

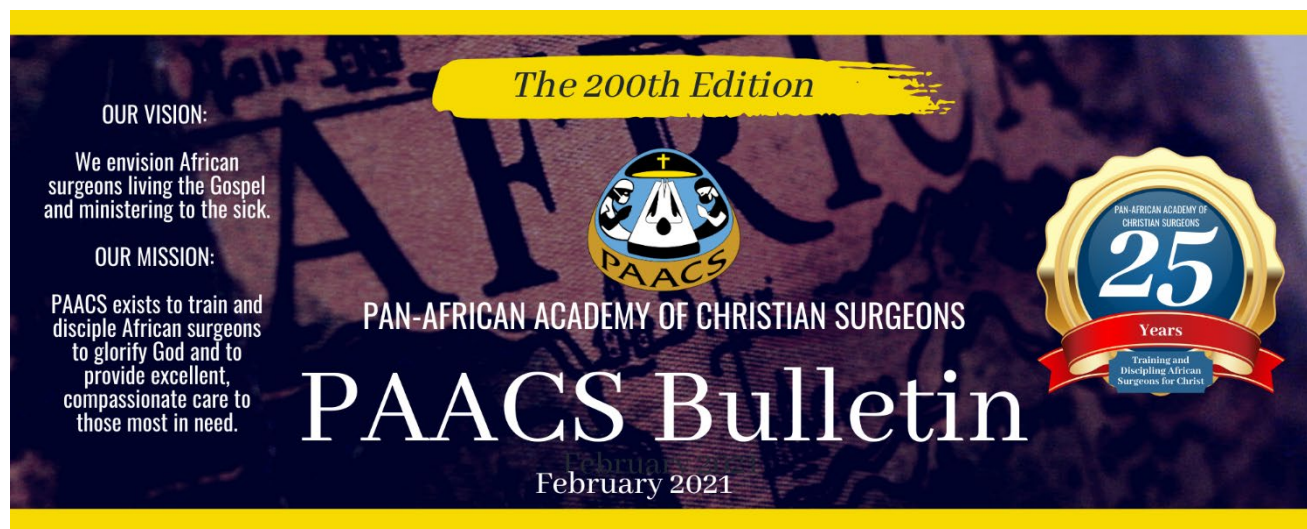
Dear Friends of PAACS:

This 200th edition of the PAACS Bulletin celebrates the 25th anniversary of PAACS. On February 14, 1996, the initial charter for then-named Pan-African College of Christian Surgeons was signed at the Brackenhurst International Conference Centre in Limuru, Kenya. Fast-forward to now – and it is obvious that God has had His hand of blessing on the organization and the hundreds of residents and graduates. This edition of the Bulletin acts as an Ebenezer, a memorial that clearly proclaims “Thus far has the Lord led us.” See the “Announcements” for the link to view the webinar celebrating this milestone with Keir Thelander’s interview of David Thompson and Bruce Steffes.

Congratulations to the 6 new graduates. PAACS handily surpassed its goal of 100 surgeons by 2020!

We are fully aware how COVID is complicating travel – but several training programs are in desperate need of short-term surgeons to help carry the load. Please consider serving!

The Editor



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FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Dear PAACS Family:

PAACS commemorated its 25th birthday on February 14, 2021. It was a celebration of God's faithfulness and constancy. This ministry was born and continues to grow from a place of trust and dependence on the Lord. He is the keystone of this ministry and the strong foundation upon which we stand. He is our all in all.

Over the past 25 years, God used many men and women to grow and strengthen PAACS. I recently read that "the achievements of an organization are the combined efforts of each individual" and that "true achievement comes from sacrifice and hard work." PAACS success is the combined effort of many individuals who sacrificed and gave fully of themselves to make this into a thriving and impactful ministry. Thank you to each supporter, prayer warrior, leader, faculty, hospital, PAACS partner, short-term missionary, staff, and others who have played a part in the success of PAACS. It is the combined efforts of the many and the hand of the Lord that led to the success of this ministry

Because of COVID and limitations on travel, we were unable to join together in-person to fellowship and honor God for His blessings on this ministry. Instead, PAACS celebrated this milestone both virtually and through social media. We held a Day of Global Prayer on Monday, February 8th and thanked God for his continuing mercies and goodness to PAACS. Fifty-two people joined together from Africa, Canada, Australia, and the United States to raise their voices in unison to praise God for His faithfulness and to pray for the PAACS ministry and everyone associated with it.

On Thursday, February 11th, PAACS held a webinar to remember our 25 years as a ministry. Dr. David Thompson and Dr. Bruce Steffes were interviewed by Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Executive Vice President. They discussed the growth of PAACS, shared their personal experiences and lessons learned over the years. Please see the announcement later in this Bulletin for more information about the webinar and a link to listen to the full interview. In addition, over 60 videos from around the globe were sent to PAACS wishing us a happy birthday and congratulating the ministry for its impact in Africa over 25 years. These videos are being featured on PAACS social media throughout February and March. Also, please check out the January 30 issue of World Magazine which has a one-page advertisement featuring and celebrating PAACS and our 25 years of training and discipling surgeons for Africa (see page 7 of this PAACS Bulletin).

I believe that the true success and impact of PAACS over the past 25 years are our graduates. These men and women are the real achievement of this ministry. PAACS has issued 117 graduate certificates to 111 surgeons. Six graduates completed two PAACS programs. Our original goal was to train 100 surgeons for Africa by 2020. This goal has been exceeded as only God can do. These graduates have gone on to serve in the under-resourced areas in 21 countries in Africa. In addition, 100 percent of PAACS graduates kept their commitment and worked in the under-resourced areas of this continent upon graduation. This shows a remarkable commitment to the ideals of PAACS as they seek to model the life of Christ. These men and women are the heroes of this ministry. They are impacting the continent by ministering to the sick and sharing the Gospel message with those who may otherwise not have the opportunity hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are the hands and feet of Christ to the multitudes and carry the banner of Christ throughout the continent.

As we celebrate and reflect on the last 25 years, I find myself pondering about the future of PAACS. I see PAACS graduates in all 54 countries in Africa – not just one graduate in each country but multiple graduates in every country. I envision more PAACS programs being started and run by PAACS graduates in areas with a desperate need for surgeons. I see PAACS hitting that inflection point where its impact on the physical and spiritual health of the continent expands exponentially. I see legions of surgeons sharing hope

and bringing the gospel to every corner of Africa. The past 25 years has been wonderful; the next 25 years will be wondrous. Thank you again for being a part of this journey and buckle up for the ride to come.

Blessings,

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH

Chief Executive Officer

Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

THE GOD OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE – PAACS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

by Keir Thelander

In 1996, no one could have predicted the growth journey of PAACS. In numbers of training programs, God's ministry of PAACS has grown from the humble beginnings of two sites which both closed quickly before Bongolo was finally able to graduate a resident to 9 programs in 2008. After a few closures, we remained at 7 programs through 2011. By 2014, 5 more programs had been added for a total of 12. In January of 2021, we added the first neurosurgery training programs for an overall program total of 17. Today, we remain in 8 different countries, having issued 117 certificates, and now with 107 trainees. God's faithful nudges during recent years have resulted in the diversification to sub-specialty training and related specialist training, bringing us to programs in General Surgery(10), Orthopedics(3), Pediatric Surgery(1), Head and Neck(1), Neurosurgery(1), and Cardiothoracic Surgery(1). The start of 2021 saw us on the cusp of beginning programs in Plastic Surgery, Anesthesiology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Surgical Endoscopy as well. Having seen the Lord's provision in this diversification, the recent discussions and leadings are attempting to re-emphasize our historical foundation in training General Surgeons.

As we thank God for having always been Jehovah Jireh, we covet your prayers as we embark on the next 25 years. God seems to be kicking off these next 25 years in significant fashion, since we are presently considering the opening of 3 new General Surgery Programs in January 2022 (Nkhoma Mission Hospital (Malawi), Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (Madagascar), and Kibuye Hope Hospital (Burundi)), with a 4th anticipated in January 2023 in Togo at Hopital Baptiste Biblique and Hospital of Hope. Please join us in celebrating our first 25 years by thanking the Lord for His direction and provision, while seeking the direction and blessing from our God for provision of all the necessary components to step boldly into the next 25 years.

GRADUATION AT BONGOLO HOSPITAL

By Jennifer O'Connor

Dr. Elysé Nkuzimana, a surgery resident hailing from Burundi, received his diploma during a luncheon ceremony at Bongolo Hospital, Gabon, on February 7th. He is the 19th graduate from Bongolo and received the 117th certificate that PAACS has issued.

He was accompanied by his wife, Aline, and sons, Elior, Jayden, and Avisha. The topic of an invited pastor focused on three key words, Gratitude, Honor, and Perseverance. Program Director, Dr. Zachary O'Connor, charged Dr. Nkuzimana to be an ambassador for Christ and to keep 2Timothy 2:2 at the heart of his career.

During the past 5 years, Dr. Nkunuzimana has attended and presented research presentations at The Society of Gabonese Surgeons (SOGACHIR) in Libreville, Gabon. He is also a member of COSECSA by examination.



From L to R: Jeff Lane, Simplice Tchoba, Elysé Nkunuzimana (with diploma), Zachary and Jennifer O'Connor



Elysé Nkunuzimana and his family on the day of his graduation

During his speech at the ceremony, he thanked his wife, his parents, visiting surgical educators, and PAACS. His plan is to serve at Bongolo Hospital and pursue an educational opportunity in Libreville, Gabon prior to returning to Burundi and obtaining a position as a general surgeon. Please pray that the Lord would continue to open the doors for him and his family and that he would be an ambassador for Christ.

TENWEK GRADUATION

By Liz and Michael Mwachiro

The 8th PAACS-Tenwek commencement exercise and graduation ceremony was held on the 29 January 2021.

Tenwek Hospital held its graduation ceremonies for graduates from the Orthopedic, General Surgery and Cardiothoracic Programs. Dr. Marvin Wekesa from the Orthopedic Program, Drs Kimutai Sylvester, Sinkeet Ranketi and Fridah Orwa from General Surgery as well as the first ever PAACS Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Arega Fekadu. The three general surgeons were graduates number 16 through 18 in general surgery (PAACS certificate numbers 112 – 114 and PAACS general surgery graduates 94-96). Marvin Wekesa is the 4th ortho graduate from Tenwek, the 7th orthopedic graduate overall and PAACS certificate #115. Arega Fekadu was the first cardiothoracic surgeon from Tenwek and PAACS, and was the 116th surgeon trained by PAACS.

The ceremony was graced by PAACS Executive President Dr Keir Thelander and the Bishop of the African Gospel Church Rev Dr Langat. The day prior to the event the residents held a roast and toast session for all the graduates. As has been the tradition, there were photos done in the morning of all the teams. This year, due to the effects of the pandemic there was social distancing in the meeting room as well use of masks. It has been a real blessing that we were actually able to hold an in-person graduation ceremony as this is always a highlight for all residents.

Rev Elijah Bii shared briefly with the graduands and their families who were in attendance and Dr Thelander also gave a brief history of PAACS and reflected on the calling to serve. They then received their diplomas.



The sign of a graduation held under the shadow of a pandemic – the traditional elbow bump of congratulation! Dr. Keir Thelander greets Dr. Marvin Wekesa.



The Surgical prays for the



Tenwek Graduates (L-R)" Drs Marvin Wekesa, Sinkeet Ranketi, AGC Bishop Dr Robert Langat, Fridah Orwa, Arega Fekadu, Sylvester Kimutai

No Kenyan celebration is complete without a meal and the day was capped with a sumptuous (socially distanced) meal and speeches from the family and friends in attendance. It has been a great joy to celebrate with all of these graduates and we wish them well as they embark on their surgical careers. Drs Kimutai and Sinkeet will be staying on as faculty on the surgery program and Drs Wekesa and Arega will also stay on the orthopedic and cardiothoracic programs respectively.

You can watch the recording of the live-streamed ceremony by [Clicking Here](#).



“No Kenyan celebration is complete without a meal”



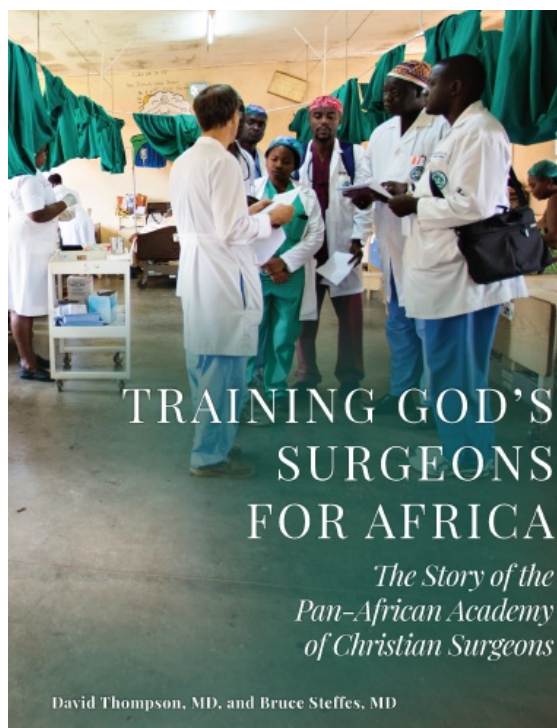
Graduates cutting the cake together. L to R Marvin Wekesa, Fridah Orwa, Sylvester Kimutai, Sinkeet Ranketi, Arega Fekadu

HISTORY OF PAACS AVAILABLE

In honor of the 25th birthday of PAACS, which was February 14, 2021, Dr. David Thompson and Dr. Bruce Steffes have written a 92-page book that outlines the history of our ministry called, *Training God's Surgeons for Africa: The Story of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons*.

This full color book is rich with inspiring testimonies of God's hand on our ministry. It also includes historic pictures and stories that beautifully commemorate a quarter century of God's faithfulness and the hard work of those who have poured themselves out to help the sick and the suffering in Africa. Purchase one for yourself and get extras – it is a great way to share the PAACS story with others.

This book is now available for purchase online in softcover, hardcover, and E-book (.pdf) versions. You can order a copy for yourself through the links given. The book is available in softcover (\$17.33, [Purchase Softcover](#)), hardcover (\$24.39, [Purchase Hardcover](#)) or PDF (\$0.99, [Purchase E-Book](#)). Prices do not include taxes or shipping and handling.



What if you needed surgery and there were only a handful of surgeons for your entire country?

- 56 million people in Africa are in need of surgical care, and there aren't enough surgeons to meet this need.
- 93% of people in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical and anesthesia care.
- In many places in Africa, there is only one surgeon for 250,000 people. In other areas, there may be only one surgeon for 2.5 million people.

The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) is a strategic response to address the desperate need for surgeons in Africa. PAACS trains African physicians as surgeons to care for the poor and the sick and to serve in the under-resourced areas of the continent. PAACS also discipless these surgeons to share the love of Christ with their patients and to bring hope to those who are suffering. All training of PAACS surgeons is done in Africa.

Learn how you can impact Africa through PAACS.
Visit paacs.net

Meet Dr. James Joseph

Dr. James Joseph is from South Sudan and is a recent graduate from one of the 17 PAACS surgical training programs in eight African countries. He is an excellent surgeon who loves the Lord and provides quality surgical care to those in desperate need. PAACS has the privilege to train and disciple surgeons like Dr. Joseph, to care for the poor and the sick, both surgically and spiritually, in Africa.

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



THE PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

Learn more at paacs.net
Donate at paacs.net/donate
PO Box 735262 | Dallas, TX 75373-5262
Email: info@paacs.net



Dr. James Joseph in surgical training



Dr. James Joseph praying with a patient



Dr. James Joseph on graduation day

STRUGGLES FACED BY GRADUATES

By Bruce Steffes

I received this message on one of my social media accounts a few days ago:

Hello sir, I am Andrew John, Burundian, PAACS surgeon graduated in January from Galimi Hospital. God called me to go back and help my fellow Burundians. I am now working at Karusi regional hospital located in rural area. I am facing many challenges. I was well trained to do many ortho cases but my hospital doesn't have sign nail kit, ex fix materials, materials for plates, we have many wounds but no materials to do skin graft..... I need your advice and orientation.

This is certainly not the first such message by far that I have seen from PAACS graduates over the years nor is it likely the last. It is hard to know what to say to them. The core competency and calling of PAACS is surgical education. We need to only do what only we can do. The demand for more training programs is always increasing and we invest a large amount of money in their training. We are opening several new programs in 2021, the Lord willing, and are looking seriously at three or four more in the near future (see the article in this edition by Keir Thelander). The money required to support those upcoming training programs already stretches our faith and our budget. And yet the realities faced by these young surgeons trying to practice surgery in Africa tugs at our heart strings.

I do not believe that PAACS is called, nor can it realistically hope, to meet all of the many infrastructure deficiencies of the entire continent of Africa. We cannot even meet all of the deficiencies that just our graduates face or even just all the deficiencies our graduates find when they choose to serve within faith-based hospitals (as opposed to secular hospitals). The potential cost of setting up all our new surgeons with the equipment requested by our newly-minted surgeon in his note is staggering.

The last time I priced out these tools a few years ago, a SIGN nail kit was about \$15 to \$20K depending on the type and size. A powered dermatome was several thousand dollars and a mesher that does not require carrier plates costs about the same. I have no idea about the present cost of orthopedic plates, screws, pins, external fixators and the like – but I know they are not cheap. It is unlikely that charity hospitals and poor patients will be able to afford it in any sustainable fashion. The growing market for used equipment has made it increasingly difficult to even get contributions of these instruments from hospitals in high income countries – it makes more financial sense for them to sell them to a used equipment company who will refurbish them and resell them.

I hope that these needs will find fertile ground within the hearts of someone reading this who feels called to make a difference one surgeon at a time. Helping our graduates can be taken on by individuals, a Sunday school class, a social organization (like Kiwanis) or perhaps by creating a new charitable organization focused on these surgical needs. As PAACS graduates more and more surgeons each year (soon to be 20 – 25 a year), the cost of helping them with this costly equipment will continue to climb and finding good used equipment will take the investment of time and money. I don't have a good solution – but if God is calling you to help, I would remind you that He is faithful and still Jehovah-Jireh – the God who provides.

NEWS SHORTS:

- **BethanyKids Opens Their 7th program in Zambia:** Amon Ngongola, a pediatric surgeon in Zambia, finished his training December 2018 with PAACS-BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital Pediatric Surgery



program and is now a faculty surgeon (senior registrar) at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka. Bethany Kids has just opened their seventh program there.

Dr. Ngongola writes, “This is a very exciting development for Pediatric surgery in Zambia. We envision that the services of Bethany Kids Zambia will mostly centre around enhancing training through collaboration with other Pediatric Surgeons in other BethanyKids site in the region and beyond. Secondly there is a need to support physiotherapy and occupational therapy care for children undergoing neurological care like spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Lastly, the support from Bethany kids will cover some investigations that are either

too expensive or technically difficult and result in unnecessary prolonged hospitalization for children. I look forward to seeing a positive impact on the children in Zambia and I thank God for the opportunity to serve with Bethany kids.” If you wish more information about the new program, please [view this video](#).

- **Dr. David Nolen in Spotlight:** Dr. David Nolen, a head and neck surgeon who has worked with PAACS at AIC Kijabe Hospital since 2015, was featured in the most recent monthly Bulletin of American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. [The article](#), part of a series, was titled “Spotlight: Humanitarian Efforts | David D. Nolen, MD” and was published on January 29 in the February 2021 online edition, Vol 40, No. 1.



Nolen, who started as a Samaritan’s Purse Post Residency Fellow and who is now a missionary under Serge Global, specializes in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, but sees and treats a wide variety of patients with various pathology and diseases of the head and neck. He wrote, “The work that I do builds upon the efforts of Robert E. Nagy, Thomas J. Boeve, MD, George Kurien, MD, and Stephanie Cox, who all came before me to set up and run the clinic at our hospital. I currently work with my partner, Chege Macharia, MBChB, FCS (ECSA), a head and neck surgeon who trained at our hospital and Mbingo Baptist Hospital, where Wayne Koch, MD, had set up a head and neck fellowship.”

Nolen further wrote for his secular audience, “As a person of faith, I think it’s important for all of us to stretch ourselves and experience our convictions in meaningful ways. For me that meant coming here. I know talking about faith and religion can be divisive these days, but I think we can all rally around the truth of “let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” That has been the biggest driving influence in moving to Kijabe and working at the mission hospital. I fail at it every day, but there is grace and freedom to fail and keep on trying. It has been a blessing to be part of this community and a part of people’s stories of finding treatment that they desperately needed.”

- **Rich Davis Announces Return to Kijabe Hospital:** In his family newsletter sent out on February 25, Dr. Rich Davis announced that he and his family (his wife, Stacy and their youngest daughter Lydia) are planning to return to AIC-Kijabe Hospital this fall after their daughter Gabi enrolls in college. The Davises abruptly had to extend their home assignment in June 2018 when their oldest son, Adam, developed a serious cardiac condition. Adam's recovery has been nearly miraculous since that time and he is presently attending university.



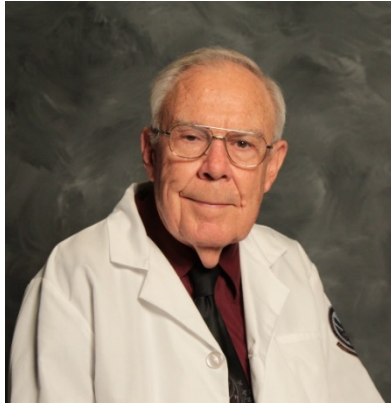
Rich and Stacy came with their two children in 2007 with Rich fresh out of general surgery residency. Davis served as the Assistant Program Director for three years before coming the Program Director in 2011. They are seeking financial support for the renewed missionary career. If you would like to help support them or encourage them, please e-mail them at richandstacydavis@gmail.com.



- **Fabianos Returning to Angola:** Dr. Sam Fabiano, his wife Amanda and their daughter Bella have announced their planned return to Angola in May of 2021. Fabiano, a January 2020 graduate of Bongolo will be returning to the CEML Hospital in Lubango (Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango). They have been in the US since July receiving surgical and medical care for a medical problem. They are currently at only 14% of their needed support. Please mail donations to: Advancing the Gospel in Angola, Box 561, Hudsonville, MI 49426 and mark you check "Sam/Amanda Fabiano support." Dr. Fabiano can be contacted at samfabio@gmail.com.

- **Dr. Clifton Reeves Goes Home.** Dr. Clifton Reeves, the father of Loma Linda University's liaison to PAACS, Dr. Mark Reeves went to his eternal glory on February 14. He was a master surgeon and educator that had an impact on many as a mentor, colleague and teacher. Reeves worked for Loma Linda University Health for 53 years and joined the faculty on July 1, 1965.

Dr. Reeves grew up on a small farm in Oklahoma. Dr. Reeves graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1960. He then took an internship and residency at White Memorial Medical Center and thoracic surgery training at City of Hope. Dr. Reeves then became the first chief resident at Riverside General Hospital, now Riverside University Medical Center, where he spent 25 years as the chief of surgery and 35 years in total. He was a professor of surgery and trained more than five decades worth of medical students and surgical residents. He also served as the chair of the School of Medicine admissions committee for more than two decades.



He was instrumental in developing the School of Medicine's surgical teaching program as the School transitioned from Los Angeles to Loma Linda. He received awards for his teaching excellence. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, three sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Reeves was a strong advocate at LLU for PAACS and was part of the 2012 inspection team from Loma Linda University which evaluated all of the PAACS programs then in existence. His son, Mark Reeves, a graduate of Loma Linda in 1992 who presently serves as the LLU liaison to PAACS, was one of the last resident classes to work under him at the Old Riverside County Hospital. Mark recalls, "I then had the pleasure of sharing an office with him at the VA for 17 years. How many kids get to actually work with their dad? He had a profound impact on everything in my career. Every day from when I was a small child and visited him at work, to when I was working with him as a senior partner, he always had a Bible and "The Desire of Ages" open on his desk--actively being read. And they weren't just books on his desk. He lived them every day." Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

- **Ethiopian Civil Unrest Continues:** In November, a long-simmering conflict between the Tigray Regional Government in northern Ethiopia and the Ethiopian government erupted into open war. Since then, tragic rumors of rape, looting, civilian deaths, and extrajudicial killings have spread in that area and some other areas where opportunistic groups are causing trouble. The government is slowly lifting internet, telecommunications, and journalistic interruptions, but region-wide lockdowns and curfews are being strictly enforced. While sporadic fighting continues and overall civil unrest is improving, the humanitarian crisis continues to grow. Tens of thousands fled to neighboring countries, about two million people have been internally displaced, and hundreds of thousands of refugees have been cut off from support. In mid-February, Samaritan's Purse began a program ferrying and distributing food and supplies for the involved people.

Thankfully the unrest around Soddo Christian Hospital about six months ago, which resulted in the evacuation of the Love family, had completely subsided and this unrest in the northern Tigray region has not affected the area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

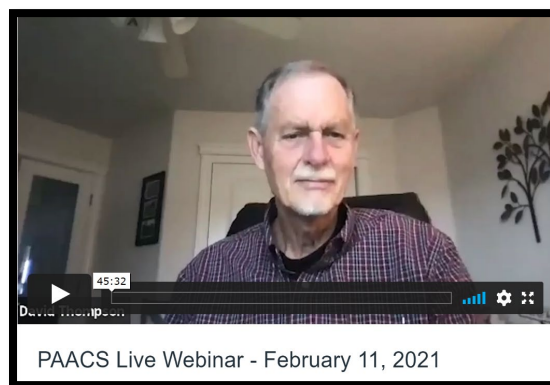
- **Birth Announcement:** Tenwek general surgery resident Yves Yankunze and his wife, Alida, have welcomed a new baby boy, Eben Aziel Yankunze. His birth weight was 3.15 kg (6.9 lbs.) He was born on December 16th, 2020. Yves is presently a second-year resident.





- **Birth Announcement:** Tenwek Chief Resident Sylvester Kimutai, and his wife Lydia, welcomed their first child, a baby boy who was named Kibet Mutai Adam. He was born on December 5 at 4:30 PM, weighing 3.5Kg. Mother and child are doing well. Sylvester has now graduated from PAACS.

- **Webinar Celebrating PAACS's 25th Anniversary:** PAACS celebrated its 25th birthday with a live 35-minute live webinar on Thursday, February 11, 2021 to commemorate all that God has done over these past 25 years. Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Executive Vice President, hosted the webinar, and presented a special interview with Dr. David Thompson, the founder of PAACS, and Dr. Bruce Steffes, former CEO and CMO of PAACS. Sixty-eight participants enjoyed the webinar. If you missed it, you can view it by [Clicking Here](#).



- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at SIM-Galmi:** Beginning in April when Katherine Shafer goes on home assignment, there will be a critical need for general surgeons at SIM-Galmi. The faculty there will consist only of Yakoubou Sanoussi (GS) and Nathan Peterson (ENT, Head and Neck). Please contact World Medical Mission or Yakoubou Sanoussi at Yakoubou.Sanoussi@sim.org
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at Bongolo:** The Bongolo Hospital general surgery residency program needs a general surgeon who is able to serve under a sending agency for at least 2 years starting in 2021. Please contact bongolopd@gmail.com if you are interested and able to serve in that time frame.
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at Harpur:** Dr. Sherif Hanna will soon retire from service at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt. The PAACS program at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt needs a General Surgeon for long term (preferably) or short term (several months) service starting in April 2021. For further information please contact Sherif Hanna via email: dr.sherif.hanna@gmail.com
- **Peña Course:** The 65th Workshop for the Surgical Treatment of Colorectal Problems in Children. Virtual. Free. Registration required. March 25, 2021 to March 26, 2021. Please register at <https://ce.childrenscolorado.org/content/pe%C3%B1a-course-65th-workshop-surgical-treatment-colorectal-problems-children#group-tabs-node-course-default1> 10 hrs. of CME is offered. 8:00 – 1345 Colorado Mountain standard time CMT-7
- **The Association of Academic Global Surgery:** Through initiatives at the American College of Surgery (ACS) as well as Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) the Association of Academic Global Surgery (AAGS) was officially formed this past year. IF you wish to become a member, the membership forms are here. <https://www.academicglobalsurgery.org/lead-comm>. Also, you can register for free

([Click here](#)) to be part of the first AAGS Members General Meeting that will be on Zoom March 4, 2021 at 11am Los Angeles - Pacific Time (1pm Chicago Central Time. 7pm GMT)

- **Spring 2021 PAACS Board of Directors Meeting** Friday, April 23, 2021. The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) invites you to participate by videoconference in the Open Session PAACS Spring 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. This meeting will be held on Friday, April 23, 2021. The Open Session will have a time of prayer, PAACS update, speaker presentations, PAACS faculty updates, and Committee reports. The Open Session of the meeting will be in the beginning portion of the videoconference. We welcome everyone interested in PAACS to participate in this part of the meeting.

The PAACS Board of Directors will meet immediately after the Open Session for a Closed Session to discuss formal PAACS business, budgets, and policies. The Closed Session will be attended only by members of the PAACS Board of Directors and Administration.

The Spring PAACS Board of Directors videoconference meeting will start at 8:45 am ET; 7:45 am CT; 5:45 am PT on Friday, April 23, 2021. We are still working on the agenda for Spring PAACS Board Meeting. Please register by [Clicking Here](#) and we will make certain that you have all of the information to participate. The deadline for registering for the video conference is **Wednesday, April 7, 2021**. Only registered participants will be admitted into the videoconference for security purposes.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for His faithfulness over the previous 25 years! May He continue to lead and be glorified for the next 25.
- Praise God for the new graduates. Pray that God will lead them to the place of employment that He would have and that they will make the new transitions in a way that brings honor to Christ.
- Pray for the new residents and their families as they continue to make the transition into PAACS residency – give them peace and open the necessary doors.
- Peace and stability in the PAACS countries. Pray especially for the ongoing tribal unrest in Ethiopia and the recurrent civil unrest in Cameroon.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Plead that many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- Request strength, stamina, wisdom, and blessings upon the PAACS faculty as they seek to train and mentor PAACS residents. Pray that God will bring His chosen long and short-term missionary and national surgeons to help train African residents in the PAACS training programs.
- Pray for the new program in neurosurgery which has started at Tenwek. Pray for Dr. Copeland and for the new trainees.
- Pray for PAACS graduates that are serving God's people. Pray for God's grace, protection, provision, strength, and blessings to cover the PAACS graduates.
- Pray for approval from the government of Kenya for the anesthesia, plastics, ob/gyn, and surgical endoscopy programs.
- Pray for wisdom and removal of barriers to begin training in Burundi, Malawi, Madagascar and Togo.

- Pray for the present manpower shortage at the mission hospitals brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. It is particularly problematic at Galmi, Kijabe, Bongolo and Harpur Memorial. Pray that God will make it possible soon for the short-term missionaries to return to service in the mission hospitals.
- Pray for all the PAACS faculty members and the hospitals – for personal health and safety and for financial viability of the charity hospitals in this tough time.
- Pray for wisdom on when to hold the PAACS conferences at Brackenhurst.
- Pray for Galmi Hospital which has an immense need for General Surgery help beginning April of this year for 3-6 months.
- Pray for the Tenwek Orthopedic training program which has a great need for additional faculty members.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment –the Birds, Andersons, Browns – for their rest, for the times of medical work and for the meeting with their supporters and raising funds. Pray for the faculty members that must cover their absence.
- Pray for the Jeffcoach family, currently in the US for health concerns. Improvements are being made, praise the Lord, pray they will be able to return to Ethiopia soon.
- Pray for the Ganey family who have returned to the US to handle some health issues. Pray for healing.
- Pray for the Davis family as they plan to return to Kenya and for the necessary financial support they require.
- Pray for those surgeons who are planning to join PAACS in the next few years – as they complete their residencies or fellowships, as they find a sending agency, as they raise the necessary money and as they prepare for the major cultural shifts.

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