

Dear Friends of PAACS:

As 2020 draws to a close in the midst of this pandemic, we are drawn to the words of the Apostle Paul found in Colossians 3:15 – “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.” We are thankful for all of you who have upheld PAACS in prayer and with financial gifts – and remind you that, after you have given to your local church body, gifts to support PAACS would be very much appreciated. You can send your year-end gift to PAACS at PO Box 735262, Dallas, TX 75373-5262 or give my credit card by [clicking here](#).

We hope that you enjoy this upcoming holiday season. Please read about the first Board of Directors' meeting for the reorganized PAACS and see what else God is doing in the world of PAACS.

The Editor



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

PAACS PAACS Bulletin Bulletin

No. 197
November, 2020

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.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

[From the Desk of the CEO](#)

[PAACS Board of Directors Meeting](#)

[PAACS Alumni Traveling Fellow Selected](#)

[Post-Residency Fellows of 2020](#)

[News Shorts:](#)

PAACS Live Webinar

Lims Welcomed at Harpur

Spiritual Gift of Shopping

[Announcements:](#)

Wedding Announcement

Wedding Announcement

PAACS Africa Magazine

25th Anniversary PAACS Book

Medical Global Worker Retreat

Surgeons Needed at Bongolo

Surgeons Needed at Harpur

Address for Donations to PAACS

New Websites

Mark Your Calendar

[Prayer Requests](#)

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Dear PAACS Family:

During this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for each of you---our PAACS family. As John F. Kennedy once said, "We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." As such, I say thank you for making a difference in PAACS. Thank you for your prayers, time, expertise, wisdom and for supporting our work in training and mentoring surgeons for Africa.

There are many serving PAACS in various capacities and we are grateful for everyone who makes this ministry successful. However, today I want to thank some people who often don't get recognized---the PAACS administration. A quote from G.K. Chesterton states that "When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

I don't take anything for granted, especially this group of talented people with whom I have the privilege and honor of working. I want to let this team know that they are appreciated and that I am grateful for their support and hard work. They give sacrificially of themselves daily. PAACS is incredibly blessed to have this team as part of their administration.

PAACS ADMINISTRATION 2020



Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



Keir Thelander, MD, FACS,
FWACS, FCS (ECFA)
Executive Vice President



Steven Darst
Chief Financial Officer



William Wood, MD
Academic Dean



Walt Johnson, MD
Assoc. Vice President
for Academic Programs



Ed Searce, ThM, DMin
Spiritual Dean



Ken Rutledge, MD
Director of Major Gifts



Deborah Pedziwol
Director of Partnership
Development



Terry McLamb
Administrative
Assistant



Karine Bauch
Admin Coordinator/
Graphic Designer



Julie Hayden
Development
Coordinator



Melissa Martin
Staff Accountant



Rachel Polanco
Administrative
Assistant

You may ask “What do they do?” Simply put...they handle the day-to-day operations of PAACS. They manage the PAACS ventures in Africa, work with residents, faculty, mission hospitals, and graduates. They are responsible for overseeing the academic and spiritual training and the creation of the curricula. They process donations and ensure receipts are sent in a timely manner; they even handwrite thank-you cards to donors. They create budgets, pay expenses, and monitor the finances for the PAACS organization and each program. They put together the PAACS prayer guide, magazine, newsletters, and social media posts. They meet with donors to share the work of PAACS and to ask for support to further the mission of this ministry. They put together webinars, PowerPoints, agenda books, and meetings. The list goes on and on. Most of all---they pray and seek God to further the work of PAACS. They each inspire me and possess unique gifts and talents that bless this ministry daily. I thank God for these team members daily.

Thank you, Keir, Steve, Ed, Bill, Walt, Ken, Deb, Julie, Karine, Terry, Rachel, Melissa, and Amelia for your commitment to PAACS. Thank you also to Dave Thompson and Bruce Steffes for all that you do for this ministry. You can click [this link](#) to learn more about each member of the PAACS Administrative Team and what they do for this ministry. Please encourage them by sending an encouraging email.

Blessings to everyone,

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

PAACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By Susan Koshy

On Friday, October 30, 2020, PAACS held its Fall Board of Directors meeting. The PAACS Board of Directors and leadership were unable to meet face-to-face once again because of the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless, we are grateful that we were able all able to meet virtually through Zoom.

There were over 115 participants in the Open-Session portion of the meeting. The audience included the PAACS Board of Directors, leadership, as well as guests. We had participants from the United States, Canada and Africa. We were especially happy to welcome several of our PAACS faculty joining us from around the world.

Dr. Thomas Robey, PAACS Chairman, welcomed all participants to the Open-Session of the virtual meeting. Dr. Ed Scearce, PAACS Spiritual Dean, led off the meeting with a time of devotion and prayer. Following this time, Susan Koshy, PAACS Chief Executive Officer, presented an administrative overview of the PAACS ministry. She discussed the journey forward now that we are an independent organization. She spoke about how PAACS needs to be positioned at this time to continue to be a healthy and viable organization impacting God’s kingdom in Africa. Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS Executive Vice President, discussed the future growth of PAACS programs in Africa and potential new sites being considered to be a part of PAACS. He also provided a detailed update on each of the current PAACS programs.

This year, PAACS had a number of presenters discussing a variety of topics during its Open-Session meeting. Dr. Rebekah Naylor and Dr. John Chae, both members of the PAACS Board of Directors, presented on the need for mentoring, how to mentor and their experiences in mentoring. Dr. Ken Muma, PAACS Program Director of the Pediatric Surgery Program and the Executive Director of AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, provided a very honest and eye-opening discussion on the topic of “Race and Discrimination—An African Perspective”. Participants of the meeting lauded Dr. Muma for his candor and thanked him for this authentic presentation on this topic. Finally, Dr. Heath Many and Dr. David Halter, both former PAACS faculty members, who are now

back in the US, provided their perspectives on being on the PAACS surgical faculty and life on the mission field. Each of these presentations provided the audience with interesting perspectives, thoughtful nuggets of wisdom and useful information. These presentations are on the PAACS website for your review.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7794818>

In addition to these presentations, the PAACS Committee, Council and Investigative Task Force Chairs provided reports during the Open-Session meeting. The Chairs provided an update on the work of their groups and future actions that are being considered. Each of the Committees, Councils and Investigative Task Forces met prior to the Board meeting and did a tremendous amount of work in preparation for the meeting. Thank you to all who participated and for all of the work that was accomplished.

The PAACS Open-Session of the Board meeting concluded by early afternoon and the Closed-Session was conducted with the PAACS Board and administration members only. This was the first meeting that this governing body met as an official Board of Directors after becoming an independent ministry.

During the Closed-Session of the meeting, the Board of Directors approved the minutes from the previous meeting, reviewed and accepted changes to the PAACS bylaws and board policy manual as presented by the Governance Committee. They also reviewed and accepted the PAACS audited finances as provided by the Finance Committee. These documents are available upon request.

During the course of the meeting Ms. Susan Koshy, PAACS CEO, provided an update on the PAACS transition to becoming a new and independent organization. Dr. Keir Thelander, shared with the Board various issues concerning the PAACS Africa programs that require consideration. In addition, the PAACS Academic Dean's Report was presented by Dr. William Wood and the Spiritual Dean's Report was presented by Dr. Ed Scarce.

This year, for the first time during the closed-session meeting, the Board of Directors had a special presentation. Ms. Paula Goedert, an attorney with the law firm of Barnes and Thornburg, spent time with the Board discussing their duties and obligations as Board members in the new PAACS organization. It was Ms. Goedert who assisted PAACS with the transition process of becoming an independent ministry.

An election was also held during the Closed-Session meeting and the following persons were selected to the PAACS Board of Directors to serve a two-year term:

- Dr. Doug Lundy, Treasurer
- Dr. Mark Reeves, Loma Linda Representative
- Dr. Bruce MacFadyen, Member-at-Large (GS)
- Dr. Stephen Doane, Member-at-Large (GS)
- Dr. Charles Adisa, African Representative
- Mr. Nathan Kinzinger, Marketplace Representative
- Mr. George Bayless, Marketplace Representative
- Dr. Jacques Ebhele, Graduate Representative

Heath Many, previous program director at Tenwek, pointed out in his report to the Board that the role of a PD is multifaceted:

- Teacher & surgeon
- Administrator
- Leader
- Vision caster
- Mentor
- Discipler
- Pastor
- Social worker
- Encourager
- Coach
- Disciplinarian
- Advocate and protector
- Event Planner
- Travel agent
- Bean Counter
- Fundraiser

We want to particularly welcome Dr. Stephen Doane and Dr. Jacques Ebhele as new members to the PAACS Board of Directors. We are happy to have them join us and provide new perspectives, wisdom and expertise to the PAACS Board.

PAACS is in the process of reviewing its mission and vision statement along with the strategic plan. Dr. Doug Lundy is leading the charge on reviewing and revising this document. A strategic planning workgroup has been developed to make recommendations to the Board of Directors by its Spring meeting. Several other workgroups were formed based on discussions at the meeting including a workgroup to look into the relationship and obligations between PAACS and its faculty. The Board also developed a workgroup to consider and study a grievance process to adjudicate problems if presented by PAACS programs. These workgroups were initiated at this meeting and are charged with bringing recommendations to the Board by the Spring meeting.

Much was accomplished during a brief session at the Fall Board of Directors meeting. We were also able to include our PAACS family from Africa, who may not have been able to attend otherwise. The next PAACS Board meeting will also be held virtually. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate on Friday, April 23, 2021.

PAACS ALUMNI TRAVELING FELLOW SELECTED

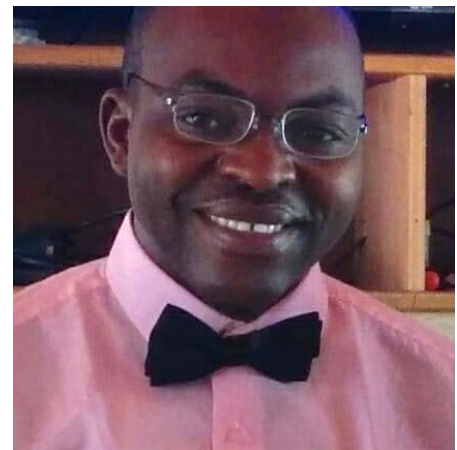
By Steve Doane

PAACS is glad to announce the first recipients of the new Alumni Travel Fellowship. Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno in Guinea was selected as the first PAACS Alumni Travel Fellow which will be for 2021. For 2022, Dr. Jack Barasa in Kenya was selected to be the Fellow.

PAACS plans to offer this fellowship annually. The purpose of the fellowship is three-fold: to provide a career-boosting opportunity for graduates, to enhance PAACS fundraising efforts with the perspective of surgeons practicing in Africa, and to facilitate greater alumni involvement in all aspects of the PAACS organization.

The fellowship will entail 3 weeks of travel to the United States. The itinerary will consist of approximately 3 cities that have both supporters of PAACS and hospitals suitable for surgery-related learning experiences tailored to the graduate's areas of interest. The graduate will participate in academic-related activities (operative shadowing, grand rounds lectures, conferences, etc.) as well as speaking at fundraising/awareness events for PAACS. For spiritual encouragement, the fellow also will be invited to lodge in the homes of interested supporters whenever possible along the itinerary. The travel dates will be scheduled around the time of a bi-annual meeting of the PAACS Board of Directors, so that the graduate can fully participate there also.

A runner-up will be selected each year in case external constraints prevent the initial awardee from completing the fellowship. We anticipate that the runner-up will be slated as the Travel Fellow for the subsequent year. Nominations were accepted for PAACS alumni who have been in practice at least 5 years since the end of their training. All of the applicants were superb candidates and the Alumni Liaison Committee considered each application carefully.



Despite scheduling challenges at this present time, if readers expect that their homes or their hospitals might serve as suitable locations in the itinerary of a future PAACS Alumni Travel Fellow, please email stevedoane@gmail.com and a list can be compiled for reference.

We congratulate Dr. Yaradouno, Dr. Barasa, and all of the applicants for their professional excellence in Jesus' name!

POST-RESIDENCY FELLOWS OF 2020

Out of 15 Post-Residency Fellows from the Samaritan's Purse World Medical Mission program, nine are going to PAACS-affiliated hospitals. Five are surgeons and will join the PAACS faculties.

Drs. Andrew and Caroline Avery will be going to Galmi Hospital in Niger. Andrew is a general surgeon and Caroline is a family medicine physician.

Drs. Brendon and Angela Esquibel, another general surgery/family medicine duo, will also be going to Galmi Hospital.

Dr. David Skavdahl, general surgeon, is taking his family to join the general surgery program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. Dr. Alicia Stone, obstetrics and gynecology, is also slated to join Bongolo Hospital.

Dr. Benjamin Roose, a general surgeon, will join Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi. A PAACS program will begin there in 2021, the Lord willing.

Dr. Jared Criswell, family medicine, will be going to Hopital Baptist Biblique in Togo. That hospital is planning to join PAACS in the next few years.

Dr. Tim DeKoninck, emergency medicine, will go to Tenwek Hospital with his family.

World Medical Mission's Post-Residency Program is a fully-funded two-year program established in 2004 to prepare young doctors and dentists called to a career in medical missions for the rigors and rewards of service in overseas hospitals. During their two-year assignment, these men and women gain valuable experience, share the love of Christ with patients, and adapt to living in a different culture. WMM/SP provides logistical and financial support while they serve alongside career medical missionaries. As of now, they have sent out over 200 physicians.

After completing the program, a majority of the Fellows decide to transition to longer term service through a sending mission agency. PAACS has grown very dependent upon the regular supply of general surgeons and other surgical specialists that have come through this program. Since its inception, 65 surgeons of all types have participated since the program originated in 2004. They have served in 25 hospitals in 22 countries. Over four dozen of those surgeons of various types have served in the PAACS hospitals or hospitals that are reasonably likely to become training programs; ten are functioning as long-term missionary surgeons at PAACS hospitals now and others are at potential programs. They have allowed the beginning of new general surgery and specialty programs both at the old and also at new training sites.

World Medical Missions was founded in 1977 when two surgeon brothers, Drs. Lowell and Richard Furman, approached Franklin Graham and expressed their desire to volunteer for a short-term assignment in a mission hospital during their vacation. World Medical Mission (Samaritan's Purse) would eventually be the main partner to PAACS for the recruitment of short-term surgeons. Some volunteers came under Medical Teams International or the through the agencies associated with the mission hospitals or the missionaries themselves, but the majority have come through World Medical Mission.

Physicians and others serve as short-term volunteers under World Medical Mission for periods extending from weeks to occasionally years. In 1980, less than a dozen physicians served but since then, over 6,200 short-

term medical professionals were sent on over 12,300 trips to mission hospitals. In 2019 alone, 804 trips by medical professionals were made. To emphasize the impact WMM has had on the PAACS hospitals since 1980, World Medical Missions has sent over 2400 short-term anesthesiologists, gastroenterologists, obstetrician-gynecologist and surgeons of all stripes to the PAACS training sites.¹

But each surgeon was more than just a number. Such volunteers are life-savers to the surgeons of PAACS as they brought relief, knowledge of new techniques, expertise in other surgical specialties and modeled the behavior of a Christian surgeon to the PAACS trainees. They encourage and pray for the trainers and trainees – and they continue when they go home. Many have become regular generous donors to the effort.

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely restricted this effort to support mission hospitals but hopefully, doors are re-opening. Please consider serving with WMM to support the PAACS effort.

NEWS SHORTS:

PAACS Live Webinar: A webinar hosted by PAACS EVP Keir Thelander was aired on November 19 and featured an interview with Simplice Tchoba (PAACS Bongolo graduate of 2014). If you would like to listen, you can find it on the PAACS website by [Clicking Here](#).

In case you missed the first webinar held in July that featured Dr. Valentine Mbithi, you can access it by [clicking here](#).



Screen shots of Keir Thelander (L) and Simplice Tchoba (R) – both talking with their hands!

- **Christmas Shopping and Helping PAACS:** One way to get your Christmas shopping done in this era of COVID19 is to use the internet. PAACS is registered as a charitable organization with the AmazonSmile Foundation. When you start your shopping through Smile.Amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to PAACS. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion back to PAACS. Register your existing Amazon account to our charity link and start shopping today: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-2569391>



¹ This includes those who may have arrived before the training programs started.

- **Lims Welcomed to Harpur:**



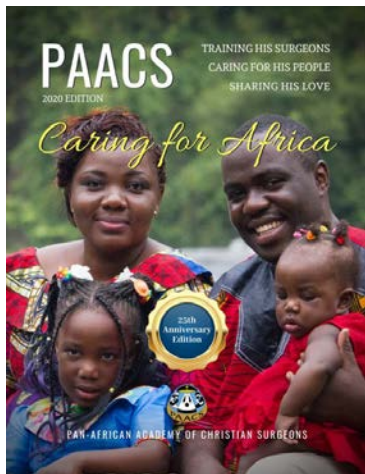
The PAACS-Harpur team gathered to welcome the Paul Lim family (far right) to Harpur Memorial Hospital. The celebration took place on October 30



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

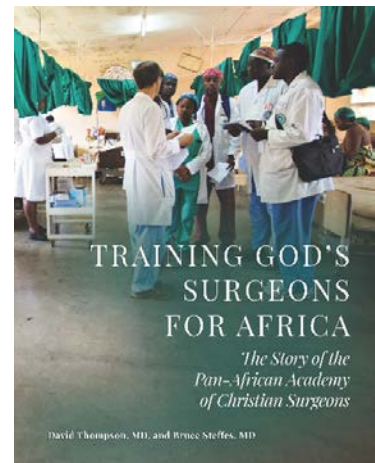
- **Wedding Announcement:** On October 25, PAACS-Harpur first year resident, Joseph Samy, wed Madonna Wageh Khalil. The wedding was held at Saint Antony's Church in El Menia governorate in Upper Egypt (Southern Egypt) beside the river Nile, The residents and some of the Faculty attended the wedding. The bride is working as a pharmacist having recently graduated from El Nahda University. on Sunday October 25, 2020. We pray God's richest blessing upon their married life.

- **Wedding Announcement:** On November 1, PAACS-Malamulo first-year resident Gracious Sankulani wed Janet Tsoka at the Lumbira SDA Church in Blantyre. Both are from Malawi and Janet is a nurse at Blantyre Adventist Hospital. May God bless their union!



- **The PAACS Africa Magazine:** We are pleased to share the digital edition of the newest PAACS Magazine, "Caring for Africa". Please read and share these encouraging stories about our faithful residents, faculty, and graduates. You can find it on the Resources page of our website, or by using this direct link: [Click Here](#).

- **25th Anniversary History of PAACS:** The publication of the book in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of PAACS by Dr. Dave Thompson and Dr. Bruce Steffes has been delayed and the timing is as of yet unknown. The book is entitled: TRAINING GOD'S SURGEONS FOR AFRICA – The Story of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons.



- The first annual [Medical Global Worker Retreat December 9-16, 2020](#) is an outcome of the partnership between Christian Health Service Corps (CHSC) and GRC (godspeedresources.org) that is designed to be a vital support to renew returning missionaries emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. This program is open to any career missionary serving in health care missions. The Retreat will be hosted at the Christian Health Service Corps Shalom Retreat Center, 201 Private Rd 5819, Grand Saline, TX 75140.

This Retreat will include community interaction with other medical global worker families, seminars, group debriefing, individual/couples counseling, recreation opportunities, and both structured and unstructured time and activities. The goal is to provide the missionaries with refreshment/healing, knowledge, skills, and a safe place to process so that they can continue in their calling and life with faithfulness and contentment. They look forward to serving others so that they can continue serving others!

- **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 either time frame.
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at Harpur:** Dr. Sherif Hanna has returned in September to Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt to serve for several months before retiring. 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

- **Address for Donations to PAACS:** All donations should be sent to:

PAACS
 PO Box 735262
 Dallas, TX 75373-5262

- **New websites:** PAACS has recently rolled out their newly revised website (www.paacs.net) and now COSECSA has rolled out their revamped website (www.cosecsa.org). Visit them!
- **Mark your calendar** for the following events you may wish to attend or uphold in prayer:
 - **PAACS Biannual Board Meetings**
 - Spring 2021 PAACS Board of Directors Meeting Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 2021. The venue and nature of meeting (in-person or video conference) is still undetermined.
 - **African Colleges Exams & Conferences:**
 - COSECSA MCS and FCS oral exams in Zambia have been cancelled. The MCS will be December 5 and 6 at multiple sites: Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. PAACS residents from Niger, Gabon and Cameroon will attend the MCS exams in Rwanda and the residents from Tanzania will be going to Zambia; the rest will take the exams in their countries of training. The FCS exam dates and countries of examination are given below, if known. It seems likely at present that the FCS general surgery exam will be in late January.

FCS Programme	Dates	Country of Examination (Examination Sites)
Cardiothoracic	Dec 7 and 8	Kenya
Neurosurgery	12-Dec-20	Rwanda
ORL (ENT)	13-Dec-20	Malawi
Pediatric orthopedics	TBD (2021)	Kenya or Ethiopia

Pediatric Surgery	12-Dec-20	Zimbabwe
		Ethiopia
Plastic Surgery	12-Dec-20	Zimbabwe
Urology	6-Dec-20	Rwanda
General Surgery	TBD (2021)	Kenya
		Ethiopia
		Zambia
Orthopaedics	TBD (2021)	Kenya
		Zambia
		Rwanda

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the residents taking the MCS and FCS exams as part of COSECSA – that they will study well, retain the information, and perform in relationship to their efforts. Pray that their complicated travel with its requirements for COVID testing will go well.
- Pray that God will provide the applicants already selected for PAACS for the 2021 training year and for the remaining programs who have still to complete their roster. Pray for the residents and their families as they plan to make the transition – give them peace and open the necessary doors.
- Pray for physical and spiritual healing for this world in the face of this repeat surge of the pandemic.
- Pray for internal peace, in light of the pandemic, as the PAACS family faces the continued uncertainty of separation from family, of unknown medical demand, and limited medical resources.
- 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 that God will make it possible for the short-term missionaries to return to service in the mission hospitals.
- Peace and stability in the PAACS countries. Pray especially for the ongoing and escalating tribal unrest in Ethiopia and the recurrent of 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 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 decisions regarding the upcoming Basic Science Conference at the Brackenhurst Conference Centre, in Kenya, being planned for early March 2021. Current Covid numbers in Kenya are surging.
- Ask God for success and needed help for all of the 16 current PAACS programs. Pray that governmental approval of the plastic surgery and anesthesia programs will come for the AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya and that COSECSA and the Kenyan government will approve the Surgical Endoscopy Fellowship at Tenwek Hospital.
- Pray for the programs hoping to open in January 2021: General Surgery at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi, Plastic Surgery at Kijabe Hospital, Ob/Gyn at Tenwek Hospital, Neurosurgery and Surgical Endoscopy at Tenwek Hospital, and Anesthesiology training at Kijabe Hospital.
- Pray for the present manpower shortage at the mission hospitals.
- Pray for the ongoing need for general surgery faculty at Kijabe, which is most necessary between now and July 2021.
- Pray for the Soddo-Cure Orthopedic Program in Ethiopia that has a great need for additional faculty members at Soddo Christian Hospital and pray for the Tenwek Orthopaedic Training Program which has an equally great need.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment – the Parkers, the O’Connors, the Whites and the Birds – for their rest, for the times of medical work and for the largely impossible task of meeting with their supporters and raising funds. Pray for the faculty members that must cover their absence.
- Pray for the Laverys who are in Cairo getting further Arabic language training, which is one of the most difficult languages to learn.
- 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.

Editor: Bruce C. Steffes, MD