

Dear Colleagues,

Ebola continues to dominate the news and destabilize the continent of Africa. Now it directly affects five of our PAACS graduates and may well affect the upcoming conferences that PAACS members need to attend. Please pray for God's hand upon this entire epidemic.

We take the discipling part of training physicians seriously. Stan Key and his wife Katy recently made a trip to Cameroon and Gabon. Their impact was great and the results continue to reverberate. Enjoy their report.

Our PAACS residents have set a record passage rate for themselves on the COSECSA exam and now are studying fervently for the oral exams in December.

We hope you enjoy reading about the work that continues behind the scenes for PAACS. Life goes on even when the events are not "headline news." Your prayers and financial support are badly needed to accomplish what God has given us (you and the PAACS team) to accomplish. Thanks for partnering with us – God is blessing your investment.

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #124

October 2014



Bongolo Residents Worshipping

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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SPIRITUAL DEAN VISITS CAMEROON & GABON

The PAACS Spiritual Dean, Rev. Stan Key, traveled with his wife, Katy, September 19 to October 6 to visit and minister at the programs at Mbingo Baptist Hospital near Bamenda, Cameroon, and to Bongolo Hospital near Lebamba, Gabon. It was their first visit to these two programs.



Stan Key, PAACS Spiritual Dean, talks with Tony Mwenyemali



Mbingo residents listen to Key during Bible study

Key is the editor of the two completed volumes of the PAACS Spiritual Curriculum but he prepared a new Bible study series for the residents in both Mbingo and Bongolo. The schedule permitted a one day retreat in Cameroon (for both PAACS residents and the CIMS internal medicine residents) and a three-day retreat in Gabon. It was prepared in English and most of it translated into French. The English edition was as follows:

Faith Works: The Commands of Jesus

Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46).

- 1) Follow me (Mark 1:14-20).
- 2) Be perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- 3) Tear it out and throw it away (Matthew 5:27-30).
- 4) Deny yourself (Luke 9:23-24).
- 5) Change the world (Matthew 4:19; 9:35-38; 28:19-20).

- 6) Don't be anxious (Matthew 6:25-34).*
- 7) Forgive (Matthew 18:21-35).*
- 8) Serve one another (Mark 10:35-45).*
- 9) Take and eat (Matthew 26:26-29).*
- 10) Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23).
- 11) Watch out! (Matthew 7:15-29).
- 12) Sell all (Luke 18:18-30).

*Not in the French edition.

Time at Mbingo was cut short by an Air-France strike which delayed the Keys' arrival by 24 hours. The retreat was held on two days with half (approximately 20 people) attending one or the other days.

Jim Brown, Program Director at Mbingo, observed, "The strongest positive result [of the Keys' visit] was to see the immense spiritual hunger of the residents and their wives. All the formal sessions were interactive and sometimes intense. People had very good questions. It was obvious that the information being presented was new to many."

The husband of one of the graduates of the CIMS (Christian Internal Medicine Specialization) group is the head chaplain at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. He attended the retreat and then asked Rev. Key to speak each day in the chapel to the entire hospital staff. Key did so three times.

Key writes, "I felt it was a very positive use of my time. It gave stature and significance to the PAACS program (as well as CIMS) so that the entire hospital community could clearly understand the importance of the spiritual vitality of what was happening and could discover for themselves that this is about more than medicine!"



The Keys near their home in Kentucky

At Mbingo, both Keys kept a busy individual and combined schedule of counseling with trainees, faculty surgeons and several from the broader hospital community. He also had the opportunity to see his Spiritual Curriculum in use during the weekly Bible study from the Blue Book. Key was pleased to see the curriculum in action and the residents informed him that they liked it very much.

While in Bamenda, Cameroon, the Keys renewed their acquaintance with the General Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, Godwill Ncham. They had met before in the Keys' hometown of Wilmore, KY, where Ncham is studying for his doctor of ministry degree at Asbury Theological Seminary. The Keys toured the headquarters of the Cameroon Baptist Convention in Bamenda with Ncham as their guide.

The Keys travelled next to Bongolo Hospital, travelling via a short commercial flight and then taking another two hour flight over the jungle via missionary plane.

Stan Key was the speaker for the men during the three day retreat at Bongolo Hospital. In a surprise move, Katy Key was asked to speak to the women during the same time. She had not spoken French in twenty years, but rose to the challenge, teaching a two day session from 1 Peter to the women.

The five male residents at Bongolo were freed up so they could devote three entire days to the retreat. They met each day from 8:30 until noon, then took a break for lunch and then came back for an early afternoon session. The residents would then go out and “play” together: soccer, swimming, and basketball. The evenings were free.

With the five men, Stan used the French edition of the Bible study on the commands of Jesus and they worked their way through all the eight lessons. There were many discussions, lots of feedback and also seasons of prayer and worship. On the third day, the women joined the men’s group. The women shared with the men what they had learned in their session and then the men did the same in return.

Key preached to the hospital staff each of four mornings. Though the setting in Bongolo is different than Mbingo (smaller, more rural and remote, hotter, etc.), the chance to meet with the entire hospital community was felt by Key to be very positive.

Keir Thelander, Program Director at Bongolo, wrote, “The residents expressed appreciation for having this time apart, which allowed them to refocus on God’s work and call in their lives, as well as challenging them to a deeper relationship. His willingness as the PAACS spiritual dean to reach out to and engage with the hospital staff as a whole reinforced the good standing of PAACS at Bongolo Hospital with the staff. His material was well received and continues to bear fruit.”



The Bongolo residents led by Stan Key during the retreat.



Stan and Katy Key (far left) and the residents and spouses of Bongolo.

The Keys shared meals each day with the missionary staff at Bongolo and felt that these occasions for fellowship were rich and meaningful.

Through Thelander’s contacts, Key preached in a local church which then led to an invitation to come back on Sunday evening to teach local pastors and leaders in area churches some of what he would be teaching to the CMA (Christian & Missionary Alliance) leadership in Libreville the following weekend. About 50 or 75 people gathered on Sunday evening from CMA churches in the Lebamba area to listen as he taught on two of the commands of Jesus, again using the French edition.

At the end of his visit to Gabon, Key led a two day pastors’ conference for the Christian Missionary Alliance churches in the capital region. About 40 pastors and wives were present the first day. On the

next day, the same group returned but this time with their elders and deacons and church leaders (perhaps 250 people). Key reports that he used the French material that he had prepared for PAACS residents and was able to cover all eight lessons during the two days that they had together. Key writes, "How thrilling to be able to study together with other pastors the commands related to perfect love, sexual purity, false prophets, changing the world, being filled with the Spirit, etc. We had a marvelous time together."

On Sunday morning, their last day in Gabon, Key preached in the large CMA church in the capital city of Libreville on the topic of the young rich ruler. It was a 3½ hour service full of joy and blessing! Over 1500 people were present.

PAACS is deeply thankful that the Keys could take their time from their schedules to visit and minister at these two programs. They are already working on a schedule for their next trips to Africa. If any Program Director or faculty member would like to have a similar visit to their program in the future, please contact him at stan.key@francisasburysociety.com. Key has made available the new Bible study in both English and French to anyone who wishes it. Work books and the answer guide are both available at the bottom of the page <http://www.francisasburysociety.com/stan-key/>.

Key is slotted as the Spiritual Life speaker at the Basic Science Conference to be held at Brackenhurst January 26 – February 5, 2015 and will also be the keynote speaker the speaker for the CMDA National Convention in Ridgecrest NC (April 30-May 3).

RECRUITING RESIDENTS IN EGYPT

Report by David Thompson

The PAACS program is just one year old in Egypt, and most young Christian physicians in the country have never heard of it. Most who have are not yet convinced that five years of formal training at a small Christian hospital in Egypt's delta is better than Egypt's system of self-directed learning plus informal apprenticeships with experienced surgeons – even if two North American surgeons are involved in directing the training. Equally worrisome to them is the fear that the foreign professors will leave after a few months, since that is what happens with most foreign professors.

Our two current surgery residents, Dr. Shady Fayik (3rd year) and Dr. Nayer Naiem (2nd year), are enthusiastic about the program and are talking to their friends about it. Both of them felt that it would be best if I, as Program Director of the PAACS program in Egypt, would go to the southern cities of Minya, Asyut, and Sohag in "Upper Egypt" and meet with Christian doctors to present the PAACS program and answer questions. The largest concentration of Christians in Egypt lives and works in "Upper Egypt" (7% of the population versus 1% in the delta region). The combined population of these cities totals 1.5 million, 60% of whom are Christians. I decided to follow their advice and plan a trip.

On September 25, an Egyptian doctor set up the meetings for me and drove us five hours south to the city of Minya on the "Western Desert Highway." Traveling at hair-raising speeds (140 to 150 km/hr), we passed only a few cars (most were passing us) and many overloaded trucks. In Minya, we met with about 50 doctors, pharmacists, and medical students. After Minya, we drove three more hours to Asyut, and then after that meeting, drove another 4 hours to Sohag for an 8 o'clock meeting with about 200 medical professionals at a large evangelical church. After the service, our hosts took us to a lovely restaurant on the Nile for a delicious meal. At 10 pm, we said goodbye to our hosts and headed back up

the road to Asyut, arriving at 2 am to stay at an anesthesiologist's apartment. He had invited us to spend the night before heading back to Menouf the next day. In each city, I talked about PAACS and Dr. Ehab encouraged those not interested in surgical training to consider employment opportunities at Harpur. The 70-bed hospital is Egypt's largest Christian hospital and the only one located in the heavily populated Nile delta. Several young doctors asked about the procedure for applying to PAACS, and a number of medical students came and talked to us about applying after they have completed their 7th year of medical school.



Drs. David, Shady, Nayer, and Hanna



Traveling on the Western Desert Road



Presenting PAACS in Asyut



Beautiful Minya on the Nile - Upper Egypt

The recent approval by USAID/ASHA of a \$1.4 million grant to build a new outpatient department at Harpur has considerably boosted Harpur's drawing power, since the old OPD is severely overcrowded and the emergency department is little more than a room with four curtained beds. EMI (Engineering Ministries International) helped design a two-story outpatient department (OPD) that will quadruple the current OPD size. The surgery clinic will go from one large room to five examining rooms and a large room for patients to be presented to attending physicians. The new building will also include an eight bed emergency department with monitors and a trauma bay. Phase 4 will eventually include a new operating suite and a new, larger surgery ward.

PAACS PLUGS IN FUSE

The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons has added a program on the safe use of electrosurgical devices to its curriculum. The addition is timely as one of the training hospitals had an operating theatre fire this past month when electrocautery ignited the fumes of alcohol-based skin prep. Fortunately, no one was hurt but it underlined the need for training and safety in the use of electrosurgical devices.



FUNDAMENTAL USE OF
SURGICAL ENERGY™ | FUSE
A SAGES Fundamentals Program



SAGES (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic

Surgeons) has launched the Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy™ (FUSE) program, designed to educate surgeons and affiliated staff about the safe use of surgical energy-based devices in the OR, endoscopy suite and other procedural areas. FUSE meets a crucial need in surgical education as previously, no formal training program has existed that promotes safety when using electrosurgical devices.

SAGES formed the FUSE Task Force, with participation by experts from the Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN), the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, and the American Urological Association. "Surgical fires occur several hundred times in the United States annually, and approximately two-thirds of these OR fires involve electrosurgical equipment," said Dr. Daniel B. Jones, chair of the FUSE Task Force.

The FUSE training program includes a web-based didactic curriculum that is available free to all on-line at www.fundamentals-didactics.com and covers a number of topics including the fundamental principles of electrosurgical devices, practical aspects of commonly used energy devices in various settings, integration of energy systems with other devices, as well as prevention of operating room fires. The curriculum can be taken for 10.5 CME hours and an exam available at the ACS, available at regional FUSE Test Centers, the SAGES Annual Meeting, and specially designated FUSE testing events can provide certification and an additional 1.5 hours of CME.

For more information on the FUSE program, please go to www.fuseprogram.org.

The material in the curriculum will be appropriate for testing in the annual PAACS exams.

UPDATE ON EBOLA & W. AFRICA:



Pray for our PAACS Graduates in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Conakry and now Mali. Here are some edited updates:

Dr. Jerry Brown at ELWA hospital in Monrovia, Liberia wrote to respond to the receipt of the latest recommendations for operating on Ebola-positive patients. His extended family are all well at the present.

"Thanks for the OR guidelines. I have been so occupied with the treatment unit and obstetric emergencies and have been unable to open my mails. God has been so gracious to us at my hospital. Since we reopened on August 6 for OB emergencies, we have operated on 4 Ebola positive patients unknowingly and praise the Lord no staff got infected. I happen to have done three. We are not doing other surgical emergencies because the institution does not have enough PPE (personal protective equipment) for all of the staff.

Thanks to you all for your prayers as we at this end look forward to this coming to an end soon. Working in the ETU (Ebola Treatment Unit - the isolation unit) is challenging and fearful but the beauty of it all is seeing people survive is what keeps me going. Above all, praise the Lord for all His benefits and protections. All in all I continue to see the Lord doing his own thing."

Dr. Aiah Lebbie is a pediatric surgeon in Sierra Leone. He is quarantined in his city and has been told by the foreign embassies that he cannot travel to receive his awards for the Pediatric Surgery Society or the College of Surgery graduation ceremony. However, things are more critical than that:

"I want to announce that I will start my annual leave tomorrow. I wanted to delay this but due to the current tragedy within my extended family, I have decided to take it earlier to sit back to reflect and pray with my family. Also, I am going through a lot of stress that there is need for me to take some rest. This morning we lost the husband to my cousin who died of Ebola two weeks ago due to same disease and another close family member has contracted the disease and has probably exposed another household within our family."

Martin Salia writes, "I am currently working in Freetown, Sierra Leone as a surgeon at the Connaught Hospital. In addition, I also offer my services at the United Methodist Church Mission Hospital in the city while I do off lectures in General surgery and Anatomy in the Medical School within the University. We are doing fine by the grace of God. Despite the outbreak, am still holding on trusting that the Good Lord will take care of me during these difficult moments in our country. We continue to pray that the Ebola epidemic in our country will be over soon. Please continue to remember us in your prayers."

A note was also received from Jean Faya Yaradouno in Guinea. He also is doing well and safely.

A single death has been reported recently in Mali. Dr. Philadelphie Dembele is at the Koutiala CMA hospital.

Please keep Dr. Jerry Brown, Dr. Aiah Lebbie, Dr. Martin Salia, Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno, Dr. Philadelphie Dembele - as well as their extended family and friends - in your daily prayers.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **100% of PAACS Residents Pass:** Celebrate with us! 100% of the PAACS personnel (including some graduates and two faculty members) passed their respective MCS (membership of the college of surgery – after two years) or FCS (fellowship of the college of surgery – after five years) written exams for the College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Now for the orals on December 1 and 2 in Tanzania. Please keep praying!

- ACS Reception Held:** Bruce MacFadyen hosted the CMDA-PAACS reception at the American College of Surgery meeting held this past week in San Francisco. The CMDA Surgical Section Reception was held Tuesday, October 28, 2014 from 5:00-6:30 PM at the Marriott Marquis San Francisco. Approximately 55 surgeons attended. There was good food, fellowship and surgeons sharing their best short-term medical mission/PAACS stories. Chi Chung and Jon Pollock from Myungung Christian Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were also there.



Attendees at the reception including Dr. Jon Pollock, Program Director of PAACS- Ethiopia



Academic Dean Bill Wood and President Adrian Park talk with guests

- Urologists Needed at Tenwek:** This appeal was received from Paul Espy, career missionary urologist at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya::

Greetings from Kenya! As I am preparing to conclude my first term as the urologist at Tenwek Hospital, I would like to request that you prayerfully consider coming to Tenwek to assist with the urology coverage here. Specifically, if you are able to come for any length of time from January 2015 - June 2016, your services would be greatly appreciated! The reason for our prolonged furlough in the States is that the Lord has opened the door for me to participate in a reconstructive urology fellowship at Emory University from July 2015 - June 2016, while we will spend the other six months focused on sharing what the Lord is doing at Tenwek Hospital and raising support.

Coverage generally involves one day of clinic and three days of surgery each week. Thursday is an "administrative" day, but sometimes has add-on cases or consults. Surgical cases are both adult and pediatric, but because cases are often scheduled electively, if there are any you are less comfortable with (i.e. hypospadias, urethroplasty, etc.), it is not a problem to defer. For those of you who are not familiar with Tenwek Hospital, it is approximately 4 hours west of Nairobi. It is one of the training sites for the PAACS general surgery residency program, and one of the most enjoyable aspects of the work here is having a resident on the urology service.

If you are interested or have any specific questions, please contact me via this email address. Also, if you know of any other Christian urologists who might be interested in coming please forward this email to him or her.

*Blessings, Paul G. Espy, MD, MPH
World Gospel Mission at Tenwek Hospital, Bomet, Kenya*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Birth Announcement.** Eden Keli Mbalu was born to PAACS resident Damaris Ndambuki Mbalu and her husband Darius. He arrived Sept 26th and weighed 4.22 Kg (9.3 pounds)!! All are doing well. Congratulations and welcome to the next generation of surgeons!
- **The Global Missions Health Conference for 2014:** The Global Missions Health Conference (www.medicalmissions.com) is scheduled to be held at the Southeast Christian Church of Louisville, Kentucky, on November 6 – 8. The biggest medical missions conference in the world, over 2500 are expected to attend. Dr. David Thompson, founder of PAACS, will be one of the plenary speakers. PAACS will have an exhibit booth and several of the sessions will be led by those within PAACS. You are welcome to attend the PAACS reception in room ATCR 209. It will be held during the supper hour on Friday evening. Drs. Joe Starke, Russ White and David Thompson will be giving a challenge. Please come to the conference, stop in to say hello at our booth and bring your boxed meal to our get-together.
- **PAACS Commission Meeting:** The semi-annual PAACS Commission meeting is being held November 21, 22, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2930 S. River Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60018 (Phone: 847-296-8900). If you are attending, please contact Terry.McLamb@paacs.net to confirm.
- **Homegoing of Mercy Shiprah Niyukuri:** The PAACS family grieved with the family of one our residents over the death of their baby girl from a congenital anomaly. A role from Keir Thelander "We are sad to announce the death of Mercy, daughter of Alliance and Cynthia Niyukuri. As she was born with a congenital deformity, this is not unexpected, yet during her short months of life she was a blessing to the family and to our Bongolo PAACS family and we know that God has used Mercy to draw us all closer to Him and to a better understanding of His love for us. She died Thursday, October 2, at 11:30 local time and was buried later that day. Pray for Alliance and Cynthia as they are far from Burundi and their families."
- **Death of Father:** On October 2, 2014, Mr. Jon Davis, aged 70 of State College, PA and the father of Kijabe Program Director Rich Davis, passed away of pancreatic cancer. Rich was able to come back to the United States to visit him shortly before he went home. In a blog about the effect of his father on his life, (<http://surgerytraininginkenya.wordpress.com/2014/10/28/in-memory-of-jon-davis-november-26-1943-october-2-2014/>), Rich wrote, "This is my father's legacy: Decisiveness. Unwavering strength. A razor-like focus to everything he did, refusing to be distracted by the odds, the circumstances, the way things look. I am pleased to know that I've got some of that blood flowing in my veins. Every day I try to face my own struggles,



whatever the odds may be, in a way that he would be proud of.” Our condolences and prayers go out to the Davis family.

- **Update on PAACS – CDD.** In the fall edition of audio magazine Christian Doctors’ Digest published October 1, Bruce Steffes was interviewed on the topic of PAACS by the host (and chief executive of Christian Medical & Dental Associations) David Stevens. The 23 minute interview can be heard on the Resource page of the PAACS website (<http://paacs.net/involved/paacs-resources/>).
- **Kudos Caught in Passing:** From a note from Sherry M Wren MD, FACS; Professor of Surgery; Stanford University School of Medicine, “I wanted to tell you how impressed I was with the Mbingo program and how I really enjoyed my time there...I’ve been spreading the word about the incredible work PAACS is doing and how much they have achieved.”

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God will call additional career surgeons to join the PAACS faculties at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia, Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt, Malamulo Hospital in Malawi and Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.
- Pray for all the residents as they continue to work hard and study hard with the intent of serving Christ.
- Pray for our PAACS graduates and all medical works in the Ebola-stricken areas of Liberia, Guinea-Conakry, and Sierra Leone.
- Pray that Mbingo Baptist, SIM-Galmi, Bongolo and Malamulo Hospitals will all receive government recognition for their PAACS training programs within the coming year.
- Praise God for answered prayer in that He has provided the money and a mechanism to translate the two volumes of the Spiritual Curriculum into French.
- Pray for the upcoming semi-annual PAACS Commission meeting – for wisdom, discernment and God’s leading in the many important decisions to be made including the decision of the new Executive Director.
- Pray that our rapidly expanding budget will be met and that God will provide the right people needed to bring PAACS to the next level of efficacy and efficiency.
- Praise God that all passed the written part of the COSECSA exams. Pray for those residents preparing to take the oral examinations for the College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa. That will be December 3-4 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Pray that God will call people to work at the various programs during the last week of January and the first week of February, 2015, so the PAACS faculty and residents can attend the Basic Science Conference.

- Pray that an experienced surgeon or set of surgeons will cover Mbingo Baptist Hospital from February through May of 2015 during Jim Brown's Home assignment and the urology service at Tenwek *January 2015 - June 2016*
- Pray for those on Home Assignment, for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work.
- Pray for God's blessings on the new baby and that God will help provide his parents wisdom and judgment.
- Pray for the Comforter's presence to be felt within the Davis and Niyukuri families.

Editors:

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