by Dr. and Mrs. Haegert is entitled "Serving with Joy" ([www.servingwithjoy.org](http://www.servingwithjoy.org)). This presentation is in line with the Well-Being Index initiative offered by PAACS to all of its residents and faculty members.



Dr. Tom Robey thanks Dr. Wayne Koch for his years of service to the Commission.

Election of new officers for PAACS was held Friday night. Dr. Doug Lundy was elected Chair, Dr. Tom Robey Vice-Chair, Dr. Rebecca Kim (Secretary) and Dr. Louis Pisters and Dr. Rebekah Naylor were elected Members-at-Large. Dr. Dan Gwan-Nulla will continue in his role as Treasurer. During the Friday night supper, a plaque and travel book were given to Dr. Wayne Koch in appreciation of his service for two years as Chairman of the Commission.

The Friday session of the Commission meeting ended with each of the Specialty Council Chairs presenting their reports and outlining the discussion during their council meetings earlier in the day. A time of fellowship followed the Friday session of the PAACS Commission meeting.

The Saturday session commenced early with more committee meetings (Faculty Development, Alumni Liaison and Research) The Commission meeting began with a spiritual presentation by the new PAACS Spiritual Representative, Dr. John Chae. This moving presentation prepared our hearts with Christ for

the remaining portion of the meeting. This was followed by a discussion on PAACS finances and gratitude for God's provision to PAACS this past year.



Rev. Ed Searce

The Spiritual Dean Workgroup then presented their candidate for the PAACS Spiritual Dean—Rev Ed Searce. The Commission and Council members had an opportunity to ask questions and get to know this candidate further. They later voted Rev. Ed Searce as their choice for PAACS Spiritual Dean. He has accepted and will replace Rev. Stan Key, who can no longer serve as desired due to family health issues. Searce recently stepped down from 29 years as the senior pastor of Grace Church in Normal, Illinois. He is a graduate of Liberty University and received his Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1988. Prior to that time, he had a career in the business world. He is also an adjunct professor at Tyndale Theological Seminary in the Netherlands and has an extensive history of involvement in churches outside of the United States, including those in the Netherlands, Romania, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya and India. He is happily married, has four children (one daughter and three sons) and seven grandchildren. His position with PAACS is a salaried part-time position and will require frequent travel to the African continent.

The Saturday session also included presentations by four PAACS faculty about their PAACS programs in Africa (Mbingo, Tenwek, Bongolo and Galmi). This was a great opportunity for everyone to learn about what was happening in each of these programs and their impact on the continent. Other issues discussed during the Saturday Commission meeting included the Loma Linda report and the reports of each of its PAACS committees.

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.

## FOR ALL OUR HARD WORK UNDER THE SUN

By Dave Thompson

*[Editor's Note: Dave Thompson and his wife Becki are "retiring" next month, but we have no delusions that this will stop their ministry – only redirect it. Next month, we will cover the celebration at Harpur Memorial Hospital. But as they draw a long career to a close, we asked Dave to reflect upon what lessons God has taught them and to give this "Farewell to Arms" to us. This is longer than our usual story, but it needs to be read in its entirety. PAACS is grateful to them for their faithfulness to a God-given vision that birthed PAACS and for their years of service to the King. Thank you, Dave and Becki!]*

Reflecting about my life is something I'm doing more as I grow older. That seems to have been true for King Solomon as well, who after years of exhaustive searching, study, and experimentation in things both good and evil concluded, "Everything is meaningless, completely meaningless. What do people get for all their hard work under the sun?" (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3).

Solomon seemed surprised that wisdom, knowledge, achievement, a beautiful young wife every month, and stupendous wealth did not bring him happiness. In the end he asked, *“What do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest.”* That almost sounds like a surgical residency or serving as a program director at an understaffed PAACS training program, doesn’t it? But all joking aside, if you have lived in Africa or worked at a PAACS hospital, you have seen hundreds if not thousands of people plodding through life as King Solomon described 3,000 years ago.

Fortunately, we don’t have to share King Solomon’s bitter conclusions about life because since his time, God has revealed to us secrets of the Kingdom that were hidden from Solomon. He was right that life on this earth *can* be completely meaningless and that people *can* choose to work hard all their lives and at the end, find it was for nothing. But those who have put their faith and trust Jesus have the privilege of knowing God and understanding—though never completely—more about what God is doing in their lives than Solomon ever knew. That certainly has been true for me over the past 69 years.

It may surprise some who read this that I started my surgical career badly. At the end of my second year of residency, my university-affiliated training program in San Diego was inspected by the American Board of Surgery and was deemed unworthy. To continue, I would have to find a PGY3 (Post-Graduate Year 3) position somewhere else. After a month of searching, I gave up. In retrospect, my efforts were feeble and prayerless. I knew that God had called me to medical missions, but because I was in a hurry to start, my focus was on getting to the field and serving – not on adequately preparing myself for what might lay ahead. At precisely the time my residency program was ending, a door opened to serve at a new mission hospital in Cambodia, the land I had grown up in as the son of missionaries. That seemed too providential to be the wrong choice, so my wife Becki and I accepted a call to go. In our excitement, however, we failed to talk to the most important person in the universe about the plan! That small detail turned out to be supremely important. When the Khmer Rouge brutally conquered Cambodia and closed the hospital we were to serve in, our plans unraveled. Months of confusion followed as God closed door after door in Asia, until he had our undivided attention. In the end, the place he directed us to serve in was remote, uninspiring, and hidden deep in the southern rainforests of Gabon.

Two languages, a six-month course in tropical medicine, and six years later, I realized I had been foolish to suspend my search for a PGY3 position and prematurely move to Africa. There were no trained surgeons in south Gabon – just amateurs like me – and when critically ill patients were delivered to our little hospital in the back of pickup trucks, I could not save them. Those days are still painful to remember, let alone write about. As our first term of nearly six years ended, we began to pray for a miracle.

In May, 1981, every program director in the U.S. that I called about resuming my general surgery residency told me I would have to start over. It would take too many pages to tell the story of that miracle, so I will summarize by admitting that only because of God’s grace and providence did I stumble into a PGY3 position at an Adventist hospital in Los Angeles that providentially opened just one week before the start of the academic year. Over the next three years, I took call every other night and weekend. My wife and three small children suffered with me. With God’s help, I did well and finished my residency. The next year, I served at Loma Linda University as a surgical instructor at the VA Hospital. In mid-1981, Becki and I returned to Gabon with our three children to resume our work. I was the only doctor, but over the next 10 months, I left our nurses in charge and made two trips to the U.S. to take my written and oral board exams. Three days before my oral exam in Seattle, I came down with malaria and could hardly stand. God restored my health in time for me to take the exam and pass.

The additional surgical training I had received made a world of difference and helped our small hospital grow into a regional surgical center. Other missionary doctors joined our team, and by 1994, I was seeing so many surgical emergencies that I had to train one of my OR nurses to operate on strangulated hernias, ectopic pregnancies, and C-sections. That helped me get a few more nights of sleep, but I was still working 120-hour weeks and neglecting my family. The endlessly increasing demands of those years led me to pray some of the most desperate prayers I have ever prayed, begging God for help and wondering how long I could continue. God's silence was bewildering and made me wonder if He was even listening.

Then one morning as I prayed before sunrise, God spoke three words to my unwilling heart: "*You train them.*" My first reaction was that I was hearing my imagination. But as I refocused and continued to pray, the same three words came again, this time more strongly. I was shocked! The Lord really and truly had the wrong man and needed someone qualified for such an ambitious project. When I said that to the Lord, He reminded me of the many miracles of grace He had done in my life and said again, "*You train them!*" After weeks of hoping God would relent, I surrendered. Later, I read almost the same three words Jesus spoke to his disciples as they confronted a hungry crowd of 5,000 men--not to mention their wives and children-- in a remote place near the Sea of Galilee. The disciples said to Jesus, "Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "*You feed them!*" Their reaction was similar to mine. They answered, "But we only have five loaves of bread and two fish!" What was reassuring to me was that Jesus then proceeded to turn the few loaves and fishes a young lad volunteered into enough food to feed an army, with 12 baskets of food left over.

I write all this to emphasize to anyone reading this story that the idea to start training surgeons at Bongolo Hospital was entirely God's. He orchestrated it from the very beginning. Not long after, I met other like-minded surgeons at a CMDA-CMDE conference in Kenya who embraced the concept of establishing residency programs at Christian hospitals that were staffed by board certified surgeons. The year was 1996, and together we founded the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)<sup>1</sup>. From that moment on, God began to create something so wonderful that it never ceases to astonish me. Two years after I started training residents at Bongolo (and much to the joy of my family), I got my life back. As our success in training and discipling young African surgeons spread out from our hospitals in widening circles, the lives of more and more sick and suffering people were profoundly affected by the love of Jesus. I realized that God was not satisfied to extend His love to the few, but for the entire, vast continent of Africa. My love for the lost, the sick, and the poor was important, but was too small for His great heart.

Our success in training surgeons under the PAACS banner encouraged others to take up the challenge. As PAACS moved into a second decade, the miracle grew. More and more gifted and able surgeons and educators joined our ranks, served and gave sacrificially, and shared the vision with their friends and colleagues. God was blessing thousands of people through our residents, our short term faculty, and our long term faculty surgeons. Every year that they persevered God added to the number of skilled and committed young men and women from countries like Angola, Madagascar, the DRC, Guinea, and Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Sudan, and Egypt.

It was God's plan to expand our vision. He was not satisfied that we were coming from America, Canada and other developed countries to do good work in a few select hospitals. He wanted to bring together

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<sup>1</sup> Originally named Pan-African College of Christian Surgeons – PACCS but the name was changed to PAACS in 2004 upon objections from the African Colleges of Surgery.

hundreds of gifted surgeons serving short-term and long term, church and mission leaders, and residents from 20 countries in Africa and create an *academy* of surgery that included Christian discipleship. Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” planted the seed of PAACS and grew it into the great tree that it has become. Our baby steps of faith may have watered it with buckets of love and faith, but God has watered it with thunderstorms! I’m convinced that His dream is to grow PAACS into a tree large enough to provide shade and blessing to most, if not all, of the nations of Africa.

Becki and I are now finishing up our years of missionary service. It has been an endlessly surprising journey: sometimes painful, always faith-growing, and after each mountain and valley, joyfully affirming. Many have asked us, “What will you do now?” We can only answer what we have learned the hard and the good way, “We will do whatever Jesus tells us to do!” knowing that until He takes us home He has work for us. Loving Jesus more than life has made our days under the sun hugely meaningful.

One whose life deeply affected me was Oswald Chambers. In 1914 said to his seminary students, *“The ideal missionary of tomorrow will be one who has upon him the inescapable call of God; one who is characterized by a deep humility, in whose heart there lacks no sense of superiority, who cherishes a boundless compassion for the lost and unloved, who has an insatiable hunger for likeness to Christ, whose soul is kindled at the altar fire of Calvary, who is prepared to pay the highest cost of discipleship, whose ardent desire is to possess and display the mind of Christ who humbled himself to become a servant.”* Oswald Chamber’s life showed that if you have the courage to live by these words you will have an unforgettable impact on the world.



Oswald was the principal of a Bible Training College in London when World War I broke out. Between 1911 and 1914, the school he founded trained 106 students, 45 of whom became missionaries. During the second year of the war, Oswald suspended the school and accepted an assignment as a YMCA army chaplain in Cairo, Egypt. His superiors thought the British soldiers based in Cairo needed concerts and movies to divert them from brothels and improve morale. When Oswald proposed that Bible classes would be more effective, they laughed. Trusting God’s leading, he began teaching a small group of soldiers. Within months, the classes grew to hundreds of soldiers, packing out the YMCA hall. His wife Mary, a stenographer who could transcribe 250 words a minute, recorded every message. Many of the soldiers who sat under his teaching gave their lives to Christ, before dying on the battlefields of Egypt. On October 17, Oswald developed appendicitis. He refused to go to the hospital for immediate surgery, arguing that the soldiers wounded in the third Battle of Gaza should be cared for first. Twelve days later, an army surgeon performed an appendectomy on



him, but his appendix had long since ruptured. He died on November 15, survived by his wife and young daughter. The British army buried him in the Cairo War Cemetery with full military honors. Oswald was just 43 years old. Recently, we visited Oswald's humble grave in Cairo's war cemetery. His tombstone—one of perhaps a thousand in the cemetery – lists his name, date of death, and the simple words, “A believer in Jesus.”

In Matthew 10:34-39, Jesus said to His disciples, “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than you love me you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”

Oswald Chambers gave up a life of privilege, comfort, and safety to serve Jesus. In answer to King Solomon's plaintive question, “What do we get for our hard work under the sun?” my answer is that Oswald Chambers found his life. After his death, the messages that his wife transcribed were made into books, some of which have been read not by millions, but by tens of millions. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, and the book of his messages entitled “My Utmost for His Highest” has been translated into 39 languages. It continues to be a bestseller around the world.

Becki and I have served the Kingdom of Heaven in Africa for the past 42 years, and what have we gotten for it? More joy that we can describe, lives filled with God-enabled achievements, and Jesus! And that's just the beginning of what God has in store for us!

[Editor: If you wish to thank, encourage or bless them, you may reach Dave and Becki by writing to [justthebeginning@hushmail.com](mailto:justthebeginning@hushmail.com) ]

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **Mbingo Program approved by Cameroon Government:** On November 13, Jim Brown, PAACS-Mbingo Program director wrote to share the good news that they had received authorization from the Ministry of Higher Education of Cameroon for the Baptist Institute of Higher Education to operate the residency training programs. Jim Brown wrote, “This is a major advance for the training programs at Mbingo and opens the way for many other developments which will follow soon. We thank God for His provision of this document. This is the final fruit of nine years, and countless trips to Yaoundé. It will mean a lot to our residents.”

The Minister of Higher Education, Prof. Jacques Fame Ndongo, wrote: “Given the significant progress made to align your institution with the quality standards inherent in medical training, and considering the documents included in your file, I hereby wish to inform you that the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences is now authorized to provide specialized medical trainings in the fields of surgery and internal medicine, in strict



compliance with the provisions of the agreement signed between the Cameroon Baptist Convention and the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaoundé.”

- **Family Practice Group has Inaugural Meeting:** An inaugural meeting of the newly established Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP) was held in Louisville, Kentucky on November 9-11. The group will develop medical and spiritual curricula and to create partnerships that support the creation of new Christian primary care training programs for the continent of Africa.

Loma Linda University, a partner with PAACS, has also joined CAAP as an institutional partner. CAAP’s commission members are composed of representatives from:

- Loma Linda University Health
- Mayo Clinic
- University of Minnesota
- Africa Inland Mission
- Bingham University Teaching Hospital (Nigeria)
- Kabarak University (Kenya)
- Mbingo Baptist Hospital (Cameroon)
- Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA)
- Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

Keir Thelander, PAACS Chief Medical Officer, is the representative to the group. Bruce Steffes, Thelander’s predecessor has been involved in discussions about this topic for years. He observed, “I hope this program will be a success. I think that our programs would be strengthened by having a family practice program at the same institution and PAACS would strengthen theirs.”

“CAAP is a strategic response to the need for quality Christian primary care clinicians, medical educators, and medical system leaders in Africa,” said Kevin Shannon, MD, MPH, CAAP commission chair and associate program director for Loma Linda’s family and preventive medicine residency.

CAAP plans to begin these programs by the end of 2019 and will support different training programs to include an 18-month diploma in general practice, full primary care residency training, and a Master’s in Public Health through Loma Linda University.

The CAAP partnerships will be similar to the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS), which supports five-year surgical residencies at nine Christian hospitals across Africa. CAAP plans to begin these programs by the end of 2019 and will support different training programs to include an 18-month diploma in general practice, full primary care residency training, and a Master’s in Public Health through Loma Linda University.

Adventist Review reported that training programs will be offered at several well-established mission hospitals in Africa under the direction of experienced, board-certified missionary physicians. Preliminary sites include Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, Bingham University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria, Kabarak University Hospital in Kenya, and Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi.

- PAACS at GHMC:** PAACS exhibited at the Global Health Missions Conference ([www.medicalmissions.com](http://www.medicalmissions.com)) for the twelfth consecutive year. Over 3,000 attendees and over 200 exhibitors were there. Many students and residents expressed interest in PAACS. A yearly tradition, the Friends of PAACS get-together was held with 75 in attendance. Dr. Sherif Hanna from Harpur shared his experience with the crowd.



Clockwise from top left: 1. PAACS team at booth (from L to R) Terry McLamb, Susan Koshy, Abbie Loos, Keir and Joanna Thelander 2. Keir Thelander talking to interested resident 3. Sherif Hanna at Friends of PAACS dinner 4. Bird's eye view of the atrium during a break.



This conference is the highest yield conference for PAACS – a large percentage of our younger PAACS surgical missionaries attended this conference in the past and cite it as one way that God spoke to their heart about a career in medical missions. Mark your calendar for next year's

conference – November 8 – 10, 2018 – and take advantage of the early bird registration at a discounted price.

- **PAACS Surgeons to Help Revise Primary Surgery:** To many physicians and surgeons in the resource-limited world, the works of Maurice King have been life-saving. Dr. Maurice King is a British Christian whose name is not well-known outside of certain circles. A few decades ago, despite his training as a pathologist, he, Peter Bewes and a group of others created three texts designed to help interns do surgery and give anaesthesia when there was no other viable alternative. In June 2016, Michael Cotton announced the publication of a revision of Volume 1 of this classic text. This revision of Volume One of Maurice King's "Primary Surgery: Non-Trauma" has been downloaded almost a million times already, arguably making it the most influential surgical textbook in the world.

A group of global surgeons recently held an organizational meeting in Berlin and announced plans for the revision of Volume Two. Four surgeons related with PAACS have been invited to participate. Bruce Steffes, past Executive Director and past Chief Medical Officer of PAACS, is the author or co-author on the chapters "Severely Injured Patient", "Breathing", "Circulation" and "Disability". Peter Nthumba, Erik Hansen and Peter Bird from Kijabe Hospital are also participating. Nthumba has primary or shared authorship on the "Wounds", "Tendon Injury", and "Nerve Injury" chapters and Hansen is the co-author on "Vascular Injury" chapter. Peter Bird is co-authoring two of the sections in the introductory chapter.

- **Report from Uganda:** An e-mail newsletter from BethanyKids received the end of October had this report from Martin Situma, a PAACS-trained pediatric surgeon who is working at a secular government teaching hospital in Mbarara, Uganda.

*"The paediatric surgery ward is privileged to regularly have a Christian fellowship on the ward, though this is a fully public hospital. This fellowship is led by Judith, who is a fully trained nurse... During fellowship, God guided us to select Galatians 5:22-23: "The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law."*

*I believe as long as we continue to bear the fruit of the Spirit, God will continue to grant us favour with the authorities. In addition to leading fellowship, Judith is also available to minister to hurting mothers and children on the ward and also goes for monthly outreaches to the communities where our patients come from. Her desire is to teach some of the parents - especially mothers - some income-generating projects in addition to discipleship and preaching the word."*

Judith receives a regular allowance for her own support and that of this ministry, with funds from BethanyKids' partners.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Remedy Medical Missions Conference:** The new Remedy Medical Missions Conference will be held at the First Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida, March 23 – 24, 2018. This conference is an effort headed by the Christian Medical and Dental Association. The wildly popular GHMC conference in November draws only from a limited geographic area and this conference is an attempt to reach another part of the country. PAACS Commissioner Rebekah Naylor will be one of the plenary speakers. Student and missionary housing will be arranged with area Christians. An extensive breakout program will host top-notch speakers. To register and to find out more, go to [www.cmda.org/remedy](http://www.cmda.org/remedy).

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray for those PAACS Residents taking the oral COSECSA Membership and Fellowship exams December 4 and 5 in Mozambique. Pray that their hard work and knowledge will be reflected in their performance.
- Thank God for the productive Commission meeting in Chicago. Pray for the various councils and standing councils as they implement new initiatives. Pray for the new officers as they take over these positions. Pray for the new Spiritual Dean as he explores his new role. Pray that God will give him insight, discernment and a humble heart as he learns the world of PAACS.
- At time when PAACS is well behind in giving toward the budget, pray that God will give us all wisdom to discern where we can cut expenses without devitalizing anything crucial and also pray that God will speak to the hearts of His people as they consider their year-end giving.
- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties. The manpower situations in Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, and Niger are particularly of concern and some situations (Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger) are critical.
- Pray that the Spirit will work in the hearts and minds of those who stopped by the PAACS booth or attended the Friends of PAACS gathering – that if He is calling them to serve, that they will not stoop to anything lower.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment (Robert & Andrea Parker, Russ White, and Mike Ganey in the US) – for their rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work. Pray for those programs which have faculty members absent – that God will give them strength and rest to continue.
- Pray for the Thompsons as they enter a new phase in their life in 2018.
- Pray for Dr. Hanna as he assumes the reins of the PAACS-Harpur program. Pray for a smooth transition.
- We praise God that the 5 month-long Kenyan nursing strike was resolved in early November leading to enhanced access to medical care for the populace and relief from the overflow of patients at the private and mission hospitals.

- Praise God for the recognition of the PAACS-Mbingo program in Cameroon. Pray still that SIM-Galmi, Bongolo Hospital and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs. Pray for God's blessing and the favor of men in this.
- Pray for God's hand and leading regarding the potential new programs in Togo and Burundi – for wisdom, finances, manpower and governmental approval.

Editor: Bruce C. Steffes, MD, MBA, MA, FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA), FICS