

Dear Colleagues,

The Principles of Surgery Conference in Kenya was a raging success and we are already looking ahead to 2017. It was an amazing time of bonding and learning.

This edition has three stories on our graduates, a glimpse at a possible new program and the testimony of a grateful father. A new proposal for corporate prayer is exciting as well. Enjoy!

The Editors



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN #128

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Rich Davis, Kijabe Program Director, gives tips on laparoscopy to Ben Lyimo

Changing the spiritual and physical health of a continent

Our vision: PAACS trained surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick.

Our Mission: PAACS exists to train and disciple African surgeons to glorify God and to provide excellent, compassionate care to those most in need.

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

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dear Friends:

I recently attended the PAACS Basic Sciences Conference in Brackenhurst where I met the PAACS program directors, faculty and residents from around Africa. It was a privilege to finally meet these men and women who are making a difference by saving lives and touching the souls of those in greatest need in Africa.

During my time in Brackenhurst, I developed a far richer understanding of the breadth and depth of PAACS, its people and its different programs. I saw how the PAACS program provides more than high quality medical education. We give our residents exposure to varying surgical cases, provide mentoring to residents, engage in journal clubs and bible studies and promote the spiritual development of residents. Our PAACS residents receive clinical education that helps care for a patient's medical needs but they are also taught how to minister to the spirit of that patient. The beauty of this distinction is that we shift from caring for patients to caring for people.

The Program Directors are the keys to the PAACS programs. They are the mentors, teachers, counselors and ministers to the residents. These men and women give of themselves to their residents to make sure that they are prepared to be surgeons and servants of God. They are the heroes for many of our residents.

I spent considerable time with the residents and heard stories of hardship, God's protection and provision and how God opened doors for them to be a part of the PAACS program. Many of them told me how their personal experiences made them realize that they wanted to become surgeons and help the people of Africa. They shared how God miraculously answered their fervent prayers and led them to PAACS. He opened doors that no man could shut. The residents do not take their involvement in this program lightly and they are thankful to PAACS. They are especially thankful to those who have supported PAACS so that they can follow their dreams to become surgeons and make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa.

I was touched by the role and power of prayer in PAACS. The residents greatly value the chance to pray with their colleagues and value equally the chance to share the gift of salvation with their patients. They shared stories of how God miraculously healed patients after prayer. They acknowledge that only God could have saved the patient when medical science did not provide hope. These testimonies have helped bolster my own faith and attitude towards prayer.

My trip to Brackenhurst was definitely a highlight in my life. I saw how God is moving in the personal lives of these residents, using them to help those in greatest need in Africa and bringing the light of Jesus Christ through these young people as they are the salt and light of the earth. PAACS is being used greatly by God in training a new generation of brave soldiers for His kingdom.

Blessings to all of you.

Your Humble Servant,

Susan Koshy

BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE GREAT SUCCESS

The 4th Biennial Principles of Surgery (Basic Science) Conference once again was a great success. It was held at the Brackenhurst International Conference Centre near Limuru, Kenya. The conference began Sunday evening January 25 and finished Thursday, February 5.

Given the continued growth in the number of PAACS trainees, this was the biggest conference to date. It was centered on the 32 first and second year residents but in addition, there were 28 mission hospital faculty members there, 17 other lecturers (most of the missionaries also spoke), 2 PAACS administrative personnel (three were counted as lecturers) and 22 family members who attended for a total of 101 attendees.

Designed to fulfill the basic science requirements of the College of Surgery of East, Central and Southern Africa, this conference had 64 formal lectures; four informal talks on survival of the residency and one on COSECSA; and four formal and two impromptu workshops. The workshops include one in surgical skills, one in orthopedics, one in pathology one in ENT skills and two in ultrasonography.

The highlight of each day was the worship service and Bible study led by PAACS Spiritual Dean, Rev. Stan Key. He led a daily study in the book of Jeremiah. The music was led by Kijabe Program Director Russ Davis and a band of volunteer resident musicians. Tenwek Program Director Russ White also led the service for three of the ten days. The spiritual aspects of the conference were strong and culminated in a time of prayer for each other and a deeply meaningful communion service.

The tea times and lunches are times of great conversation and fun. Each evening, there were social hours with group games. On Saturday, January 31, they went on a walking safari together at Crescent Island (the site of the filming of several famous movies on Africa). Despite the fact they were born in Africa, it was their first time for some to see wild animals in their natural habitat.



Rev. Stan Key – Spiritual Life Speaker



Several evenings, the programs presented their work and hospitals to the group. Here, Susan Koshy, PAACS ED, leads prayer for the Kijabe group.

What was most exciting was to see the gelling of the entire group into a cohesive PAACS family and to see the excitement of the new residents. The time together was equally valuable to the program directors and faculty. Stan Key spent the rest of each morning with them, expounding more on the lessons from the book of Jeremiah and then having them share the things that only the other people in

the room might understand. Prayer mixed with tears; encouragement mixed with helpful suggestions. Adequate rest and good food had a salutary effect on mind, body and soul.

On Wednesday, February 4, the program directors and PAACS administration met with a few officers of the Surgical Society of Kenya, the program directors at four other COSECSA programs and the Secretary-General of COSECSA, Dr. Pankaj Jani, for a few hours to discuss common problems and to seek solutions that will strengthen the COSECSA training.

The 2017 conference has tentatively been scheduled for January 22 – February 2, 2017.



Prayer for each other was a vital part of the week.



Wayne Koch leads a workshop on flexible ENT endoscopy.



PAACS residents get a chance to play the tourist!





PAACS Residents – Week 2



PAACS Faculty – Week 2

More pictures are available in the album at [Facebook.com/paacs](https://www.facebook.com/paacs). “Like” the page while you are there!

ARUSHA WHITE COAT CEREMONY WELCOMES RESIDENTS

Arusha welcomed two new residents and new faculty. They started the year off with several special events: the first, on Wednesday, January 14, was the Welcoming ceremony, followed by orientation sessions. Thursday offered a visit to COSECSA headquarters and Sunday was their short Spiritual retreat.

Wendy Willmore, Program Co-Director relates:

The Welcoming ceremony began with a hymn and a rousing sermon from Dr. Geoffrey Kibira on 1 Cor. 9:24-27. Dr. Frank Madinda was then pleased to welcome three new members to the PAACS faculty: Dr. Samuel Mgelwa, Dr. Charles Sweke (both OB/Gyn) and Dr. David Halter – a General Surgeon who joins us later this year. Dr. Andrew Browning prayed for the new faculty. We were delighted to accept two new residents – Dr. Mugisha Nkoronko, who is new to us, and Dr. Benson Lyimo, who has been a medical officer at our institution for the past year. After introductions, Dr. Willmore made a few remarks about how wearing our white coats with the PAACS symbol should remind us that we are scientists, and the guardians of our patients' safety. Also that we must practice our profession with righteousness – right surgery with the right hearts, and that we do so in community. The residents then received their white coats from the program directors. The foot-washing ceremony began with Dr. Catherine Mun'gon'go reading the appropriate portions of John 13. Dr. Madinda then expounded on the servanthood of a Christian surgeon, as exemplified by Dr. Martin Salia. The program directors then washed the feet of the new residents. Dr. Paul Kisanga then led us all in the Surgeon's Prayer. We then laid hands on the residents, as Dr. Mark Jacobson (the hospital director and occasional faculty) prayed for them. After a few closing remarks we adjourned for pictures in the garden.



Top Left: Dr. Frank Madinda assists with the donning of the white coat by Ben Lyimo. Top right: he washes the feet of Mugisha Nkoronko in a symbolic ceremony of servanthood. Bottom left, the team gathers to lay hands on and pray for the new trainees. Bottom right: the trainees are introduced to the wonders and mysteries of Mexican tacos.

Later that day, the residents had sessions by Dr. Madinda on the importance of deadlines and paperwork and by Dr. Willmore on recordkeeping, handover, and how to give a good presentation. We then had a roundtable discussion on how to survive surgical residency.

Thursday, Dr. Madinda took the residents to meet Francis Kaikumba CEO and the staff at COSECSA. The residents report that they enjoyed the meeting and came out with a clearer picture of COSECSA and what is expected of them by the College. They hope to be the first Tanzanians to pass the MCS exams! We also rejoice in the opportunity to keep PAACS' programs in COSECSA's thinking.



On a rainy Sunday afternoon, the residents and faculty with some family members met at Dr. Willmore's house for our annual short spiritual retreat. After some tasty Mexican food and crazy games, Dr. Catherine led us in a discussion of Matthew 9, with emphasis on the last two verses. We then took some time to pray for one another. All in all, it was a great start to the year.

PAACS VISIT TO POTENTIAL DRC SITE



Steffes (2nd from left), standing next to Bishop Kaggya (3rd from left) and Brown (2nd from right) pose at the building site with members of the executive committee.

Architect's rendering of the proposed Kireka SDA hospital in Uganda.

On Sunday and Monday, February 1 and 2, Dr. Jim Brown (program director at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon) and Dr. Bruce Steffes, PAACS Chief Medical Officer, flew to Kampala to meet

with the Bishop James Kaggya and the other members of the executive committee behind the construction of a new 400 bed hospital.

Ground has already been broken for the first of a several-building 400 bed hospital on a 5+ acre site in the suburbs of Kampala, Uganda. The Kireka Adventist Hospital is a project spearheaded by the Central Uganda Conference, a conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Uganda. The estimated budget is 14 billion Uganda shillings (\$4.9M USD).

Brown and Steffes explained the nature of PAACS and what can and cannot be done for the hospital in the future. They encouraged the team to continue their dream of having surgical training at the hospital.

Bishop Kaggya has a son, Moses Kasumba Kaggya, who is a third year resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

STORY OF LITTLE ELAH

{Editor's Note: Elah is a little Ghanaian girl who was born with a ventricular septal defect (a hole between the two lower chambers of her heart) and was failing to thrive. She was operated upon at Tenwek hospital and is presently doing well. Dr. Mike Chupp sent this story along as an encouragement as to what God is doing and what PAACS means to individuals. The story was written by Elah's father, a pastor. Agneta Odera is the woman surgeon pictures holding little Elah. She performed part of the heart surgery and is a 2012 PAACS graduate of Tenwek.]

The sermon I preached during the naming ceremony of our daughter was titled, "Three indicators of a child with a great future". I used the text from Luke 2: 34, 35. When I emphasized that the child destined for greatness will go through challenges even from infancy, I thought I was preaching to other parents who were present.

We named her ELAH after the valley where David defeated Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. A few months after her birth, we noticed that Elah was fighting a battle. She was not thriving, no matter how much she was fed and was struggling to breathe. When the cardiologist gave the diagnosis and said she needed specialized surgery which could not be offered in our country, our hearts sank. 'How can we raise the funds to have surgery done in the USA or UK?' We were surprised however, how God gave the answer. It was through a simple, God-loving American woman who came to our country Ghana once. She thought her short mission trip was not beneficial to anyone. But God had a plan! She was the one who had the right links. Her husband knew a cardiac team of gifted men who were heading to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya for cardiac surgeries!

How we got Elah to Tenwek was a miracle. How God catered for the bills was a miracle. However, this miracle happened through hearts that were prepared to give to support Tenwek to carry out its mission. Truly, God is still in the miracle business and he does His business through men who are willing to offer themselves for service.



ETUH BEGINS PLASTIC SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Ighohwo Etuh, 2010 graduate of PAACS Ethiopia, has begun his three year COSECSA fellowship in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Mulago Hospital, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Etuh has been working as a general surgeon at Tamale Teaching Hospital in Tamale, Ghana. He writes:

I arrived in Uganda on the 23rd of January of this year to begin a career in plastic surgery. I am currently being trained at the Uganda Burns and Plastic Surgery Institute(UBPSI), which is a COSECSA -recognized training center. The program will last for three years. I was motivated to look into plastic surgery training by both the need to upgrade in my career and to help suffering humanity with plastic surgical burden. By the grace of God, at the completion of the training, I will go back to Ghana and serve at the Tamale Teaching Hospital



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for some few years while planning to build a mission hospital in Nigeria where I will serve later.

It's really humbling to be a resident servant again after being boss of yourself for some time. But it's worth it – at least if you want to be boss of yourself again in another field of life. Peace and Joshua are back in Ghana doing well. I hope to be visiting them as frequently as possible.

The cost of living in Uganda is marginally higher compared to Ghana. As it was during my training in Ethiopia, my favorite foods are lacking. I am prayerfully looking for a church where I can worship in Kampala. .I miss the usual fellowship as it exists in PAACS-based institutions.

My prior training in PAACS as a general Surgeon overall served me well. I was unofficially touted as the best General Surgeon in Tamale Teaching Hospital before my departure. For this, I remain eternally grateful to God and to PAACS

I am currently, the only fellow in training. The last one graduated some few years ago and is currently one of the four Plastic surgeons in the unit. Attached is my picture and a General surgery resident doing his Plastic Surgery rotation.

We wish you the best during your training, Ighohwo! Congratulations on this opportunity.

NGOCK BEGINS PEDIATRIC SURGERY TRAINING

Dr. George Ngock, 2010 graduate of PAACS Mbingo, began his three year fellowship in Pediatric Surgery in January at the BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital program. Ngock has been working as a general surgeon at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Kumbo, Northwest Province, Cameroon. He writes:



I decided to do pediatric surgery for three main reasons. The first is that I have always considered children as future in any society, more so that of Africa. I see in them a real innocence which, if harnessed properly, can be a real asset in the future of our society. Therefore, no child should die of a treatable surgical disease. Secondly, I see the future of our faith in these children of the living God. I feel that I can show the love of God to these children when I come in contact with them. Lastly, in terms of the pediatric surgical care in Cameroon, it is really rudimentary, with the number of pediatric surgeons in the single digits! I do therefore hope to return to my country at the end of my training to contribute in my own small way to the improvement of this care in Cameroon.

When I am through with the fellowship, I would love to return to my home country Cameroon & work where ever it is appropriate in hopes of meeting my goals in doing a proper practice of pediatric surgery, taking into cognizance my reasons as listed above for doing this fellowship. In this, I hope there will be partnerships with Bethany Kids & PAACS.

My decision to do pediatric surgery fellowship is an idea that I have nursed for a long time, i.e. since 2008, when I came to Kijabe during my residency to do the rotation in pediatric surgery. My wife & I have been praying about it all these years, until God answered our prayers. With all these prayers, I was already prepared to leave my position at Banzo, where I had been for the past 4 & a half years. The decision was not at all difficult, since it had already been made 7 years ago. Besides, I knew that one has to be humble in order to achieve what one desires in life as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

For me, Kenya was not new, but it was new for the rest of the family. Adapting has not been tough, however, because we have had a very supportive team here at Kijabe. The kids have been able to adapt greatly & now are in school. With the ongoing adjustments we are making as a family, I am also trying to adjust to being a resident once more after a 4½ year break. So far, I think that the fellowship will be able after the 3 years to meet my needs & aspiration, God being my helper, considering what I have seen put in place to make this happen.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank PAACS & Bethany kids for giving me this opportunity to do this fellowship, I think they are answer to prayers. I do pray that the Good God who made it possible for me to get into this fellowship will take me through successfully in Jesus Name. Amen.

We wish you the best during your training, George! May your family and you adjust quickly to Kenya and to the rigors of training.

MUSINGS ON GRADUATE PLACEMENT

By Rich Davis

Dr. Kamene Elsie Mwanzia, known to all as “Mesh,” graduated from Kijabe’s General Surgery program in September 2014. While waiting for her government assignment (which is taking longer than anyone expected,) she has been working temporarily as a surgeon at a hospital about 20 miles from Kijabe.

This hospital was once known as a “Mission” hospital, but it has changed recently and become more like the other private hospitals in Nairobi that cater to the wealthy. Last Thursday, Mesh got a lesson in just how private it was.

A 9 year old boy arrived at Mesh's hospital in shock with a distended abdomen. He had been struck by a car about half an hour previously. The driver of the car was the one who brought the child in, apparently thinking that the hospital would provide treatment in this life-threatening case. He and Mesh were shocked to hear a hospital administrator say that the child would receive no treatment until he paid a 400,000 Kenyan Shilling (US\$4,700) deposit!

Mesh quickly assured the administrator that she would pay for the initial treatment, and after a quick assessment, she ordered some intravenous fluids. When they did not raise the blood pressure, she ordered a blood transfusion (again promising that she would pay for it.) Meanwhile, she called Kijabe Hospital and got hold of Ken Muma, a graduate of Kijabe's Pediatric Surgery Fellowship and current faculty member. Kijabe was full, but with a few calls to the ICU, a bed space was made.

By this time the child was stable enough for transfer and Mesh paid for an ambulance to take him to Kijabe. With good care, he is currently doing well and expected to make a full recovery.

In the eyes of some, there is no surgeon shortage in Kenya or any other African country. According to the laws of supply and demand, all countries including those where PAACS operates have exactly enough surgeons... to care for the paying customers. It may be difficult to imagine any hospital turning away a child who is bleeding to death internally, but this kind of story is all too common here. While my heart breaks for the kind of suffering that this story illustrates, I am proud of the way Mesh behaved.

Her training and her conviction saved that boy's life. Maybe some people at that private hospital took notice and were affected by her actions as well – one can only hope.

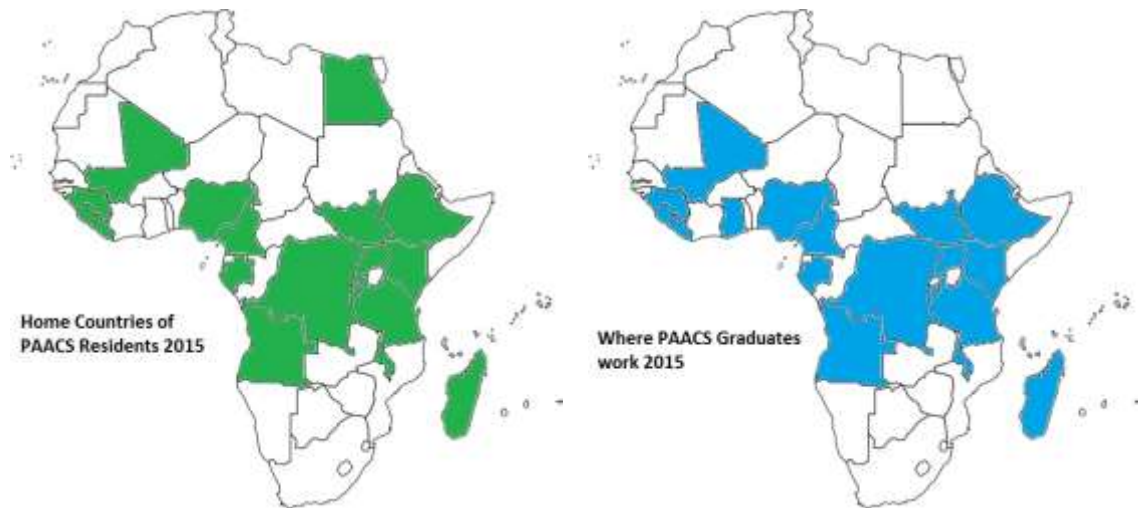
In my own heart, I had been hoping that Mesh would not end up working at this particular hospital permanently. I think this little episode has shown both her (and me) what it would be like if she did work there. This story illustrates another aspect of PAACS' work in Africa. It's not enough to train a competent and compassionate Christian surgeon. We have to do what we can to ensure that they work in a hospital that is healthy for them, where they can grow in their faith as well as their practice, and where they can be caring for those who really need care. If one has been trained and disciplined to look at others as Christ would look at them, they must be able to work at a hospital where the administration and other medical personnel are of a like mind.



Photo caption: Mesh, seen here with Kijabe Program Director Rich Davis, came to Brackenhurst for a visit during the PAACS Basic Science Conference

NEWS SHORTS:

- **Graphics of interest:** These include all residents since the inception of PAACS.



- **Update from the Spiritual Committee:** Thomas Robey, MD, Chair of the PAACS Spiritual Committee writes, "The spiritual committee of the PAACS Commission has been busy with two new undertakings since the last Commission meeting in Chicago. We are pleased to announce that the first monthly PAACS corporate prayer conference call will be March 9. Members of the PAACS Commission and Advisory Council will be gathering by phone to praise and thank the Lord for all he is doing through the PAACS residency programs. The PAACS leadership will also be lifting up prayer needs of the entire PAACS family. If you have any specific requests that you would like us to pray for, please email either Sam Thompson (stthomp627@aol.com) or Susan Koshy (Susan.Koshy@paacs.net). Please let us know if you want the requests to remain confidential."

"We are also excited to announce a new PAACS Alumni newsletter that will be sent out twice a year highlighting the activities of PAACS graduates. So far, we have heard from just over 40% of our graduates. If you are a PAACS graduate and have not updated us on your whereabouts or have a new email address, please contact the editor of the newsletter, Tom Robey (trobey@mcw.edu). Each issue will highlight at least two of our PAACS graduates and their families and offer an encouraging spiritual devotion from Stan Key, our PAACS Spiritual Dean. Prayer requests and hospital workplace needs will be listed for each graduate who submits them as well. We hope to have the first issue of the newsletter out by the May Commission meeting."

- **WACS Update:** The Annual General Meeting of the West African College of Surgery will be held March 1 – 7 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. PAACS has long been seeking a working relationship with WACS. A set of primary exams (100 MCQ in anatomy, physiology and pathology) and the curriculum have been sent to Professor K.D.T. Yawe, the chairman of the faculty of surgery. If they are found satisfactory, residents from WACS-approved programs

(those approval visits are presently pending) will be required to pass both the entrance exams in basic sciences (equivalent to the WACS Primary Exam) and the WACS Part 1 exam (equivalent to the COSECSA Membership). Negotiations continue which would allow PAACS residents to sit for the Fellowship (Part 2) exam; training sites and additional funding are among the hurdles. It is as yet unknown whether this will permit senior level PAACs trainees and graduates to sit the WACS exam, nor what the requirements for that would be. It is expected that for now only the programs in Niger, Cameroon and Gabon will undergo the accrediting process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **PAACS Prayer Call:** The PAACS Spiritual Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Thomas Robey, will be hosting the first monthly PAACS corporate prayer call will be held Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. EST. The conference call is for members of the PAACS Commission and Advisory Council and is scheduled to last approximately 30 minutes. The purpose of the prayer call is to pray for PAACS, its programs, residents, program directors, leaders and our needs. Robey states, "We believe that as the leaders of PAACS call out corporately to God and seek his divine help in all aspects of PAACS, we will see His hand move in an even greater way. We are thankful for all that He has already done. His mercies on behalf of PAACS have been great. As we corporately agree in prayer, we will see the Lord do even great things for our organization and the people of Africa."
- **Birth Announcement:** Recent Bongolo PAACS Graduate Dr. Jacques Ebhele and his wife, Dinah, announce the birth of their baby boy, Joel Opileni Ebhele. He was born 8:45 AM on Wednesday February 18th. He weighed 3.45 kg (7.6 lbs). The baby and his mum are both doing fine. Congratulations to the Ebhele family!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that our graduates will continue to take a stand as an advocate of their patients in the face of pressure to turn the poor away from the hospital doors. May the love of Christ shine in their lives in all they say and do.
- Pray for Jason Axt as he takes his oral examination for the American Board of Surgery on March 2.
- Pray for Drs. Ngock and Etuh as they begin their new training programs.
- Continue to pray for our four PAACS graduates and all medical works in the Ebola-stricken areas of Liberia (Jerry Brown), Guinea-Conakry (Loua Ruffin, Jean Faya Yaradouno), and Sierra Leone (Aiah Lebbie).
- 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 in particular for the adjustment of the Andrew Chews to Soddo and for the PAACS-Ethiopia program in its varying issues.

- Lift praise for a successful completion of the Basic Science Conference held at Brackenhurst Conference Center in Kenya.
- Pray for the PAACS application to WACS – that approval of the first major step will be granted.
- Pray for the March 9 Prayer Conference call – that a united plea to God for the issues within PAACS will be uplifted, heard and granted according to God's will.
- 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 those on Home Assignment (Joe Starke, Mike Chupp, and Jim Brown) - for rest, for the times of speaking and fund-raising and for the times of medical work.
- The David Halters are trying to raise their funds to come to the Arusha field as career missionaries – please pray for God's hand in that process.
- Pray for the search for a Chief Development officer for PAACS. Praise God for His provision of funds in the first eight months of the fiscal year.
- Pray for Bruce Steffes, PAACS CMO, as he visits the Malumghat Christian Medical Center and its PAACS program in Bangladesh in early March. Pray that he can be an encouragement to the career missionary surgeons there. Pray that Rajib Sharma, the resident, will thrive both spiritually and in training. Pray that God will provide others for them to train.
- Pray that the Egyptian medical license for Dr. Sherif Hanna will be granted.
- Please pray for Dr. Chi Chung in Ethiopia for health issues.

Editors:

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