



# THE PAACS BULLETIN

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*Issue #206*  
*September 2021*



Dear Friends of PAACS:

We thank **Dr. Bruce Steffes** for faithfully serving as the editor of the PAACS Bulletin for these many years, bringing us encouraging news “from the front” and keeping us connected and updated.

Indeed, we are grateful for all of the work he has done for the entire PAACS ministry and the Kingdom of God. We pray for God’s blessings over him and his family as we hope to continue the tradition of publishing the Bulletin with the same level of excellence.

The PAACS Bulletin Editorial Team



## *In This Issue of the Bulletin*

From the Desk of the CEO  
PAACS Program Updates  
Overcoming Adversity at Mbingo  
Meet the New Academic Dean, Dr. John Tarpley  
Keeping Up-to-Date in Surgery  
From the Desk of the Spiritual Dean: Arusha Retreat  
Help with Planned Giving  
PAACS Global Day of Prayer and Fasting  
The PAACS Daily Prayer Guide  
Prayer Requests



*by Susan Koshy, JD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer*

**Dear PAACS Family:**

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to Dr. Bruce Steffes, PAACS former CEO, for his years of service to PAACS and for being the editor of the PAACS Bulletin for nearly two decades. Dr. Steffes is unable to continue as editor at this time. We appreciate all that Dr. Steffes has done for us and the invaluable service he provided. His work and dedication will always be remembered and has positively impacted this ministry. We wish Dr. Steffes the best and are praying for him.

I hope that all of you have received the PAACS Prayer Guide and are enjoying praying through it daily. The PAACS Prayer Guide was mailed to all supporters in North America and sent electronically to those in other parts of the world. If you would like a copy of the prayer guide, please [download it from our website](#). We ask that you use this tool to pray daily for PAACS, our residents, graduates, and faculty. Your prayers and intercession make a difference in the lives of these men and women and the PAACS ministry. We appreciate your prayers.

PAACS recently held a virtual webinar on Thursday, September 16th. Dr. Keir Thelander interviewed both Dr. Thomas Robey, PAACS Chair, and me as the CEO. Approximately 37 people participated from different parts of the world. We discussed the strategic direction of PAACS moving forward and the greatest needs for the ministry as it currently exists. The webinar can be [viewed online](#).

The PAACS Global Day of Prayer and Fasting will be held on Monday, October 11th. Please join us on this day to seek God on behalf of PAACS and the men and women serving God through this ministry. Please [use this link](#) to register to participate in the Global Day of Prayer and Fasting and download the prayer points. We look forward to praying together on October 11th.

The PAACS Fall Board of Directors meeting will be held October 15-16. This is a hybrid meeting, and attendees will have an option to join virtually or in-person. The in-person meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines, IL. We currently have approximately 80 people registered to attend this hybrid meeting either virtually or in-person. We also have attendees from several countries around the world participating in this meeting. Please click to view a copy of the [Open Session PAACS Board of Directors Agenda](#).

PAACS wants to pray for you. We are blessed by the PAACS family, and the greatest gift we can give you is the gift of prayer. Please email us at [prayer@paacs.net](mailto:prayer@paacs.net) with your prayer needs, and we commit to praying for you.

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

*From the Desk of the CEO*

# PAACS PROGRAM UPDATES



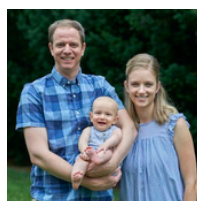
## MOU Signed with Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi

In early September, the MOU was signed between PAACS and Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi, and the dossier was submitted to the Burundi Ministry of Higher Education for approval. Please pray that the new PAACS General Surgery program will be approved quickly so that it can begin in January 2022. Please also pray for two strong candidates to launch the program at this location.



## NEW PAACS GRADUATE: Dr. Yves Mpongo

After Dr. Yves Mpongo graduated from the General Surgery program at SIM Galmi Hospital in Niger in 2017, he then felt called to further his training in Pediatric Surgery at the PAACS program at BethanyKids Hospital in Kenya. He entered this program in 2018 and graduated this past July. He will be returning to SIM Galmi Hospital as a SIM missionary and will be using his surgical training to care for the people of Niger.



## NEW FACULTY AT MALAMULO: Dr. Brent Sherwin

Dr. Brent Sherwin recently arrived at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi to serve as PAACS Faculty. Brent is a General Surgeon from Columbus, Ohio who graduated from Loma Linda University. He was welcomed to the Malamulo program with a white coat ceremony. Join us in praying for Dr. Sherwin and his family in this new chapter of their lives.

## COSECSA EXAMS

A total of 41 PAACS residents sat for the written exams of COSECSA. Twenty-three residents sat for the MCS Exam with 22 passing. The MCS Oral Examinations are scheduled for November 19-20 where 25 PAACS residents will take part.

Eighteen PAACS residents sat for the FCS Exam with 100% passing - (8) General Surgery, (6) Orthopaedic Surgery, (2) Pediatric Surgery and (2) Cardiothoracic Surgery. The oral exams are currently scheduled for December with 20 PAACS residents scheduled to sit.

## PAACS BASIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The Brackenhurst Basic Science Conference, which was scheduled to be held next month at Brackenhurst in Kenya, has been postponed due to concerns about logistics related to travel because of COVID. This conference is an intensive educational and spiritual experience for first and second year PAACS residents. It includes fellowship and instruction on both surgical and spiritual topics. It is hoped that the meeting can be rescheduled for early 2022.



## *Malamulo White Coat Ceremony*



The PAACS Program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi recently welcomed two new residents, Dr. Bonya Sharon Sheryl and Dr. Mkandawire Neutron Joseph. They were inducted into the program with the traditional white coat ceremony. Dr. Sheryl is from Malawi but is ready to go anywhere the Lord will send her upon completion. Dr. Joseph is also from Malawi and is a committed Christian who dreams of becoming a Christian surgical trainer in his home country. Please pray for these two new residents as they begin their PAACS journey.

# OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AT MBINGO

by Dr. David Thompson  
PAACS Founder



There are few places on earth more beautiful than the lush valley that is home to Mbingo Baptist Hospital in the West African country of Cameroon. There is also little doubt that MBH is increasingly strategic for the future of surgical and medical training of committed Christian surgeons for Africa. It should come as no surprise that this remarkable work of God is under constant attack over the past four years. Recently the unrest seemed to be settling down, but recent incidents are again challenging the hospital's ability to remain neutral, serve the sick, continue its training programs, and live out the gospel of Christ.

Despite these difficulties, the PAACS training programs in general surgery and head and neck surgery are continuing, thanks to the truly remarkable efforts of Drs. Jim Brown, Mark Snell, Sama Akanyun, Wayne Koch, Stu Archibald, George Ngock, and Acha Evaristus. All are trusting God to protect and bless Mbingo through this crisis.

In a recent telephone interview, Dr. Jim Brown reported that Mbingo's PAACS program is facing not one, but two significant challenges: local political unrest that recently targeted the teachers at a school for Mbingo's 800 staff members (and residents), and a shortage of PAACS trainers. In a few weeks, Dr. Jim Brown and his wife Carolyn will return to Mbingo, and Mark and Yvonne Snell will head back to the U.S. for a few months.

Because of COVID and the challenges of travel, Drs. Wayne Koch and Stu Archibald are the only faculty head and neck surgeons and continue to travel to Mbingo to teach. To provide adequate supervision to the head and neck fellows, he has extended the fellowship from one year to two. Their current fellow is Dr. Keafon Nchfor, a graduate of the Kenyetta ENT program last December, and a native of Bamenda.

To date, the Head and Neck Fellowship has trained Dr. Chege Macharia, now at Kijabe, Dr. Mesele Bogale, from Ethiopia, and Dr. Marco Faniriko, from Madagascar. Dr. Steve Kyota was also a fellow but because of regional instability was only able to complete a portion of the program.

## Prayer Requests

- For security on the road between Bamenda and Mbingo Baptist Hospital
- For stabilization of the PAACS faculty to grow and sustain the programs
- For short term surgeon-visitors to return
- For the hospital administration: they are under tremendous pressure from both sides of the conflict and are on the front lines in local negotiations
- For the residents and their families.
- That in the near future, Mbingo's general surgery program will again be able to re-incorporate non-Cameroonian residents
- For the faculty: Dr. Jim Brown, Dr. Deborah Eisenhut, Dr. Mark Snell, Dr. Everistus Acha, Dr. Richard Bardin, Dr. George Ngock, Dr. Sama Akanyun, Dr. Wayne Koch, and Dr. Stu Archibald

# OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AT MBINGO (cont'd)

To date, PAACS general surgery program at Mbingo has trained, disciplined, and sent out 17 general surgeons to the following countries:

## BURUNDI

- Dr. Nkesha Gisita

## CAMEROON

- Dr. George Ngoock
- Dr. Njume Evaristus
- Dr. Sama Akanyun
- Dr. Steve Kyota

## DRC

- Dr. Nigo Samuel

## KENYA

- Dr. Tony Mwenyemali

## LESOTHO

- Dr. Mifila DeGaulle

## LIBERIA

- Dr. Jerry Brown
- Dr. Gerald Ekwen
- Dr. Tresor Mabanza

## MALAWI

- Dr. Moses Kasumba

## NIGER

- Dr. Anthony Nesoah Ngoe

## NIGERIA

- Dr. Benjamin Malikidogo

## SIERRA LEONE

- Dr. Aiah Lebbie
- Dr. Kabba Juana

## TANZANIA

- Dr. Henry Ine

The recent challenges Mbingo is facing are occurring at the same time as a number of remarkable achievements:

- Construction on Mbingo's own hydroelectric plant was finally completed in mid-September, after nearly twenty years of fund raising, planning, and construction. The newly functioning plant includes two dams built with local labor and materials and a German turbine and generating system. The system is already providing the hospital with enough electricity to function at capacity and may even generate enough power to sell. For the first time in decades, Mbingo's hospital and housing campus has all the stable and reliable electricity they can use!
- The hospital has also added a CT scanner to its diagnostic capabilities and a long-awaited oxygen generating plant.
- The ICU has recently been enlarged and upgraded.
- All of Mbingo's training programs, including the two PAACS programs, internal medicine training program, and nursing school are now part of a new "Baptist Institute of Health Services".
- Mbingo Baptist Hospital is on track to develop a department of radiation oncology, a first for PAACS hospitals.
- According to Dr. Jim Brown, the hospital's surgical and medical training programs are the best in the country and are having a significant impact on the quality of surgical training and health care in the nation.
- The program's first graduate, Dr. George Ngoock, went on to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya and is currently the only pediatric surgeon in northwest Cameroon.
- Dr. Mabanza and Dr. Gerald Ekwen are among six PAACS graduates serving in Liberia and represent 50% of the general surgeons in the country!

***"God is blessing us in so many wonderful ways that I can't even count them! Through it all, He has faithfully protected us and sustained us."***

***- Dr. Jim Brown***



## MEET THE NEW PAACS ACADEMIC DEAN, DR. JOHN TARPLEY

*by Dr. Keir Thelander  
Executive Vice President*



It is my pleasure to let you know that PAACS has welcomed Dr. John (tarp) Tarpley as our new Academic Dean. "tarp", as he prefers to be addressed, comes to PAACS with years of surgical education and international experience. Most recently he worked as the head of the Department of Surgery for the University of Botswana where he also started the first surgery residency in the country. Previously he was the Program Director at the Vanderbilt University General Surgery residency program and Chief in General Surgery at the VAMC in Nashville, TN.

Additionally, he has worked at Kijabe Hospital and University Teaching Hospital of Kigali in Rwanda. tarp has published extensively. Clearly his academic background speaks for itself and his commitment to surgical education has been a lifelong endeavor.

PAACS is thankful to add tarp to our team and we look forward to seeing the Lord use him in this role to elevate the quality of education and discipleship being done throughout our PAACS system. Please join me in welcoming and praying for tarp.

## KEEPING UP-TO-DATE IN SURGERY

*Compiled by Margaret Tarpley*

- [Global surgery, obstetric, and anesthesia indicator definitions and reporting: An Utstein consensus report.](#)
- [Paediatric surgical outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa: a multi-centre, international, prospective cohort study.](#)
- [Enhanced postoperative surveillance versus standard of care to reduce mortality among adult surgical patients in Africa \(ASOS-2\): a cluster-randomised controlled trial.](#)
- [How to Increase Organization and Enhance Productivity as an Academic Surgeon.](#)
- [Cognitive Decline Associated with Anesthesia and Surgery in Older Patients.](#)
- [Priorities in haematological care in sub-Saharan Africa. Series from the Lancet journals with several articles.](#)
- [Why sports concussions are worse for women. As women's soccer, rugby and other sports gain popularity, scientists are racing to understand how the female brain responds to head injury.](#)
- [NIH needs to create a National Institute of Surgery.](#)
- [RCSI Institute of Global Surgery. The 'Voices of Surgery' by @OneDotSurgery is available to read & download now #GlobalSurgery voices from Nigeria, Burundi, Tanzania, India, Europe and beyond. Gregory Sund is in an article.](#)
- [The Burden of Traumatic Brain Injury in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review.](#)
- [Epidemiology of fractures and their treatment in Malawi: Results of a multicentre prospective registry study to guide orthopaedic care planning.](#)
- [Ten simple rules for Global North researchers to stop perpetuating helicopter research in the Global South.](#)
- [Strengthening ethics committees for health-related research in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review protocol.](#)
- [Announcing the Global Surgery Research Seminar, hosted by @HarvardPGSSC. All are welcome! Register here.](#)

*Contact Margaret Tarpley at  
margaret.tarpley@vanderbilt.edu for more information.*

# FROM THE DESK OF THE SPIRITUAL DEAN

by Dr. Ed Scearce  
Spiritual Dean

## SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT ARUSHA

In August, the Spiritual Dean, Dr. Ed Scearce went to the PAACS Program at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) in Tanzania to participate in their annual Spiritual Retreat. The retreat was a success and enjoyed by all. It was a time of spiritual refreshing for residents and faculty. The weekend was spent together at a retreat center nearby Arusha.

The theme for the retreat was “The Beauty of the Transformational Life”. It was an in-depth study of Romans chapter 12.

**The following is a brief report written by Dr. Frank Madinda, PAACS Program Director and Chief Medical Officer at the hospital.**

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity” Psalms 133:1.*

It is always a blessing to have the residents, faculty, and their families come together in one place with one purpose – to worship God. This year, despite the ongoing rage of COVID-19, we managed to have our 8th long spiritual retreat from the 13th to the 15th of August (albeit earlier than our usual December routine) led by our PAACS Spiritual Dean, Dr. Ed Scearce. We were 33 people in attendance, 16 children and 17 adults at a nearby retreat center in Arusha.

Our theme was “The Beauty of the Transformational Life” from the book of Romans, chapter 12. We learned that transformational living is a life lived by committing all we know about ourselves to all we know about God as an act of faith, and then God does the transformation. This transformation brings about beauty in our lives by living through the lens of God’s grace, living for the good of others, and living out love.

We went on a hike to a nearby waterfall on Saturday afternoon to wonder at God’s beautiful creative works, and later in the evening we ended the day with wonderful discussions. Such moments are crucial for our fellowship and bonding beyond the scope of work and studies.

On Monday morning, Pastor Ed blessed us once more with a seasoned word of God from Psalm 139. Later in the afternoon, together with the chaplain of ALMC, he went for patient visits in the hospital. A special thanks to all those who continually make such an event possible!



# SMART AND POWERFUL GIVING

## Increase the Impact of Your Generosity Through Planned Gifts



Planned gifts are smart and powerful ways to increase the impact of your giving to PAACS – often while benefiting your family, too.

By understanding the available options, you can multiply the end results of your generosity in ways that are simple, flexible, cost-effective, and extraordinarily powerful.

Planned gifts include:

- Gifts that reduce your taxes, such as stock, real estate and other non-cash gifts
- Gifts that pay you income
- Gifts in your will

PAACS partners with Barnabas Foundation to offer our supporters complimentary planning services and assistance with non-cash gifts to contribute to the PAACS ministry.

Since 1976, Barnabas Foundation has helped thousands of individuals and families give more effectively to the ministries close to their hearts. They'll help you accomplish the greatest good with your generosity – for your family and for God's Kingdom – through tax-wise charitable giving.

To learn more and discover smart and powerful ways you can increase the impact of your generosity, contact **Deb Pedziwol** at [deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net](mailto:deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net).



IHS Global's upcoming **Saline Process Witness Training** will be held at the Global Healthcare Mission Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on November 10th and 11th. You can register online [HERE](#).



# JOIN PAACS GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING



PAACS Global Day of Prayer and Fasting  
Monday, October 11, 2021

Calling PAACS Family Across the Globe to  
Pray and Fast for the Ministry and the PAACS Family



We are inviting the entire PAACS family from around the globe to join together in prayer to ask for God's protection, blessings, and provision over our PAACS residents, faculty, graduates, supporters, hospitals, partner organizations, and the PAACS ministry. We will be holding this day of prayer on Monday, October 11th.

We will be holding two prayer gatherings on Zoom at two different times on Monday, October 11th. One of the Zoom calls will be midday, and the other is in the evening. We want to give as many people from around the globe the opportunity to join together to pray.

Please see below for details about each of the call times and the prayer points. Please choose the most convenient prayer gathering time and register to participate on the prayer call. I hope to see many of you on one of the prayer gatherings as we come boldly before the throne of God to ask for His divine mercy and grace.

## PRAYER GATHERING #1:



[\*\*LEARN MORE\*\*](#)

US and Canada:

- Eastern Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm ET
- Central Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:00 noon CT
- Mountain Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 11:00 am MT
- Pacific Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 10:00 am PT

Africa:

- Eastern Africa Time - Mon, Oct 12, 2021 at 8:00 pm EAT
- Central Africa Time - Mon, Oct 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm CAT
- West Africa Time - Mon, Oct 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm WAT

## PRAYER GATHERING #2:

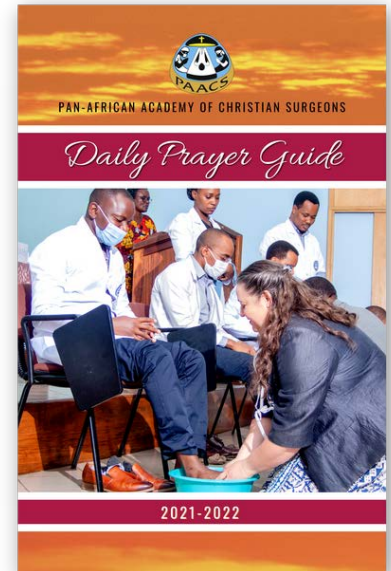
US and Canada:

- Eastern Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021, 2021 at 8:00 pm ET
- Central Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021, 2021 at 7:00 pm CT
- Mountain Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021, 2021 at 6:00 pm MT
- Pacific Time - Mon, Oct 11, 2021, 2021 at 5:00 pm PT

Africa:

- Eastern Africa Time - Tue, June 15, 2021 at 3:00 am EAT
- Central Africa Time - Tue, June 15, 2021 at 2:00 am CAT
- West Africa Time - Tue, June 15, 2021 at 1:00 am WAT

*"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*



## The PAACS Daily Prayer Guide

The 2021-2022 PAACS Daily Prayer Guide has been published and can be accessed online.

Please use this guide to bring the family of PAACS Residents, Faculty, Graduates, Board of Directors, and Staff before God's throne of grace and mercy on a daily basis.



[\*\*Read the Prayer  
Guide ONLINE\*\*](#)

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the health of Dr. Sherif Hanna, former Program Director of the PAACS Program at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt. Pray for remission from leukemia and wisdom regarding a bone marrow transplant.
- Pray that God will lay the need for short-term surgeons to assist the programs on the hearts of those who are willing to respond. Pray for the resolution of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Africa which continues to interfere with some travel plans.
- Please pray for all new residents starting in January 2022.
- Pray for peace and stability in the PAACS countries, especially for the ongoing tribal unrest and famine in Ethiopia and the recurrent civil unrest in Cameroon.
- Pray for the continued rollout of the Saline Process throughout all the PAACS training sites.
- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom. Pray that many lives will be saved through surgery and many people will come to know the love of Jesus.
- 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 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 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 the PAACS Board of Directors Meeting on October 15-16, 2021.
- Pray for Galmi Hospital which has an immense need for General Surgery help now and for the next 3- 6 months, Harpur (now through 2022), and Kijabe Hospital. Please pray for the anesthesia needs at Malamulo Adventist Hospital.
- 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.

*"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*