

Dear Colleagues,

*This newsletter introduces six new residents; next month, we will introduce one more. We celebrate the return to the fold of the Bangladesh program and the birth of a new program in Malawi.*

*We also celebrate the return of one of our graduates to help out the Soddo Program which is short on surgical staff. From direct observation, we can say he is doing a fine job and a credit to the program that trained him. We continue to pray that this program will be a full-strength before too much longer.*

*We continue to have a need for short-term surgeons who can really make a difference. Our biennial Basic Science Conference begins in late January and we hope every Program Director, Assistant Program Director and junior residents will attend. That means that there is a gap in coverage at all our programs – please come have a great time with our senior residents and give these deserving men and women a chance to attend this amazing conference.*

*Search for a new Executive Director continues. Please keep it – and all the activities of PAACS – in your prayers. Use the 2014-2015 Fall Prayer Guide as a reminder.*

*Yours – and his!*

*The Editors*



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

BULLETIN #122

**August 2014**



Chief Resident Jack Okumu puts his surgical skills to the test in a game of “Elephant”

*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.

**In this Newsletter:**

[Introducing New Residents](#)  
[Bangladesh Program Resurrected!](#)  
[Malamulo Program Opens!](#)  
[Mbingo White Coat Ceremony](#)  
[PAACS Graduate Returns to Soddo](#)  
[PAACS at SSE](#)  
[Axts Arrive at Mbingo](#)  
[Seen on Facebook](#)  
[News Shorts](#)

**Poenaru Receives RCS-C Award**

**Second Volume Spiritual Curriculum Available**

**Espy Selected for Fellowship Surgical Coverage Needed**

[Announcements](#)

**Fall Prayer Guide Available**

**Wedding Announcement**

**New Parents**

[Prayer Requests](#)

**INTRODUCING NEW RESIDENTS:**

August 1 marked the arrival of several new residents at several programs. Three of the programs will introduce their residents this month. The arrival of the new resident at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon has been delayed since he was working at the ELWA hospital in Liberia in the midst of the Ebola epidemic. He will be introduced next month.

**Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon**

**James Joseph Apollo** writes, "I am from the Republic of South Sudan where after my medical training, I worked with several Christian NGOs, serving the Lord in mobile clinics and in primary health centers. After independence I had the chance to go outside my country for more training, but my call is to serve the Lord by a career of helping the needy and poor people in the youngest country in Africa- South Sudan. I met Dr. David Thompson at a conference in Egypt last year and when I heard him present PAACS my prayer and heart's desire was to join PAACS and get surgical training. Why PAACS? Because PAACS is addressing the needs of the African continent, and opening chances for training to people like me, not

only for highly technical training, but also with high academic standards, and spiritual discipleship that teaches us to reach the spiritual needs of our patients.



When I arrived at my program, I was impressed to see Jesus in the life of the program director and senior colleagues, and how God is using them to reach the needs of the program professionally, spiritually academically, and socially. I feel that I am part of them by the warm welcome me and my family received. The amazing reception of the hospital has touched my heart. It is an honor and a blessing to be part of PAACS and God's plan to reach his people in Africa, and particularly in South Sudan."

**Sama Akanyun** is the first female resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital

in Cameroon; she is sponsored by the Cameroon Baptist Convention. She is from the southwest part of Cameroon and spent the last year as a house officer at Mbingo so she is familiar with the hospital and the area. She writes, "The first few weeks have been a little difficult. I am trying to adapt to long working hours, preparing for Bible study, reading about patients and preparing for the weekly quiz. I cannot begin counting the teachers I have. I've learned a lot from my attendings, the senior and junior residents, the anesthetists and the OR nurses. I have a lot to learn and they teach every chance they get. The PAACS program is the complete package, much more than I ever dreamed of. The beginning is never easy but I do believe that God will finish what he has started in my life."

### **Malamulo SDA Hospital, Malawi**

**Willys Ochieng Odhoch** is a 26 year-old native of western Kenya and was very pleased to join the first Adventist program within PAACS after initially applying to the Kenyan programs. After his father died several years ago, he as the eldest son has seen God's faithfulness to his mother and many siblings. In 2007, he lay in agonizing pain with appendicitis, forced to wait until they could find the money so he could find relief. This personal experience weighed heavily in his decision to become a surgeon for the poor. AMREF Health-Africa ((formerly the African Medical and Research Foundation) doctors have always intrigued him and is one of the groups he would like to work with in the future. He is a 2012 graduate of the Kampala International University in Uganda. Dr. Ochieng returned to Kenya where he completed his internship in 2014. His dream is to be the surgeon at Kendu Bay SDA Hospital on the shores of Lake Victoria. On August 1, 2014, Dr. Willys Ochieng came one step closer to that goal as he started his surgery training at the Malamulo-PAACS post-graduate program. He is single.



**Elmoore Kamwendo** is a "Malamulo Baby". There have been a lot of them through the 112 years that Malamulo Mission has been helping the people of Malawi. It is a term used for anyone who was born at Malamulo. After his journey and education around the world, he returned to Malamulo Hospital in 2013 as a staff physician. His family had moved to Texas for a short time before relocating to the Philippines where Elmoore went through high school and medical school. Dr. Kamwendo then came home to Malawi where he did his internship and became a qualified doctor. He had forgotten how to speak his native tongue, Chichewa, so a friend, Gloria, decided to tutor him. It wasn't long before they were learning about interpersonal chemistry as well as language study. Dr. Elmoore Kamwendo started surgery residency at Malamulo-PAACS on August 1, 2014 and 10 days later, he married Gloria in the Sunnyside SDA Church.

Kamwendo is the 32 year-old product of three generations of Adventist pastors. He writes, "As a child, I had the pleasure of going on medical missions with an uncle of mine who happened to be a doctor. It was really nice and eye opening to see the calming and comforting effect he had on his patients. Observing this, it was clear to me this was the path I wanted to embark

on.” Kamwendo trained at the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna in the Jose G. Tamayo Medical University in Binan City, Laguna, Philippines. Congratulations to both of them!

### **SIM Galmi - Niger**

**Jean-Luc Kazoya** is from Burundi and has come to Niger with his wife Kaneza Ange and their son Mehezagirot Caleb to Niger.

Having started his medical studies in 2002, he had no peace for his soul until a friend shared Christ with him in March of 2003.



Kazoya gives three reasons why he is pleased to join PAACS. The first is that the Christian emphasis will help his spiritual life. Secondly, he will have good training and hopes to become a good surgeon like previous PAACS graduate Nkesha, who was also from Burundi. Thirdly, he gets to stay with his family.

Kazoya related some of his first impressions of Galmi. He was impressed by the availability of books to study and the quality of the attending surgeons, even though the work schedule was intimidating. The OR is busy and the devotional times are precious. He enjoys praying with the team with which he works. He was grateful for the air-conditioning in the presence of Niger's oppressive heat but misses the availability of fruits that were present in Burundi. Kazoya is amazed that praying with one's consultants is a normal event.

## **BANGLADESH PROGRAM RESURRECTED!**

By Steve Kelley

Dr. Rajib Sharma, a promising and energetic 26 year old Bengali physician, has been selected as a PAACS intern at Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh for 2014-15. Rajib was raised in a Christian home in the city of Chittagong, the son of one of our organization's loyal workers. Dr. Steve Kelley remembers first meeting him as a young boy of 8, running around an AWANA circle. While attending camp when he was 15, Rajib understood his need of a Savior, confessed and repented of his sin, and trusted in Christ. As he started to truly believe God and His Word,



Steve Kelley, Rajib Sharma, Nathan Piovesan

his life was radically changed. Since Christ was now ruling and reigning in him, his academic life improved and his lifelong desire to become a physician began to become a reality. Human anatomy was a favorite subject, as he saw God's handiwork in the human body so beautifully and systematically organized. The Lord began to develop in him character qualities of sympathy, attentiveness to others, and an eagerness to do all things well. As the years passed and Rajib ultimately graduated from medical school, God planted in him a desire to minister to the poor and needy through surgery. His greatest longing is to share with his patients the Good News that Jesus Christ is their Redeemer.

Though we have been short-staffed as far as physicians go for the last year and a half, there is hope on the horizon. Dr. Nathan Piovesan and his family of 5 arrived at MCH in December, 2013 after completing initial Bengali language studies. More Bengali studies are on his plate, but the end is in sight. Dr. Brett Dempsey and his family of 7, touched down on August 10th of this year. Brett and Meghan are just about to commence their language learning some 100 km away from the hospital campus in the city of Chittagong. Finally, we look forward to welcoming Drs. Jon and Libby Egle, WMM Post-Residency Fellows in Surgery and FP, in December, 2014 for a 2 year stay, beginning with six months of language learning!



Meanwhile, the MCH Renewal Project is finally rising out of the dirt. The 5th of 13 slabs was cast on Saturday, August 23rd. This completes another 13,000 square feet of space. Many decisions requiring much wisdom need to be made in the immediate future regarding raising the need to raise more funds, recruit additional project managers, and furnish/outfit the facility. The issue about the national railway route continues to brew, but things seem to be tilting in the hospital's favor. Two months ago, a town meeting was held with officials and experts present; Steve Kelley and Les Collins (hospital project consultant) represented the hospital. Thankfully no major objections were raised, so we continue to wait on the Lord's timing for when this project will commence.

Please pray with us that more trainees will be found and that Rajib will have outstanding success during his training.

## MALAMULO PROGRAM OPENS!

On August 1, the latest PAACS program opened its door with two residents. The Malamulo Seventh Day Adventists Hospital in Makwasa, Malawi is located about an hour's drive from Blantyre in southern Malawi. Situated in a tea-growing plantations at 3500 feet ASL, it is presently situated on 200 acres, as are with the Malamulo College of Health Services, a church and a school.

Dr. Ryan Hayton, graduate of the surgery program at Loma Linda University, is the Program Director and Dr. Arega Fekadu Leta, a 2012 graduate of the Tenwek PAACS general surgery training program, is the Assistant Program Director. The training program has taken in Willys Ochieng Odhoch from Kenya and Elmoore Kamwanda from Malawi as their first class and hope to add a third resident in January, 2015 (see story elsewhere in this *PAACS Bulletin*).

Malamulo Hospital has nearly completed a new duplex that will serve for the resident housing. Three more duplexes are planned to be constructed in the next few years.

Loma Linda University has been a valued partner with PAACS for more than a decade, but this is the first program at an Adventist Hospital.

The Seventh-day Adventists have had a presence in Southern Malawi since 1902. The mission developed first into a nurse-run clinic then was reinvented as a hospital with the earliest part of the present structure built in the 1950s. It was originally a leprosarium and was then converted into a general hospital. It was expanded significantly in the three decades from 1970 to the 1990s. It now has 275 beds with an occupancy rate that varies from 30 – 70%.

The Malamulo program was inspected in early July by COSECSA (College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa) and the confirmation of the accreditation for a full five years (MCS and FCS level) was received verbally. The program also needed to be approved by the Malawi Medical Council and an unannounced inspection was held on Thursday, August 14, which coincided with the first day of a visit by PAACS Executive Director, Bruce Steffes. The group photo below includes the officials from the Malawi Medical Council, along with the hospital's leadership team and Bruce Steffes. The result of their visit is still pending.



(L to R) – Elmoore Kamwendo, Willys Ochieng Odhoch, Arega Fekadu, Ryan Hayton



Picture taken during the visit of the Malawi Medical Council to Malamulo SDA

## **MBINGO WHITE COAT CEREMONY**

On August 7, the PAACS program and the CIMS (Christian Internal Medicine Specialists) at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon came together to celebrate a White Coat Ceremony for the two programs.. Dr. Sama Akanyun and Dr. James Joseph Apollo are the new residents in surgery at Mbingo (See story above). Dr. Kinne and Dr. Nshom are the new CIMS residents. Dr. Dennis Palmer and Dr. Rick Bardin are instructors with the CIMS program and Dr. Jim Brown and Dr. Steve Sparks (absent on furlough) are in charge of the PAACS surgery program. Following Mbingo's long tradition there, they provided celebratory cakes for the occasion.

At the White Coat Ceremony, Dr. Brown spoke about mission, vision, and the guiding principles of PAACS. He also read the PAACS prayer, which asks God to help each resident live up to the ideals of the training program, and then asked each of them to publicly agree to live by these ideals throughout their training and careers as surgeons. Dr. Palmer also encouraged his residents

The ceremony was attended by the entire medical staff, administration, and faculty. The Cameroon Baptist Convention provided press coverage. A local radio host interviewed Dr. Brown later and aired his comments and those of others on the radio the next week.

On August 24, there was a PAACS party to celebrate both comings and goings. It was a welcome party for Dr. Sama and Dr. Joseph, and for the World Medical Mission Post-residency surgeon Dr. Jason and his wife Meredith Axt (who are not in this picture – see related story). The PAACS party was occasion to wish God's blessings on Dr. Nesoah and Joy as they leave in a couple of weeks for Meskine, located in the extreme north of Cameroon. There was a great deal of food and levity during the evening, as well as prayer for each individual and family in transition.



(L to R) Dr. Kinne, Dr. Dennis Palmer, Dr. Rick Bardin, Dr. Nshom (CIMS residents) and Dr. Sama Akanyun, Dr. James Brown, and Dr. James Joseph Apollo (PAACS). They are wearing their new white coats and holding the celebratory cakes made for the occasion. Below is the picture of the PAACS party.



## PAACS GRADUATE RETURNS TO SODDO

Dr. Tewodros Tamiru (“Tedi”) has signed a contract with Soddo Christian Hospital for two years of service as a general surgeon and began work in mid-August. He is a 2012 graduate of the PAACS-Ethiopia program and has passed the Ethiopian examination as a specialist. He has been working in the Goba district and had both a hospital appointment and a private clinic.

Since the resignation of Paul Gray as PAACS Program Director in early June there has been no consistent general surgical coverage at Soddo and Tewodros returned to help in gratitude for his own training and because he felt that the surgical residents needed to be better prepared for the realities of practice in the government system and in rural Ethiopia. Surgical volume has been much decreased at Soddo the last few months – in part due to the lack of a surgeon; in part due to the comparative expense of surgical fees and in part due to the arrival of three general surgeons at the Soddo General Hospital across town (a hospital which has traditionally been short on surgeons). Volume has picked up considerably in the two weeks since Tewodros arrived, some of it because patients who followed him all the way from Goba.

Tewodros is married with two pre-schoolers and is still making the transition back to the Soddo area.

Dr. Andrew Chew, an Australian surgeon who will serve under SIM, will arrive in January. Ongoing recruitment of additional surgeons is underway.



Tewodros with CT scanner recently installed at Soddo.



Surafel (L), a third year resident, and Tewodros (R) operate together.

## PAACS AT SSE

PAACS-Ethiopia was well-represented at the Surgical Society of Ethiopia held August 27 – 28 at the Regional Conference Center in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. In addition to the residents listed below, Dr. Bill Wood, PAACS Academic Dean; Dr. Bruce Steffes, PAACS Executive Director and future PAACS missionary and present senior Emory surgery resident, Dr. Tim Love, also attended.



The PAACS-Ethiopia contingency in front of the Blue Nile. From L to R: Bill Wood (Academic Dean), Dr. Abebe Bekele (Associate Professor AAU; Assoc. Dean of Undergraduate studies), Tim Love, Jon Pollock, Ron Tubasiime, Bruce Steffes, Dejene Desalegn, Moges Mulu, Segni Bekele and Ebenezer Gezahegn. The Kenyan residents were not available for the picture.

The presentations by PAACS attendees were:

Segni Bekele: Anal stenosis from traditional healers

Ebenezer Gezahegn: Road Traffic Accidents Involving Motorcycles in Southern Ethiopia

Moges Mulu: Melanoma: A Rare Cancer in Ethiopia

Ronald Tubasiime: Penetrating trauma in rural Ethiopia

Dejene Desalegn: Strangulated internal hernia through the lesser omentum with intestinal necrosis - a case report (poster)

Tim Love: Trauma Registry at Soddo Christian Hospital - lessons learned in three years of data collection

Jon Pollock & Tewodros Tamiru: Impact of a single surgeon at a district hospital in Eastern Ethiopia (This paper won "Best Paper" which came with a 10,000 EB prize).

The residents mentioned above, plus Beryl Akinyi Ooro from Kijabe Hospital, and Tenwek chief resident Elijah Mwaura also attended a pre-conference two-day session on tropical medicine sponsored by COSECSA (College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa).



Dejene Desalegn and his poster presentation.



Dr. Wood and Dr. Pollock in a “Bajaj” – a vivid reminder that trauma is a major public health issue in Africa!

## AXTS ARRIVE AT MBINGO

*[Editor’s Note: This article was written by Dr. Jason Axt who arrived recently at Mbingo Baptist Hospital with his wife Meridith, boys Nathaniel Jason and Ezekiel Aiden.]*

Today completed my second operative day as a staff surgeon. Only two of the seven operations I performed are those that I learned during general surgery residency at Vanderbilt. Cesarean sections, transvesicular prostatectomies, and tissue / suture repair of femoral hernias are not operations often performed by general surgeons in Nashville! The eight residents here now have been working incredibly hard. They are sponges soaking up every surgical tidbit I share. Meridith, our two boys (Nathaniel (2 years) and Ezekiel (5 months)) and I arrived at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, West Africa last week.



The Axt family on a hike near one of the many waterfalls that surround Mbingo Baptist Hospital

Meridith and I both felt called to missions since we were teenagers. I loved general surgery during medical school and readily saw how it would fit into international missions. Meridith went to nursing school planning to serve overseas long term. During residency we both recognized the importance of teaching as a strategic way to give, and share the gospel, and recognized the benefit if PAACs as a strategic gospel initiative. When it became apparent that I would have a year and a half gap between general surgery residency and a pediatric surgery fellowship that is scheduled to start in January of 2016, we started looking for a place to serve.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital has a thriving general surgery program with 5 operating rooms. There are 10 general surgery residents here in addition to an internal medicine residency. Currently there is only one long-term general surgeon (another one is on leave in the US for 6 months), Jim Brown, who runs the residency and teaches all these young men and women. Mbingo is beautiful, is actively preaching the gospel, and has a well-organized teaching program and in Jim Brown, has an able surgical mentor. We decided this would be an excellent place for us to serve for the next 1.5 years and potentially much longer than that.

We have come under the Samaritan's Purse Post-Residency Program. This program is a work of World Medical Mission whose goal is to place newly graduated physicians in mission hospitals with the hope that they will stay long term. SP has provided wonderful training and support for us – smoothing this transition from residency to service.

I have had many experiences in the few days we have been here. I realize that my training, though excellent, is wholly inadequate. I will be stretched in scope and in capacity. The wards and halls here are bursting with surgical patients waiting and wanting their elective operations. The OR is pushed to its limits with emergent and semi emergent cases going late into the night. The electrocautery unit is very finicky; the patients who speak Pidgin English are difficult for me to understand. The residents are extremely busy and have little free time to study.

Please pray: that I will learn and teach well with these young men and women, that our family would adjust well, that the Gospel will be furthered, and pray also that I would supernaturally know how to do urology.

## SEEN ON FACEBOOK

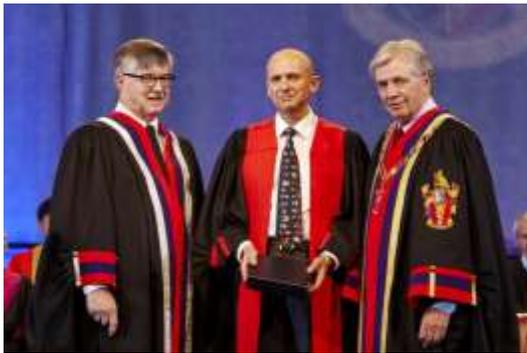


On July 31, the World Gospel Mission missionaries met in Marion Indiana. Five surgeons from Tenwek attended (Mike Chupp, Russ White, Mike Ganey, and Bob and Andrea Parker). Other members of the team include Robyn Moore, Pam Chupp; Faith Shingledecker; Beth White; and Julie Ganey with children Caleb and Eden.

## NEWS SHORTS:

- **Dan Poenaru Receives RCS-C Award:** Dan Poenaru, a Canadian pediatric surgeon who has dedicated his life to treating thousands of needy children throughout Eastern Africa has been awarded the Canadian Royal College's 2014 Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award. Poenaru is the seventh recipient of this prestigious award, given annually to a physician or surgeon who goes above and beyond the norms of practice to provide health care worldwide.

A graduate of the University of Toronto and McGill University, Dr. Poenaru was regarded as one of Canada's top pediatric surgeons when, in 2003, he (along with his wife and two sons) left to pursue a surgical practice in Kijabe, Kenya as a medical missionary.



Dr. Poenaru also established the first accredited pediatric surgery training program in Eastern Africa (the PAACS pediatric surgery program at Kijabe Hospital). Poenaru has been involved with a PAACS Commissioner and a Program Director during much of the time that PAACS has been in existence. Congratulations to Dr. Poenaru!

- **Volume 2 of PAACS Spiritual Curriculum Available:** On July 28, the second volume of the PAACS Spiritual Curriculum was made available for use by the PAACS program sites. It consists of six major topics and is 241 pages. This volume covers Genesis; Growing as a Christian; Doctrine of God the Son; Discipleship; Evangelism and The Family. The previous volume covered the Gospel of John, Spiritual Character, the Doctrine of God; Leadership and Cultural anthropology. Three more volumes are expected. PAACS Program Directors may download it from the password-protected page on the website. We deeply appreciate all the word that Rev. Stan Key, the PAACS Spiritual Dean, and Ms. Jennie Lovell have put into this.

Want to help? There is a strong hope that we can translate all the versions into French for those residents who are Francophones. It will cost at least \$1000 to complete the first two volumes. If God has laid it on your heart to meet this need, please send a check to CMDA-PAACS, PO Box 9906, Fayetteville, NC 28311-9906 and include a note "For translation". Reading it in their heart language will make it ever so much meaningful.

- **Espy Selected for Fellowship:** Paul Espy is the only urologist within the PAACS system and stationed at Tenwek Hospital. In July, 2015 he will begin a reconstructive urology fellowship at Emory University. His home ministry assignment will likely take place before this fellowship. If

anyone can help cover the urology during this 15 month period from April 2015 to June 2016, please contact him at [pgespy@gmail.com](mailto:pgespy@gmail.com). Congratulations, Paul!

- **Need Surgical Coverage at All Programs During Important Conference:** All program directors and assistant program directors will be attending the PAACS Basic Science Conference **January 26, 2015 through February 5, 2015**. Almost all programs could use help during that time. Can you come and let them get some rest, counseling and be part of this exciting time? Please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org); the program itself or [info@paacs.net](mailto:info@paacs.net).
  - **In addition**, there are several programs which will need coverage for career PAACS faculty during their home assignments back in North America. If you can help, please contact those listed in the e-mails below:
  - **Galmi** – Dr. Joe Starke will be home on assignment from **June, 2014 through May, 2015**. Please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org) and [joe.starke@sim.org](mailto:joe.starke@sim.org).
  - **Arusha, Tanzania** – Wendy Willmore, an international worker with Commission to Every Nation (Canada) will be returning for home assignment in late 2014. The exact dates are not yet confirmed, but are likely to be **October 13, 2014 - January 12, 2015**. Please contact her at [gracethewendylady@hotmail.com](mailto:gracethewendylady@hotmail.com).
  - **Mbingo, Cameroon** – There is an ongoing need for short-term help, especially during Steve Sparks' home assignment from **June 19 - Jan 6 2015**. Please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org) and Jim Brown at [jimbrownjab@aol.com](mailto:jimbrownjab@aol.com).
  - **Harpur Memorial, Egypt** – Because of the need for the Hannas to return for 3 months this summer to provide leadership of MedSend Canada, Dave Thompson needed help during the months of **September and October, 2014**. In June 2015, Dave Thompson will return to the U.S. for a six month furlough and during that time, Sherif Hanna will be the sole PAACS surgeon at Harpur. If you can help during either time, please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org) and Dave Thompson at [justthebeginning@hushmail.com](mailto:justthebeginning@hushmail.com).
  - **Soddo Hospital** – There is a critical need for short-term faculty at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia to cover from late November until mid-January. Please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org) or Jeremy Gabrysch [jeremy@soddo.org](mailto:jeremy@soddo.org).
  - **Tenwek Hospital** – Russ White will be in the US **July 17, 2014 until January 2015** on home assignment. Mike Chupp will also be in the US **July 2014 until August, 2015**. Please contact [ggambill@samaritan.org](mailto:ggambill@samaritan.org) and Russ White at [kenyawhites@gmail.com](mailto:kenyawhites@gmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Fall Prayer Guide Available:** The 68 page 2014 Fall Prayer Guide is now available. One person has already written, "I am loving it! I'd already put a reminder in my phone to download this the day the newsletter said it'd be available. It is so neat to see the new residents, to see the newly married folks, and updated



pictures of the kids as they age. When I turned to Steve Kelley & saw that he has a resident now, I nearly cried. His story in the 2013 guide had broken my heart. I paste the prayer requests from each newsletter onto my daily prayer list, but having the pictures so enriches the experience. Thank you again. My biggest regret now is that my finances don't allow contributions of the size I'd like to give, but I hope to make up for it w/ faithful, daily prayer for PAACS. (Signed) Bill. *[Editor's note: Bill – take heart from the earlier story in this PAACS Bulletin. God still answers prayers!]*

If you would like a printed copy, please notify Terry McLamb at [info@paacs.net](mailto:info@paacs.net) and ask for the 2014 Prayer Guide. . If you would like an electronic copy, it is available for download from the Resource section of [www.paacs.net](http://www.paacs.net).

- **Wedding Announcement:** Dr. Elmoore Kamwendo of Malamulo has taken a bride, Gloria Kuthyola. They were married at Sunnyside Church in Blantyre, Malawi on August 10. Both are Malawian. Elmoore has been working at Malamulo SDA Adventist Hospital as a medical officer (general practitioner) for the past year and was recently inducted into the first year of PAACS training at Malamulo. Gloria is an accountant and will make their home at Malamulo.



- **New Parents:** Mark Mwangi & Sarah Waithaka are proud parents of a new baby boy named Kairuki Waithaka. He is their first child. He was born weighing 3.05 kg on Friday, August 15 at 12:28 am. Physiologic jaundice has since resolved and all are doing well.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for new residents as they begin their residencies, their families as they adjust, and for the inevitable cross-cultural and educational issues they will face.
- 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.
- Praise God for the full five-year accreditation given by COSECSA to Malamulo SDA Hospital in Malawi! Pray that the Malawi Medical Council report 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.
- Pray for each of our graduates – that they will find effective and fulfilling ministries and glorify God in the midst of hardships and limited resources.
- Pray that God will provide the money to translate the two volumes of the Spiritual Curriculum into French.
- Pray for the Axt family as they adjust to Cameroon and for the family of Tewodros Tamiru as they resettle in Soddo. Pray that both will serve the PAACS residents effectively.
- 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 restart of the program in Bangladesh – for both the missionaries and the resident. Pray that God will provide more men and women to train.

Editors:

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