

So You Want to be a Missionary Surgeon/Educator?¹

Bruce Steffes, MD, MBA, FACS, FWACS, FCS(ECSA)
Executive Director, PAACS (ExecDir@paacs.net)

1. Caveats:
 - a. Takes longer to prepare adequately than you think
 - b. Not as hard to prepare as you think – as long as you don't procrastinate
 - c. Language skills are more important than you think
 - d. Failing to prepare is to prepare to fail
2. Medical preparation – a preparation for broad scope of practice
 - a. Surgical
 - i. Anesthesia, Orthopedics, Urology, Ob-Gyn, ENT rotations during residency may be the most helpful (by percentage of cases)
 - ii. Surgeons in practice may scrub with other specialists
 - iii. Any additional skill may be helpful
 - iv. Overseas resident rotations if possible
 1. Keeps you on track emotionally, psychologically and spiritually
 2. May help determine future country of service
 - b. Medical
 - i. Tropical Medicine is especially valuable, even for surgeons. Strongly recommend the Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health Conference at WVU (<http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/tropmed/tropical-medicine-course/>), or [other US-based courses](#). You may also consider those in Liverpool and Brussels.
 - ii. Given the lack of good medical support, any medical or pediatric skill can come in handy
3. Spiritual preparation
 - a. Personal
 - i. Self-feeding – skills in Bible study
 - ii. Gain skills in mentoring others
 1. teaching, small group, one-on-one for practice
 2. Courses, books, etc.
 - iii. Staying focused to avoid attrition
 1. Sign up for CMDA's "Your Call" Program and the "e-Pistle"
 2. CMDA's pre-field orientation conference
 - b. Theological
 - i. Basic minimum might include Old Testament survey, New Testament survey, systematic theology.
 - ii. Suggested options:
 1. Seminary, college or Bible Institute courses
 2. On-line courses can be taken during residency (in preparation)
 - iii. Reading List (see attached)
 - c. Missiological
 - i. Formal college or seminary courses (on-line courses are an option)

¹ Adapted from notes for a lecture given at the Global Mission Healthcare Conference, 2010

- ii. Seminars and conferences
 - iii. “Perspectives” course
 - 1. Winter, Ralph, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (3rd ed.)*, Pasadena: William Carey Library Publishers, 1999, ISBN-13 978-0878082896
 - iv. Reading List (see attached)
 - d. Relationship with your church
 - i. More vital than you might at first imagine
 - ii. Financial and spiritual support
 - iii. Sending agencies usually require a strong church relationship
 - iv. Denominational issues can be more of an issue than you might expect.
4. Cross Cultural
- a. Experience – local cross-cultural experiences or as much overseas experience as you can get.
 - b. Courses
 - i. Your sending agency may have a mandated or recommended course
 - ii. www.mti.org and others
 - c. Reading list (see attached)
5. Educational preparation
- a. ACS “Surgeons as Educators” course (www.facs.org/education/sre/saeintro.html), ACS Postgraduate course on surgical education at annual meeting, program director training course and similar courses
 - b. Involvement with your own residency committee
 - c. Consider obtaining an academic position within your own institution for 1 – 2 years before heading overseas. This year can be used to achieve your board certification.
 - d. For those of you in practice, PAACS can help set up 1 month long preceptorship at training program
6. Other personal skills
- a. Family
 - i. Unity of shared vision and shared calling
 - ii. Preparation for the family’s ministry (outside of your own)
 - b. Language acquisition
 - i. Make it a priority before or shortly after reaching the country
 - ii. Don’t let the tyranny of the urgent overcome this strategic acquisition
 - c. Living within your means
 - i. Keep debt down
 - ii. MedSend (www.medsend.org)
7. Sub-specialization?
- a. God can use all your skills, but not all of your skills may be used
 - b. Pursue God-given talents and interests
8. Sending agency and support issues
- a. Selection of a missionary sending agency
 - i. May not have any choice if you wish to serve at a given hospital
 - ii. Issues that might arise:

1. Denomination – denominational issues may be much stronger than you expect, especially if you come from a non-denominational background
 2. Salary from the agency versus raising funds on faith
 3. Degree of autonomy versus organizational regulations and requirements
 4. Administrative overhead – faith-based missions often take 7 – 20% of the funds your raise to support the missionary agency
- iii. Even if going with WMM, talk with sending agencies before getting involved
 1. The discussion helps set expectations
 2. May be able to fast-track both things by doing simultaneously
 3. Can use time under WMM system to develop the donor base
- b. Choices you have:
 - i. Work under the agency which runs the mission hospital
 - ii. Be seconded to the hospital or mission agency by another agency
 1. PAACS and WMM recommendations
 - a. Global Outreach International ([www. Globaloutreach.org](http://www.Globaloutreach.org)) - many PAACS faculty are under this agency
 - b. Go Ye Fellowship (www.goyefellowship.org)
 - i. E-mail: John Dunckel johnnd@goyefellowship.org
 2. Many others – PAACS will share the questions we used
- c. Raising Support
 - i. Not as hard for physicians as you fear –often six months or less
 - ii. It is a Biblical model
 - iii. Many excellent books and agencies train you
9. PAACS
- a. Understand our vision and constraints
 - i. We have a requirement for PD to be
 1. Board Certified
 2. Experienced in mentoring and Bible teaching
 3. Have some experience in surgical education
 4. Have taken cross-cultural training
 5. Three years of post-residency experience (part of this can be done on the mission field, but not as a Program Director)
 - ii. We have a requirement that:
 1. There must be at least two surgeons to function as Program Directors to open a program
 2. The hospital to be evangelical with a ministry to the poor
 3. The hospital must approximate the hospital standards required by COSECSA and WACS
 4. The hospital to have adequate lodging, conference and educational support facilities
 - iii. Philosophically, we have a need to strengthen our present programs to the new minimums before opening new programs. Setting up a new program requires a commitment by two surgeons with an intention to spend a career.

- b. Start getting involved two years ahead of time

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² Adapted from Steffes “Medical Missions: Get Ready, Get Set, GO!” and “Your Mission: Get Ready, Get Set, GO!” available from www.s3ministries.com

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⁴ Kregel Publications, Web Site: www.kregel.com

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⁶ Obtainable from International Academic Bookstore, SIL International, URL www.sil.org E-mail: academic_books@sil.org

⁷ Available from Expatriate Press, Ltd., <http://www.expatriatepress.com/>

⁸ Book and CD covers people from 27 distinct heritages

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⁹ Available from Intercultural Press, www.interculturalpress.com

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Additional books from CMDA Medical Mission Centre Reading List

- Charles Kraft
 - o *Christianity and Culture*
 - o *Communicating Jesus' Way*
 - o *Anthropology for Christian Witness*
 - o *Communication Theory for Christian Witness*
- Marguerite Kraft
 - o *Worldview and the Communication of the Gospel*
- Paul Hebert
 - o *Transforming Worldviews*
 - o *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*
 - o *Anthropological Reflections on Musicological Issues*
 - o *Cultural Anthropology*
- Sherwood Lingenfelter
 - o *Agents of Transformation*
- Marvin Mayers
 - o *Christianity Confronts Culture*
 - o *Ministering Cross-culturally*
- J.T. Seamands
 - o *Tell It Well*
- David Hesselgrave
 - o *Communicating Christ Cross-culturally*
 - o *Paradigms in Conflict*
 - o *Contextualization*

Missions General

- Don Richardson
 - *Eternity in Their Hearts*

Personal Issues

- Philip Yancey
 - *What's So Amazing about Grace*
 - *The Jesus I Never Know*
 - *Where Is God When It Hurts*
- David Seamands
 - *Healing of Damaged Emotions*

Spiritual Warfare

- Neil Anderson
 - *Victory Over Darkness*
 - *Bondage Breaker*

Partnership

- Daniel Ricketts
 - *Making Your Partnership Work*

The following are books CMDA suggest to keep you focused on your Call.

Brand, Margaret MD

Vision for God

Brand, Paul MD

In His Image

Brand, Paul MD

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

Cheatham, Mel

Come Walk With Me

Foster, Robert

Sword and Scalpel

Foulkes, James MD

To Africa With Love

Fountain, Daniel E MD

God, Medicine & Miracles

Hale, Thomas MD

On Being A Missionary

Hale, Thomas MD "The Hale Trilogy"

On the Far Side of Lig Lig Mountain,

Living Stones of the Himalayas and,

Don't Let the Goats Eat the Loquat Trees

Huang, Chi

When Invisible Children Sing

Lewis, Gregg

Miracle at Tenwek

John McVay

Ask a Missionary

Olson, Bruce

Bruchko

Richardson, Don

Peace Child

Stevens, David MD

Jesus MD - Book

Stevens, David MD

Jesus MD - Audiobook on CD

Thompson, David C. MD

On Call

Wilson, Dorothy Clarke

Ten Fingers For God