

Dear Colleagues,

We were saddened this month at the first death in our PAACS family. It has served to draw us closer and to underscore the reason for our existence as an organization. Martin Salia will be sorely missed.

We are excited to announce that we have taken the first step in building a better administration of this rapidly growing organization. Please read this edition to be introduced to the new Executive Director. Keep praying for wisdom as the administrative team is built person by person and that God will bless their efforts.

Read in this volume about new construction, new programs for mission awareness, new residents, new faculty surgeons and new administration. Also, please say good-bye with us to one of our Post-Residency Fellows who will be deeply missed.

New residents will join us in January, bringing our total to 64 trainees (and perhaps as high as 66 if candidates can be found). Please pray for them.

We will let you start reading – and rejoice with us about what God is doing!

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #125

November 2015



This group of young children in Weaverville, NC, prayed for the PAACS ministry and for Martin Salia

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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PAACS GRADUATE SUCCUMBS TO EBOLA

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13 (NIV).

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." Rom 14:7-9 (NIV)

On November 11, Martin Salia, 2008 graduate of the PAACS-Banso, was diagnosed with Ebola. On Monday, November 17, he went home to his Savior. Prior to Martin, five physicians from Sierra Leone had fallen due to this disease.

Martin Salia, 44, was a graduate of the Medical College of Sierra Leone in 2000. He came to the PAACS-Banso program in 2004, finishing in 2008. He had originally hoped to go back to Matru Mission Hospital where he had been working prior to his general surgery program, but the lasting effects of civil war made that impossible. Salia worked in several hospitals in Sierra Leone at Kissy United Methodist Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone and also worked at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown. He was a lecture in anatomy and surgery at the medical school there and also strove with others to establish a WACS-approved training program in Sierra Leone for general surgeons.

Salia fulfilled his obligation to PAACS in 2012 but continued to serve his fellow countrymen. Kissy Mission Hospital is run by the United Methodists and is not designated as an Ebola center. Through unknown contact,



he came down with symptoms of Ebola on Nov. 6 but test results were negative twice for the virus. He was tested again on Monday November 10, and the results were positive.



Shortly after admission to the Hasting Holding Centre, he received a transfusion from someone who had previously recovered. The Hastings Ebola treatment unit near Freetown is the only one in Sierra Leone to be operated without help from NGOs or international aid. It was reported that he preferred to be treated there. However, his wife worked with the US State Department and he was transferred to the Nebraska medical center arriving Saturday, November 15. By published reports, he was already in renal failure and unresponsive. Doctors administered the experimental drug ZMapp on Saturday, and Salia also received a plasma transfusion from an Ebola survivor. All endeavors came to naught. He died within 40 hours of admission despite dialysis and ventilator support. The 44-year-old Salia was the third patient to be treated at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where he was their 3rd patient, the 10th person with Ebola to be treated in the U.S and the 2nd in the US to die of the disease.

Martin Salia was a legal permanent resident of the United States although he lives and works in Sierra Leone. His wife and children have lived in the US for several years and are now in New Carrollton, Maryland. The doctor and his wife Isatu had two children, a twenty-year-old and a twelve-year-old.

There is an excellent video on the United Methodist website, <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/faith-first-at-sierra-leones-kissy-hospital>, in which Martin clearly laid out his motivations for continued work in Sierra Leone: "I was trained as a Christian surgeon. And part of our training enters spiritual and physical aspect of the training. And so by the time you finish your training you are more or

less like the pastor, you become a pastor. And so whenever we want to start surgery we pray. I am just being used as an instrument or as a surgeon to carry out God's own plan for that person's life. We want to make this hospital an excellent hospital. Faith has been a very, very strong tool in my box. And it has worked tremendously."

A memorial service was held at the Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Landover Hills, Maryland. They held a vigil for Dr. Martin Salia the evening of Nov. 28. A mass and prayer service was held the next day. Dr. Adrian Park, President of PAACS, was able to attend and talk to Mrs. Salia to extend condolences to the family and to let her know that he would be missed.

After Salia's death was announced, Bruce Steffes, Executive Director of PAACS, posted to the PAACS page of Facebook, "Martin Salia's death is a tragedy in the face of the greater tragedy of Ebola. But it serves to point out the even greater tragedy - that nearly one billion people in Africa do not have basic medical care or surgery and that the people of the developed nations are not helping the developing nations to have what many would consider a basic right - freedom from pain, fear and death through good medical care. There is no simple answer. It is a long-term commitment to train and help every level, increasing competency while not creating dependency. PAACS is trying to do just that - on a painfully small budget in painfully underdeveloped hospitals with painfully few people. But it works. Martin Salia is just one of dozens of men and women just like him that are PAACS surgeons. And while we grieve, we hold up our head and praise God for those surgeons."

Maada Salia, his oldest son, talked to NBC news prior to the loss of his father. "Even though he knows the sickness is already out, he decided to still go and help his people because he wanted to show that he loves his people," said Maada Salia, adding, "He's really, really a hero to me."

And to us, Maada.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTED:

Susan Koshy has unanimously been selected by the PAACS Commission to become the next Executive Director, replacing Bruce Steffes in the role.

Susan Koshy is a devout follower of Jesus Christ and has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector working with physicians and surgeons. She directed and managed two national specialty orthopaedic associations, the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society and the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, helping re-organize and strengthen these societies. She also developed the state organizational and legislative programs for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Academy of Dermatology. Susan is a strategic and innovative leader with significant experience in the areas of organizational management and development, program development, health



policy and advocacy. She also has extensive experience working with Boards of Directors and volunteer leaders to strengthen the infra-structure of their organizations. Susan has a law degree from the University of Iowa and a Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in health policy and management from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently going through the Kellogg Executive Scholars program for non-profit management at Northwestern University.

Koshy has a passion for God's people and has long desired to use her skills and talents to advance the mission of Christ. She feels this opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of PAACS is a calling to care for His people in Africa. Susan believes that PAACS serves a vital function in God's Kingdom by providing crucially needed surgical care while bringing the gospel and love of Christ to God's children. Her vision is that the PAACS ministry of providing quality training to surgeons in Africa would grow to deliver care to all of the 56 million Africans in need of surgery.

Koshy was born in India and moved to the United States as a young child. She said, "I was born in a third world country where poverty is prevalent. Even though I left my home country many years ago, the reality of the suffering I witnessed, the devastating poverty and health issues of my people, and my faith in Christ inspires me to always seek a better way for others. Work isn't about money or prestige; it's about exerting my gifts and beliefs to bring meaning to everything and everyone I touch. The mission and purpose of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons inspires me and I believe that this could be a perfect opportunity to use my faith, my passion to serve people and my vast experience in the workforce.



The Commission praying over Ms. Koshy.

Bruce Steffes has served as a volunteer in the role of Executive Director for 9 years since 2006 and served on the Commission prior to that since November, 2003. During those 9 years at the helm of PAACS, there has been significant growth: the number of training sites has gone from 2 to 11, the number of trainees from 9 to 64, the number of graduates from 3 to 43, the number of approved faculty members from 2 to 54 and the number of short-term faculty from 8 to 171. The budget went from \$37k to \$1.33M (for the 2014-2015 year).

After yielding the role of Executive Director to Koshy, Steffes will become the Chief Medical Officer of PAACS and put his emphasis on the academic and programmatic side of PAACS. He said,

"I think that the appointment of Ms. Koshy is an excellent first step in building the administrative team that PAACS needs to go forward at this time in order to fulfill the dreams that God have given us. I look forward to seeing the improvements and stronger programs that a stronger administrative team can bring. It has been an honor to serve this organization, all my heroes on the ground at each of the sites and my Lord to the best of my abilities these past nine years. "

Appreciation for Steffes' work was demonstrated by the awarding by Commission President Adrian Park of a plaque, a standing ovation and the gift of a weekend in the mountains of North Carolina.

Ms. Koshy will assume her duties on January 2, 2015. Her e-mail is susan.koshy@paacs.net and she can be reached at 847 571 9926.



Susan Koshy, new Executive Director, and Bruce Steffes, outgoing Executive Director



Adrian Park, President of PAACS commission, presented Bruce Steffes with plaque of appreciation.

PAACS COMMISSION MEETS IN CHICAGO

Thirty-five Commissioners, Advisory Council Members and guests attended the November 20, 21 meeting of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. Held at the Hilton Garden Inn near O'Hare airport, they meet Friday afternoon, evening and Saturday morning. As always, it began with a time of prayer for PAACS and for each other. A moment of silence was held in memory of Martin Salia and there was prayer for his family.

The highlights of the meeting included a time of prayer for PAACS, and upon the deliberations to be made, the



devotions brought by Rev. Stan Key and Dr. Sam Thompson, the selection of the new Executive Director, recognition of the contributions of outgoing Executive Director Bruce Steffes, acknowledgement of the large number of volunteer hours provided by accountant Michelle “Micky” Steffes, and the committee work. There was also time to share meals and fellowship. Preliminary work was begun on a new configuration of the entire PAACS organization and many new ideas for improving the work of PAACS were put forward.

The following faculty members were approved as permanent faculty: Geoffrey Kiprono Koech (Tenwek), Eric Mitchell (Tenwek) and Frank Madinda (Arusha). New faculty members were approved on a probationary basis: Brett Dempsey, MD GS (Bangladesh); Gregg Schmedes, MD OHNS (Mbingo); Charles Sweke, MD – OB-Gyn (Arusha); Katherine Shafer, MD GS – (Galmi WMM post-residency), Ken Muma – Peds Surgery (Kijabe) and Mgelwa Samuel – OB-Gyn (Arusha).

Dr. Wayne Koch also proposed a one-year ENT fellowship at Mbingo Hospital and will present a final proposal at the May 2015 meeting..

The next meeting will be at the same hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, May 15 and 16, 2015.



PAACS AT GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE

Over 2800 men and women attended the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, Kentucky November 6-8. It was the largest such conference to date. There were 4 plenary sessions and 104 breakout sessions that covered the gamut of medical missions. Several sessions were given by PAACS faculty and Dr. Dick Bransford gave one plenary session on Friday night and Dr. Dave Thompson closed the conference with his plenary session.

As customary, PAACS had a booth in the CMDA section of the exhibit hall and enjoyed steady traffic. On Friday night, over 100 people attended a special supper-hour meeting of PAACS and were challenged by Dr. Joe Starke, Dr. Russ White and Dr. David Thompson.



Above left: Terry McLamb and Bruce Steffes at the PAACS booth. Above right: Dave Thompson holds forth. Below left: Dr. Russ White addresses the Friday evening PAACS get-together. Below right: active interaction with those who came to learn about PAACS.



NEW HEAD AND NECK SURGEON AT MBINGO

Dr. Gregg and Kelly Schmedes arrived at Mbingo in Cameroon on September 28. The Schmedes family will serve for 2 years at Mbingo through the Post Residency Program and World Medical Mission. Their sending church is James Island Christian Church in Charleston, SC. Gregg recently completed residency in Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina. They have four children, Isaiah (4), Emory (3), Ada Grace (21 mos), and James, born since their arrival on November 11 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (see birth announcement below).

Gregg will tell their story:

Our “call” to Mbingo is rooted in obedience to scripture: to love with action and truth, to help those in urgent need, to make disciples of all peoples. Our family desires to not only heal the sick, but to see the spiritually dead become alive. We’re very excited of the PAACS vision to disciple and train young Christian surgeons. We also hope to minister to those back home in the US and encourage the Church to send more laborers into the harvest field.

My son was born with Hirschsprung’s, and required surgery when he was 6 weeks old. I often wonder what I would do if I was from a third-world country without access to medical care. If someone showed up from afar, provided a life-saving surgery for my son, and told me "I'm doing this because of God's love for me", how thankful would I be? Many are familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan, who came from a foreign land and helped a man in desperate need. What would it be like to be on the receiving end of a modern-day Good Samaritan? What God did for me in sparing my son has been a major motivating factor in my life.

Mbingo provides a unique opportunity to work alongside a dear colleague, Dr Everistus Acha, a Cameroonian otolaryngologist. Dr Acha’s vision for the ENT department has already come to life under his leadership for the past several years, and I’m thankful to work alongside him to expand our ability to deliver excellent surgical care in Jesus’ name. Together, we hope to provide a unique training environment for the PAACS residents at Mbingo as they get strong exposure to ENT.

I’m especially excited to be serving at a PAACS hospital. I’m very interested in teaching residents. When looking at scripture, we see Jesus investing much of his time developing deep relationships with just a few people. Spiritual discipleship and surgical mentorship go hand-in-hand with PAACS, as I aim to establish long lasting relationships with the residents.



The Schmedes Family



Schmedes and Njume perform a Cleft Lip Repair

MANY, MANY AT TENWEK

[Editorial Note: Heath Many is a general surgeon and his wife, Angela, is an obstetrician-gynecologist. They are now career missionaries under World Gospel Mission at Tenwek. They are giving us their perspective after three months at Tenwek. Heath is writing. Please keep them in your prayers.]

One year ago my wife Angela and I were attending a PAACS commission meeting in Chicago. At that time we were in the preparatory stage of moving to Kenya to serve at Tenwek Hospital as PAACS faculty. Now, a year later, we have been serving for 3 months at Tenwek. As we reflect on this time of transition, we marvel at the incredible journey on which the Lord has led us.

Prior to coming to Tenwek, we were living the “good life.” We had well established practices with great partners in a city we loved. Angela worked part-time as an OBGYN, and I had a busy general surgery practice. Just as we were really settling in, the Lord began to stir in us what Angela calls an “uncomfortable squirming.” Something about where we were didn’t fit. It wasn’t that we weren’t happy- we were. It wasn’t that we didn’t have ministry opportunities in our community- we did. The squirming was simply an idea that maybe we were called to something different. I felt the squirming first and eventually took it to Angela: “What would you think about serving overseas long-term?” “What?” “I said, what would you thinking about serving overseas long-term?” “But we just bought some new furniture...” This conversation was a little rocky at first, but over time, the Lord made it clear to both of us that he was indeed calling us to the privilege of serving Him in Africa. A long process of discernment eventually led us to Tenwek mission hospital.

The last 3 months have been the most challenging and rewarding of my career. In Africa, general surgery is, well, very general. My bread and butter emergent cases have gone from laparoscopic appendectomies to Burr holes. It is not unusual to have a weekend where I might do some laparotomies, drain a peritonsillar abscess, put in a suprapubic catheter, place a chest tube, and do a craniotomy. Often times I find myself asking residents questions like: “So, how do you guys usually put in external ventricular drains?” The reality is that I have learned at least as much from them as they have from me which has required a large dose of humility. So, as I like to say, we have been stretched. God is expanding our limits. But the reward is great.

One of the highlights thus far was a recent trip I took to South Sudan along with John Kanyi one of our 3rd year surgery residents, a Kenyan anesthetist, and a Kenyan nurse. Our team’s goal was to spend two weeks in a tremendously underserved country ministering to patients by providing basic surgical care. Not unexpectedly we faced a lot of challenges: our anesthetist became quite ill with dysentery, I broke my toe, we operated in a room that felt more like an oven than an operating theater, and we had to chase flies off our “sterile” field. What was unexpected for me was seeing how well equipped John was for ministering cross culturally to his fellow Africans. He didn’t speak the language, but he was able to connect to our patients there in a way that would take me years to do. Although John is Kenyan and the people he was ministering to were South Sudanese, the cultural gap was much easier for him to cross. It was a great demonstration of why PAACS graduates have the potential to be so effective at providing for the underserved in Africa. I swelled with pride like a father watching his son walk for the first time when I saw John giving a morning devotion to the hospital staff. He used a story from the gospel of John which we had been recently studying as part of the PAACS spiritual curriculum, but again, he connected them to the story in a culturally relevant way that I would not have thought of.



The Many family in front of the tea fields of Kenya. Heath Many and Tenwek trainee John Kanyi (Left) doing a case in South Sudan.

And so our reward is this: We have a front row seat to see how God uses these young men and women to build his Kingdom. The struggles for us as we have transitioned are real, but they are far outweighed by the reward.

POST-RESIDENCY FELLOW FINISHES COMMITMENT

[Editorial Note: Written by Dr. Tabetha Bradley who has spent the last two years as a Post-Residency Fellow under the Samaritan's Purse program. She has been a tremendous help at SIM-Galmi Hospital in Galmi, Niger and will be terribly missed. We thank her for her service to the hospital, to PAACS and to the Lord.]

To try to describe my two year experience as an attending in the Galmi, Niger PAACS program is almost impossible. I am not the same person I was two years ago.

Niger is consistently ranked as the least-developed nation in the world- 182nd of 182 on the United Nations Human Development Index. That is no longer just a statistic to me. It is a reality that I worked in for two years. There is constant death, sickness and darkness. One verse that has come to mind over and over while working in Galmi is John 1:5, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."* I posted that verse in my locker as a daily reminder. The darkness seems so overwhelming and the struggles are profound. Most days were full of bitter sweet memories. There are the times when your patients die, when patients fail to recover from surgery because of malnutrition, and when you have to regularly turn patients away because the hospital is full. But there are also moments of victory and excitement, when a patient unexpectedly recovers, or when you see the fruit of your hard work paying off in the skills of your residents, or when a visiting surgeon shows up for just a few days or weeks and provides energy and expertise to the program when you cannot.

I have seen first-hand the deep need for surgeons in Niger and for the training of surgeons in Africa. It's hard to believe that our first two years in Galmi are over. When I arrived in Niger two years

ago I could not speak a word of Hausa, had never done a C-section, hysterectomy, or taken out a prostate. All of my operations had been supervised directly by an attending surgeon. That has all changed.

Drs. Starke and Sanoussi have been incredible mentors to me over the past two years. They are wise beyond their years and have taught me so many things about surgery and life. For the first several months I was an additional resident for them to take care of while I learned many unfamiliar procedures, skills, and diseases. They were extremely patient and kind.



Luke and Tabetha Bradley



This group of hospital employees gathered at the airstrip to wish the Bradleys bon voyage.

It has been incredible to see the progression as we went from two to four PAACS residents over the past two years. To see the change in the skills of the residents is nothing short of miraculous. The lack of resources, challenges with the nursing staff, language difficulties, and living far away from their home country, are all things I never had to contend with as a resident. I commend them for their perseverance and willingness to continue under such conditions.

Luke and I are sad to be leaving Galmi. We don't know what the Lord has planned for a us next and would appreciate your prayers for guidance as we seek His will for the future- whether that includes returning to Galmi, serving at a different hospital, or working in the states for a while. Pray that we would be open to His leading.

God bless you all!

NEW SURGEON AT SIM-GALMI

Dr. Katherine Shafer went to medical school at the University of Indiana and did her general surgery training at Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners/MSU



General Surgery. She arrived at SIM-Galmi hospital this month. She writes, “My name is Katherine Shafer and I am one of the new general surgeons at Galmi Hospital in Niger. I am excited to be part of the World Medical Mission/Samaritan’s Purse Post Residency Program and will be here in Galmi for two years. I was blessed to grow up in a Christian family and at an early age I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Growing up there were several general surgeons in my church who did overseas medical missions trips, and God used their experiences to encourage me to combine my love of anatomy and my love for Africa to serve Him. During medical school, I was able to go to Togo and see how there were several Muslim people groups that were normally not exposed to the gospel, but by seeking medical care at the mission hospital had opportunities to hear of Jesus. I was burdened about further ministry among Muslim people groups. In residency, I was able to do a month rotation at Galmi and I saw firsthand how patients were able to find physical healing but even more importantly, spiritual healing. I am excited to be part of the PAACS program, and to share my love of surgery and teaching with the residents here in Galmi. It is exciting to look back and see how God’s hand of guidance and provision has allowed me to become a general surgeon, and I am excited to now be able to give this back to Him. Praise be to Him!”

Dr. Bradley and Dr. Shafer overlapped for much of the month of November and they both were able to participate in the white coat ceremony held on November 21.



Back row in white coats (L to R) – Dr. Graham Johnstone, Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi, Dr. Katherine Shafer and Dr. Tabettha Bradley. The four PAACS residents are in the front row. Right: Dr. Shafer helps Juvenal Musavuli don the white coat while Dr. Yves Mpongo watches (right).

KAIROS COMES TO KIJABE

The first ever Kairos Course started at Kijabe Hospital in October 2014 and ran for 9 sessions. There were 24 participants in the course and by report, all enjoyed what they learned. Dr. Peter Bird and his wife Sue were the catalysts for this course.

But just what is Kairos??

God's purpose for this age is to gather for Himself a people from all nations of the world. The Kairos Course is a nine-session, interactive course on world Christian mission, designed to educate, inspire and challenge Christians to active and meaningful participation in the global Church. Kairos is run in over 70 countries around the world, and had been run in Kenya many times already. The course at Kijabe was run by Kenya's National Director, Sam Ngugi, and his team.



An attentive audience at the Kijabe Kairos course



Dr. Peter Byrd leads the discussion.

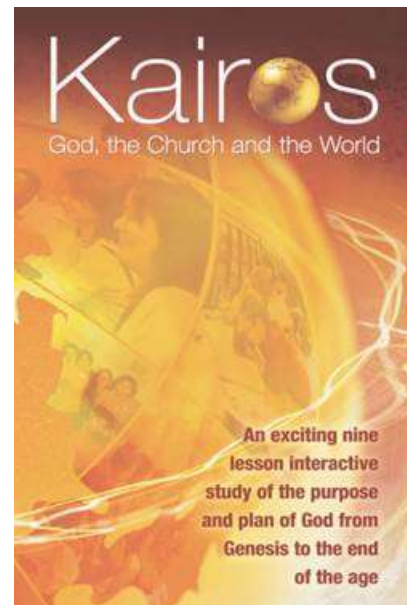
Kairos utilizes a variety of adult learning styles including group discussion, DVD teaching, short lecture introductions, reading, devotions, and student participation in specially designed activities.

Kairos looks at the four main areas of mission concern – the Biblical, Historical, Strategic and Cultural dimensions of mission.

The Kairos Course is designed to lay a solid foundation in the life of the believer and of the local church, in world Christian mission. From this foundation, exciting and meaningful missions endeavours can result.

"Kairos has given me a new perspective when reading my Bible. Now I see clearly God's mission all along, to bring us to Him." Beryl Akinyi, PAACS resident at Kijabe.

More information can be found at <http://www.kairoscourse.org/>.



NEWS SHORTS:

- **PAACS Programs Accept Trainees:** The programs in Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Malawi will accept new trainees in January. The PAACS-Ethiopia program had accepted Chala Regassa Hunde earlier (they did not accept any new trainees in August). The Program in

Arusha, Tanzania had nine applications Tanzanian physicians, interviewed four in mid-October and accepted one (a second may be taken if additional funding for \$120,000 for five years of training can be found). The resident accepted is named Mugisha Ntizonza Nkoronko. On October 23, five general surgery applicants and three orthopedic applicants were interviewed for the Tenwek PAACS program. One was accepted for each program. Their names are Patricia Chebet Chesang (GS) and Ian Orwa (Orthopedics). Four applicants were interviewed for the Kijabe General Surgery program and two, John Deng and Kenneth Shinga, were taken. The Pediatric fellowship at BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital also had 3 applicants and selected one. George Ngock is a PAACS graduate from Mbingo (2010) who has paid back his obligation by working at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Cameroon and now wants to pursue pediatric surgery. The Malawi program at Malamulo, still pending approval from the Malawi Medical & Dental Council, has found it difficult to recruit Malawi nationals. They are scheduled to take one applicant in January if a suitable candidate can be found; otherwise they will wait until August 2015. Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt has the option of taking two this year, but has also found it hard to find suitable trainees.

- Mbingo Baptist Hospital Opens ICU:** A project that has been a dream and spearheaded for a long time by Dr. Steve Sparks came to fruition at Mbingo Baptist Hospital recently. On Monday morning, November 3, the ICU was officially opened and dedicated. The project has been more than five years in development. It has the capacity of 12 beds, although due to staffing issues, there are 4 now open along with recovery room spaces. They presently have 17 trained nurses who share the ICU/PACU services. The room is very well laid out and spacious, includes 2 isolation rooms to the side. Upstairs, not yet complete, are a new PAACS conference room and library, staff lounge, male and female changing rooms, and bulk storage. The first patient to benefit was a 10 year old after a major liver resection for hepatocellular carcinoma. Ventilators are not yet available to patients but it is hoped that they will be added soon.



View of the ICU beds at Mbingo Baptist Hospital

Mbingo employees at the dedication of the new ICU

- Espys Returning Stateside.** Paul Espy and his wife Ashleigh have been in World Gospel Mission's (WGM) Missionary Discipleship program. They recently announced that they will not be pursuing a career (long-term) appointment with that agency following the completion of this

term in December. In July of 2015, Espy will begin a reconstructive urology fellowship (one year of specialized training) at Emory University. He feels that this training will be of great value in future medical mission service, wherever that may be.

Paul writes, "Our experiences of reaching out to the sick, the widows, and the orphans here [at Tenwek Hospital] have been an honor for us and have drawn us closer to the Lord than ever before. Ashleigh and I feel confident that the Lord will continue to use us on the mission field in some capacity, so please keep us in your prayers as we ask God to reveal the next step in His perfect timing."

The PAACS family is deeply appreciative of their involvement in the training of the residents and look forward to working with them in the future.

Their departure leaves the PAACS training programs without a center of excellence in urology.

- **Tenwek Construction**

Underway: This is badly needed at Tenwek and we hope that rotations for other PAACS residents can soon resume. Thanks to all the missionaries who raised the funds and the team building it and overseeing the construction. Tenwek trainee housing project update: Starting on the top floor and the contractors are certain the first two floors will be habitable by the new year. Thanks for your prayers! Keep it up!



- **Atlanta CMDA Features PAACS:** Atlanta CMDA held their annual Celebration and Fund Raising Banquet on Nov 13 with over 300 in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the many ways God is working in and through CMDA members and to thank our many supporters as well as encourage others to join us in this ministry. It was also a great time to spotlight PAACS with an informative display and a table with various pieces of PAACS literature. Ken Rutledge had the chance to introduce PAACS to numerous physicians as well as PA and medical students and was encouraged to see the enthusiasm of many who seemed interested and wanting additional information.

PAACS was also part of the beautiful video that was shown highlighting the many ways that CMDA is involved in Kingdom work in Atlanta as well as internationally. Atlanta CMDA is committed to reaching the nations with the gospel and having opportunities to reach out to surgeons through the PAACS mission trips has been a great addition to the local CMDA endeavors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **COSECSA Oral Exams:** The oral exams for MCS and FCS (all specialties) levels will be held December 1 and 2 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania prior to the annual general meeting of COSECSA. Dr. Catherine Mung'ong'o, Dr. Paul Kisanga, Dr. Frank Madinda, Dr. Dan Poenaru, Dr. Bruce Steffes, Dr. Douglas Lundy and Dr. Russell White will be part of the examining team. Dr. Jon Pollock and Dr. Michael Mara (Kijabe Ortho) will be observing. Approximately 19 residents and two faculty members are scheduled to take the exam, but those in Ebola-positive countries will not be able to attend. A few residents also have passport issues which may not permit them to attend.
- **O'Connors Return to Gabon:** In early November, Drs. Zach and Jen O'Connor returned to Bongolo Hospital, coming for the first time as career missionaries under the Christian & Missionary Alliance agency. They served two years in the Post-Residency Fellowship of Samaritan's Purse. They are responsible for raising their own funding. If you wish to assist them, you may give online at <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>. Select "Give to International Workers and Special Projects." Type in "Zachary and Jennifer O'Connor" and click the red "Give Now" button. Donors also have the option of making their donation recurring every month. Please note, we do not receive any funds from the Great Commission Fund/GCF. If you wish to give by check, send a check made payable to The C&MA with the memo - "Zachary and Jennifer O'Connor" and send it to: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Office of Donor Accounting, P.O. Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500
- **Birth Announcement:** Yaden Segni was born to PAACS-Ethiopia 4th year trainee Segni Bekele and his wife Eyerusalem Legese on November 15. Her name means "Longing to have" or "Eager to have". She was 4 kg. All are well. Congratulations!



Yaden Segni



James Schmedes

- **Birth Announcement:** Dr. Gregg and Kelly Schmedes announce the birth of baby James, born at 2:09am on November 11 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (7lb 11oz, 20½ in). This is their fourth child. Congratulations!
- **Surgical Instruments Needed:** Bruce Steffes has set up an instrument repair lab to process used surgical instruments which, if able to be repaired and cleaned, will then be contributed to the PAACS training hospitals or graduates. If you have stainless steel instruments that you would like to donate for this worthy goal, please contact him at Bruce@s3ministries.com.

- **International Humanitarian & Skills Course:** February 7 – 8, there will be held at the Center for Innovation in Global Health at Stanford University School of medicine a course to prepare volunteers in humanitarian surgery. It covers basic surgical procedures. It is accredited for CME. More information is available by [Clicking Here](#).

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our remaining four PAACS graduates and all medical works in the Ebola-stricken areas of Liberia (Jerry Brown), Guinea-Conakry (Lous Ruffin, Jean Faya Yaradouno), and Sierra Leone (Aiah Lebbie). Pray for the Salia family as they grieve and must adjust to Martin's loss. Pray for Aiah Lebbie as he recovered from a severe car accident in which God spared his life.
- 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, and Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.
- Pray for all the new residents as they make this transition into a difficult training program.
- Pray for all the residents as they continue to work hard and study hard with the intent of serving Christ.
- 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 for the team as we put together the Basic Science Conference to be held at Brackenhurst Conference Center in Kenya. It will be January 26 – February 5.
- Pray that the delayed Malawi Medical Council report on the Malamulo SDA Hospital in Makwasa will be favorable.
- 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 the sense of unity during the recent semi-annual PAACS Commission meeting in Chicago.
- Pray that God will be with our new Executive Director. Pray for help for her to learn the program and to look for the rest of the administrative team that is so badly needed.
- 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 1-2.
- Pray that an experienced surgeon or set of surgeons will cover Mbingo Baptist Hospital from February through May of 2015.
- Pray for those on Home Assignment (Russ White, Joe Starke, Ryan Hayton, Mike Chupp, Wendy Willmore) - 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 babies and that God will help provide their parents wisdom and judgment.
- Thank God for the Bradleys and all they did at SIM-Galmi. Pray for their transition back to the US.
- Pray for the Many family (Tenwek), the Schmedes family (Mbingo) and Dr. Katherine Shafer (SIM-Galmi) as they make their transition into career missions.
- There are surgeons who are trying to raise their funds to come to the field as career missionaries – please pray for God's hand in that process.

Editors:

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David Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS