

Dear Friends of PAACS:

Okay – even though the pandemic is still raging in Africa, it is time for you to plan your return to service overseas! Just pack your certificate of vaccination and a little extra patience to deal with the travel issues, look at your calendar and start your saving and planning. Covid has not slowed the expansion of God’s work through PAACS and four new programs are slated to begin in the next two years and others continue to explore the possibilities of joining PAACS.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

The Editor

**OUR MISSION:**  
PAACS' mission is to glorify God by training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to become Christ-like leaders and servants providing excellent and compassionate care to those most in need.

**OUR VISION:**  
PAACS envisions a growing number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick.

**PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS**  
**PAACS Bulletin**

**25 Years**  
Training and Discipling African Surgeons for Christ

**Edition #204** **June 2021**

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Dear PAACS Family:

*According to E.M. Bounds, "God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be, and the mightier the forces against evil." As such, prayer is the foundation of the PAACS ministry. It is prayer that shapes every part of this organization. Each decision, meeting, strategy, program, resident, faculty, graduate, and donor is bathed in prayer. We have learned the need to spend time in God's presence and fight our battles on our knees. Then...VICTORY is assured.*

*On Monday, June 14, PAACS held its Global Day of Prayer. Fifty people from around the globe joined us by Zoom to seek the face of God and to pray for the PAACS ministry. We joined hands spiritually across the continents to bring our requests before God's throne of grace. It was a privilege and blessing to stand in unity and pray in agreement for the ministry and the PAACS family.*

*In June, PAACS sent a Summer Prayer Card to all members of the PAACS family located in the US. PAACS has been blessed abundantly by all who planted seeds into this ministry. We want to bless those who have graciously stood with PAACS. The greatest and the most powerful gift we can offer is the gift of prayer. We have received many prayer requests already from this Summer Prayer Card and the PAACS administration is praying faithfully over all of the needs. If you have prayer needs, we want to pray for you. Please send in your Summer Prayer Card or you can email us your prayer request at [prayer@paacs.net](mailto:prayer@paacs.net). We commit to praying for you.*

*PAACS is also in the process of completing the new 2021-2022 Daily Prayer Guide with the prayer requests of the PAACS residents, faculty, graduates, and administration. This prayer tool has definitely blessed this ministry because it allows all those in our training programs and alumni to receive daily prayer. These prayers are helping to shape the lives of these men and women and the PAACS ministry. The new Prayer Guide will be mailed out by the end of this summer.*

*June 30 is the end of the PAACS fiscal year. As we grow as a ministry and train more and more surgeons for Africa, the cost of running the PAACS organization increases. God uses supporters like you to help PAACS continue to move forward to impact Africa surgically and for the Gospel. Your gifts are making a difference in the lives of many in need surgically and spiritually. PAACS trained surgeons are able to reach the sick in the under-resourced areas of the continent and also bring the Gospel to areas that are hard to reach. As such, I ask that you prayerfully consider donating to PAACS before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Your gift will allow this ministry to train surgeons to extend lives on this earth through surgical care. More importantly, these same PAACS surgeons will share the Good News of **life eternal** through Jesus Christ. What a BLESSING it is to be used by the Lord to impact Africa and those in need of the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. One day, when you enter into heaven, you will see all of those that God used you to usher into eternity through the seeds you planted in ministries like PAACS and others. Thank you for what you are doing for the Kingdom of God and His people.*

*To make a gift to PAACS before the end of the day June 30 (tomorrow evening), please donate at <https://paacs.net/donate/support.html>.*

*Blessings,*

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

## INTRODUCING A NEW RESIDENT AT MBINGO



I am Masango Lisongwe Misori Glory. I am from the Ndian Division of the Southwest Region of Cameroon precisely Ndian Division. I graduated from the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Buea in 2017 as the best female student. Immediately after leaving med school, I worked as a House officer in Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon and later in Yaoundé at Ekoumdoum Baptist Integrated Health Center. My first rotation in Mbingo was in surgery. That's how I got to know about PAACS. I saw my ideal practice of medicine; quality, affordable, safe and accessible care to people in a resource limited setting, embodied in compassion, servitude and Godliness. It was clear to me that I wanted to be all of this. Also I was blessed to meet a senior student from my medical school who at the time was a resident (Dr. Sama Akanyun) who mentored and encouraged me to

apply.

I am married to an amazing man, who is doing his 5<sup>th</sup> year as a resident in Urology. We have 2 beautiful young children; Leara (2 years old) and Lennon (5 months old)

Everything in my life is GRACE. The Lord made this clear to me when He called me 13 years ago. He revealed to me that He loved me in spite of who I am or where I came from. He made me understand He had a purpose and plan for my life. I am a PAACS resident today is by His grace. I trust that He who began this good work in my life will bring it to completion.

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Glory makes the 9<sup>th</sup> resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, a program which is still rebuilding after civil unrest in the area. Because of a delayed start on June 1 due to her maternity and annual leave, she missed this year's annual White Coat Ceremony which recognized the other three new residents.



Faculty praying for the new residents



Faculty assisting the residents in donning their new white coats.



Glory also missed the Surgical Skills Course in March when Dr. Deborah Eisenhut again joined them for a COSECSA (College of East Central and Southern Africa) required Surgical Skills Course. Eisenhut does an excellent job with this course which is a tremendous amount of work for which the faculty and students were very grateful. It took five Saturdays to deliver the course.

She is pictured in the left photo above teaching with a laparoscopic trainer using a webcam and a laptop. Dr. Mark Snell; is pictured in the right photo assisting one of the surgical house officers with doing bowel anastomoses.

## PAACS GRADUATES FOUNDATION FELLOWS IN NEW COLLEGE

Dr. Aiah Lebbie and Dr. Jauna Kabba were PAACS graduates serving in Sierra Leone who were appointed as Foundation fellows for the new Sierra Leone Postgraduate College of Health specialties in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which was inaugurated on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 under the distinguished patronage of the President of Sierra Leone H.E. Brigadier (Rtd) Dr. Julius Maada Bio and his First Lady. The president became an honorary fellow. The college has three constituent colleges:

1. The College of Physicians and Surgeons.
2. The College of Pharmacists and
3. The College of Midwives and Nurses.

Functions of the Postgraduate College of Physicians and Surgeons:

1. It seeks to organise and supervise specialist training and continuous professional development in the specialty related to it,
2. Support research in the specialty related to it.
3. Conduct specialist examinations in the specialty related to it.

4. Prepare and publish journals and pamphlets on its own, or in collaboration with other bodies or organisations.
5. Award fellowships, memberships, diplomas, certificates and other professional distinctions, as appropriate to the college.
6. Foster cooperation with other institutions with similar objectives, including intercollegiate cooperation, and
7. Initiate and participates in actions and discussions aimed at sound health and participate in the formulation of public policies on health issues.

The focus is to get many qualified Sierra Leoneans on board and ensure that they serve as the foundation to build up the future of the colleges and be the critical mass to lead in attaining the goals of the colleges. The critical issue in Sierra Leone is that postgraduate education is rare, and many of our colleagues who have trained outside Sierra Leone have found it difficult to return.

As a foundation fellow, Lebbie and Kabba will be part of the training of specialists in the country. At this juncture, the college is looking at training 50 specialists in each discipline. Currently, Sierra Leone has a huge deficit in trained specialists, to the point that one specialist for 7.9 Million people in the country. The Foundation Fellows are the critical mass to ensure continuity, as most of the consultants and specialists in various fields of study are beyond age 65 years of age.

There were 74 Foundation Fellows of various disciplines who were inducted. Dr. Aiah Lebbie is the only paediatric surgeon in the country and Dr. Kabba one of only a handful of general surgeons.

Kabba writes, "Thank you PAACS for this, as we put PAACS on the global stage, and how PAACS is contributing, not only to individual education, but now, to the point of transferring such knowledge and skills to entire nations....God bless you."

## ELWA HOSPITAL HOPES TO BECOME A TRAINING SITE

By Keir Thelander

Executive Vice President, Keir Thelander, had the opportunity to visit Liberia with Dr. Peter Ekeh, PAACS African Representative to the Board. Dr. Thelander arrived in Monrovia, Liberia, on June 14 and was met at the airport by PAACS graduate, Dr. Juvenal Musavuli (Galmi 2018). After the 1-hour drive to the ELWA (Eternal Love Winning Africa) campus located on the coast south of the capital city of Monrovia, Dr. Lemfuka (PAACS Grad Bongolo 2019) and his wife Dr. Christelle met Dr. Thelander at the guesthouse. On Tuesday morning, Drs. Thelander, Musavuli, and Lemfuka, drove across town to JFK (John F. Kennedy) Hospital to meet with Dr. Jerry Brown, who is now the CEO of JFK Hospital (PAACS, Mbingo Hospital 2013), and Dr. Tresor Mabanza (PAACS Mbingo Hospital 2020). Liberia has less than 20 fully trained surgeons for a population of 5 million people. Six of these surgeons are PAACS graduates, including Dr. Gerald Ekwen who works in northern Liberia.

JFK Hospital is the main referral center for the country, and has a 2-3 year surgical training program for physicians, but does not yet have a full surgical residency training program. The meeting at JFK was a time of reconnection and discussion of the challenges of working in Liberia and issues of leadership. A brief tour of

the hospital by Dr. Mabanza of the 50-year-old facility revealed the clear need for development of healthcare training programs in Liberia.



ELWA administration meeting (L to R): Dr. Rick Sacra (Medical Director), Dr. Elvis Mbanzabugabo, Dr. Juvenal Musavuli, Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka, Dr. Keir Thelander, Dr. Peter Ekeh, Reverend Garaway

In the late afternoon, Dr. Ekeh arrived in Liberia after having meetings at the WACS conference where they considered the possibility of a future PAACS Board member as well as discussion of the idea that PAACS would sponsor pre-conferences at the next WACS meeting on the topics of laparoscopy and trauma. Drs. Ekeh, Thelander, Brown, Musavuli, Lemfuka, Mbanzabugabo, and Mabanza, reconvened for a casual dinner later that evening while continuing to discuss potential collaborations in surgical training between JFK and ELWA Hospitals.

On Wednesday morning, the formal meetings and tour of ELWA Hospital began. Dr. Rick Sacra provided a bit of history of ELWA and the region. ELWA began as a radio ministry of SIM in the 1960s and has now grown to include multiple schools, in addition to ELWA Hospital. Dr. Bob Schindler, a surgeon himself, was instrumental in beginning the hospital in 1964. Though Dr. Schindler initially went to Liberia to provide medical care to the other missionaries, it wasn't long until the overwhelming need of surgical care for the Liberian people was recognized and addressed by the beginning of ELWA Hospital. Over time, the hospital has grown to greater than 105 beds with a family medicine training program, as well as hosting residents on surgical rotations from JFK Hospital. Those surgical rotations began with the arrival of Drs. Musavuli and Lemfuka. They were joined by Dr. Mbanzabugabo earlier this year, bringing the surgeon workforce to 3. Dr. Sacra elaborated on the ministry of ELWA and its now expanding church planting ministry, while affirming their commitment to ELWA Hospital and the development of more physician-level training programs. After he had finished, Dr. Thelander shared the history of PAACS and defined what PAACS is and is not for the other attendees at this meeting which included Reverend Garaway (Acting Executive Director), Dr. Mikey Bryant (Acting Director), and Dr. Rick Sacra (Medical Director). Unfortunately, SIM Country director David Writebol was not feeling well and could not attend the meetings. A brief discussion ensued which clarified further the role of PAACS and the expectations of ELWA Hospital from PAACS.

The tour of this relatively new hospital demonstrated a well-equipped and staffed OR area and a small recovery room. An ICU was lacking. There is a large Casualty Area (Emergency Room) and well-maintained

and well-staffed male, female, and surgical wards, with a Pediatrics department providing high level care. Laboratory work is ongoing at a high level and radiology including ultrasound and a CT (computed tomography) scanner was also much appreciated. A significant expansion of the clinic area dedicated to surgical patients needs to occur prior to the start of a PAACS program. Also needed is the development of a High Dependency Unit or ideally, an Intensive Care Unit. This beautiful facility and setting appear on a path to meet PAACS requirements within a few years. PAACS looks forward to seeing how the Lord will open doors for surgical training and discipleship in this country that lacks so much. Thank you for praying for this endeavor. If you would like to be involved with this project, please contact Keir Thelander at [keir.thelander@paacs.net](mailto:keir.thelander@paacs.net).

## ISAIAH MISSION FOUNDATION'S ORTHOPEDIC HARDWARE PROJECT

*[Editor's note: The medical and infrastructure needs in Africa are immense and PAACS is not capable of solving even a small fraction of them. We are thrilled when other groups decide to tackle a problem that they recognize, are uniquely qualified to address and step out to accomplish it for the glory of God. The work of the IMF will bless so many surgeons and patients.]*

By Steven Birkholz

Isaiah Mission Foundation (IMF) formed in 2017 as a group of friends trying to help the son-in-law of the group's president, Dr. Leonard Reedyk. Jason Fader, a missionary surgeon, is well-known to PAACS. He serves at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi which will soon host a new PAACS training program. IMF helped them fund infrastructure projects like a solar energy system, a new surgical ward, a new pediatric ward and the construction of a new morgue.

As a retired orthopedist and a member of the IMF group, I recognized the problem of lack of consumable orthopedic hardware (pins, plates, rods, etc.) in the countries of the Global South in which I have operated. Preoperative planning in such limited-resource hospitals all too often hinges on what is available in the equipment closet and not on what might be the best choice for the patient's problem – an example of the “tail wagging the dog”. Burundi and other sub-Saharan African missionary hospitals are not exceptions to that general rule. It can be difficult for a surgeon to put his head on the pillow at night knowing all of this is taking place.

With this in mind, we soon expanded our mission as we supplied 60,000 cortical bone screws in our first year. They were manufactured thru a contract agreement with a Taiwanese manufacturer. At first, we mainly dealt with hospitals affiliated with PAACS. I was familiar with the PAACS program and knew that PAACS

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*You have made my day!!!! I appreciate so much what you are doing for us. I am so grateful for your time, effort and hard work to get so many hospitals running across Africa.*  
*Ebhele A. Jacques, Bunia DRC*

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used mission hospitals to train graduates in necessary orthopedic surgery. Soon after, we enlarged the project's scope to any sub-Saharan missionary hospital that was doing orthopedics. As might be expected, on the way, we fell thru a few trap doors and encountered many locked doors; prayers helped to open many of those doors.

By 2019, we had expanded our limited offering of cortical bone screws to include plates, rods, wires, pins, other types of screws and some simple instruments that any orthopedist who does acute trauma care should have in order to give good orthopedic care. We accomplished this by contracting with a Pakistani manufacturer. All these boxes contained the same commonly used items: Pins, screws, wires, rods, plates, etc. In 2019, 36 such boxes were distributed – most to PAACS-related hospitals.

In 2020, we expanded the offerings to include an inexpensive external fixator system, more tools, femoral distractors and begin to ship directly from the manufacturer to African hospitals. We distributed 41 boxes of equipment that year. The 2020 Annual Report can be read by [Clicking Here](#).



In the past 3 years, we have shipped a total of 90 boxes of supplies such as the one pictured. But I began to see a problem. Patient mix, alternative sources of supplies and need varied from mission hospital to mission hospital; it was hard for us in N. America to make decisions about what was necessary at individual hospitals in these lower- and middle-income countries. Although the surgeons were thankful for the box of supplies, it seemed obvious that the most efficient use of donor dollars was to have individual surgeons decide which supplies they needed at their

unique hospitals. This strategy would allow decisions to be made very close to the problem by the surgeons trying to deal with those same surgical problems. It allowed surgeons to consider their skills, referral patterns, case mix, and existing inventory. A web-based catalog was developed this winter and we rolled it out a month ago to the first surgeons, starting with some in Cameroon: <https://orthopedic-hardware-catalog.myshopify.com>.

With the catalog model, surgeons can select the exact hardware based on their needs, and the materials are shipped to their hospital by DHL carrier. We certainly had headaches in creating a retail style drop-shipping operation from our manufacturer. We tackled the problems of manufacturing, managing inventory, negotiating shipping rates, customs, communications, and fund raising. We are still going through those growing pains. But with God's help, and an especially flexible and generous president of Surgivalley, the manufacturer, we accomplished the task.

We are making an initial offer of credit in the amount of \$400 to the surgeons. We will handle shipping costs for the first order. After the first order, there will likely be a shipping charge to the hospital for subsequent orders which will be in the \$100 - \$200 range. We hope to make this offer to the surgeons and their hospitals 1 – 2 times each year.

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*Just to let you know that the orthopedic drill & k-wires are very beneficial to my practice. Many cases I had to refer previously are now benefitting from care. I am very grateful to you and the Isaiah Mission. I. Etuh, Tamale, Ghana*

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It is a modest beginning and to be sure, a work in progress. In the next few months, we plan to ship to 7 of the 11 PAACS training centers, about 30 hospitals with a PAACS trained surgeon on staff, 7 CURE International hospitals, and 11 missionary hospitals not affiliated with PAACS. If this



is successful, we plan to expand the scope of this project.

If you are associated with a sub-Saharan mission hospital or you are a PAACS graduate handling acute orthopedic trauma and could use orthopedic implantable supplies, please contact me at [stevewbirk@outlook.com](mailto:stevewbirk@outlook.com). We will try to get you some help.

IMF is motivated by the truth of Mathew 25:34-45. I ask for your prayers. If you would like to help fund this project, tax-deductible donations can be made to Isaiah Mission Foundation by going here. Thirty dollars can plate four fractures; \$100 can supply a commercial drill retrofitted for use in the operating room, and \$400 can supply a hospital with an entire range of orthopedic supplies.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

By Yvonne Snell

*[Editor's note: Yvonne is the wife of Dr. Mark Snell, the assistant program director for PAACS at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.]*

God desires us to have relationship with others and to teach from our life experiences. As an older woman, I need to get off the couch and look for women to mentor. I love the movie "War Room." As the older woman is praying in her prayer closet, she knows she needs to seek out someone to mentor so they don't have the same struggles that she had. We all need to be mentoring others and we all need a mentor in our lives.

When going to another country, I need to be sensitive to the culture of others but I still can teach the Word and what Christ calls us to do. Titus 2: 3-5 reminds me that I need to be reverent in my behavior, not slander others, not have addictions, and be ready to teach what is good. Then I can be ready to teach others how to love their husbands and kids, be self-controlled, kind, be busy caring for their homes, and be obedient to their husbands so they can work together. We all need someone to help us grow in our personal walk with the Lord.

Each year of mentoring PAACS wives is different due to the different personalities of each person. When I arrived at Mbingo, Carolyn Brown had already started a Bible study with the wives. The desire for these women is for them to grow and realize they will be leaders in their communities just because their spouse is a doctor. They need to be prepared to mentor others that come into their life. These women can feel isolated and alone especially when they come from another country and different culture. The weekly gathering brings them together and they build a bond with one another. Some years have been hard depending on the personalities of these women.

Mentoring is not just having a Bible study. It is getting involved in someone's life and being there for them when hard times come. We have gathered just to vent about getting through the first year and wondering, "Does my husband even need me here, I never see him." When you listen to your sisters, you realize you are not the only one struggling. Then we can pray for one another. We have game days and potlucks together just to see another side of each other. Life is not just all work and no play. At times, we need to be there for each other when needs arise. I have given sewing lessons and cooking lessons and babysat kids. We share our struggles and look to the Word for answers to hard questions.

I want to encourage my sisters that are on the mission field or are contemplating going on the mission field to find others wives to mentor. It will start with building relationships. Visit the ladies, bring a meal, invite them

over for a meal, and look and see what needs your ladies have. My gifts are not the same as other missionary wives. We can work together and sharpen each other as we use our gifts. The Lord created us for fellowship with Him and also with each other. Do not neglect the coming together with other believers. We all need to be encouraged and be an encourager.



## NEWS SHORTS

- **PAACS Annual Exams:** On June 4 and 5, 2021, 78 residents sat the PAACS annual in-service exams for the MCS (junior) and FCS (senior) General Surgery levels. These exams are designed to assess a trainee's knowledge, are used as 1 part of an advancement or remediation decision, and a wonderful preparation for the COSECSA written exams in September. These 200 question exams are administered

over 2 3-hour sessions with a 1-hour break in the middle, covering the breadth and depth of General Surgery. Congratulations to 2nd year residents Dr. Faraja Magwesela and Dr. Mercy Mitei (both from ALMC, Tanzania) who obtained the highest scores on the junior exam. Dr. Olivier Ndizeye (Bongolo, Gabon) demonstrated his knowledge by scoring the top mark on the Senior Exam. Thirty-six (76.6%) 1st and 2nd year residents successfully passed their exams, 4 1st years and 7 2nd years must be successful on the remediation exam to be held the end of July. One each of 3rd, 4th, and 5th year residents failed the exam, with 28/31 (90.3%) being successful. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year resident who failed, receiving the certificate of competence from PAACS is dependent on successfully passing the remediation exam. Reliability measurement using the KR-20 gave a 0.848 on the Senior Exam and 0.832 on the Junior Exam. Again, PAACS extends its appreciation to Dr. Steffes and Dr. Haisch for their yeoman's job on the exams and to Dr. Steve Doane who engaged in a significant part of the exam preparation as well. Their commitment of time and effort are to the benefit of PAACS and these individual residents, having a lasting impact on the surgical care delivered in Africa. Once again, congratulations to all who successfully passed the exam. For those who were not successful, we ask for prayer on their behalf to remain intensely focused as they prepare for the remediation exam to be held towards the end of July.

- **MOU Signed with HVMM:** PAACS is pleased to announce that an agreement has been signed with Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM) in Madagascar to begin general surgical training and discipleship in January of 2022. Madagascar has a population of about 28 million people with less than 100 surgeons and are currently training 2 surgeons per year. According to the Joshua Project, there are 40 people groups of which 11 are unreached, with overall about 6% evangelical Christians. Please pray for the seeds being planted in Madagascar through HVMM and PAACS.



Dr. Hanitra (Medical Director), Mr. Ted Watts (Chief of Surgery and future PAACS Program Director), Mr. Euryaldys Tombomora (General Director).

- **Paper Published:** An article by Dieudonné Lemfuka and anDrew Huang entitled “Plastic surgery within global surgery: the incidence of plastic surgery cases in a rural Gabonese hospital” was published this past month in the European Journal of Plastic Surgery (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00238-021-01837-x>). The articles reviewed the records at Bongolo hospital to answer the question how much of the surgical pathology that presents at a typical community hospital in the African bush could be well-treated by a plastic surgeon. They concluded “At least 1 in 9 surgical cases at this first-level, rural, African hospital can be classified as plastic surgery. This case load testifies to the impact plastic surgeons can have in the sub-Saharan African context, even at smaller, rural hospital.”
- **Mbingo Hopes to Obtain Pathology Slide Scanner:** Anyone who has spent time in the PAACS hospitals knows the difficulty in obtaining reliable pathology services. Many countries have minimal capabilities; for example, the only pathologist in Sierra Leone died this past month. World Medical Mission has also been advertising for short-term pathologists to assist at Kijabe Hospital.

Rick Bardin has been the pathologist at Mbingo Baptist in Cameroon for more than 10 years. Rick provides pathology services not only to Mbingo Baptist Hospital, but also to most other hospitals within the Cameroon Baptist Convention system, and to other mission hospitals in the country. Telepathology and technology is the only way he can hope to meet the demand for his services. Such a scanner costs \$50,000. The Southwestern Medical Clinic in Michigan has created a matching fund campaign going to help purchase the machine. You can learn more about the campaign by [Clicking Here](#). You can donate through a link found there as well.

- **Progress in Construction at Soddo Christian Hospital:** It is hoped that the new surgical building with eight operating room will be completed by the end of the year. Construction was begun with a \$500,000 grant from USAID. An additional \$150,000 is still needed to finish and equip it. The previous operating room areas will be converted to a pre-operative area, a post-anesthesia recovery unit, locker rooms and office space.

The second PAACS dormitory with 12 more apartments is also under construction and also has a target date of December. This will bring the total to 20 resident apartments and three for faculty members. Thanks to quick and generous giving by donors, the new dormitory is 80% funded. Only \$96,440 is needed to complete that project.



The PAACS Dormitory is shown in this aerial view.



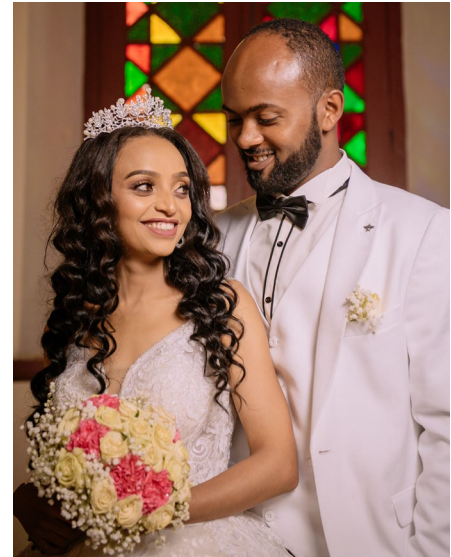
The new surgical suites are also making good progress.

- **GlobalSurgBox:** Dr. Yihan Lin, a cardiothoracic fellow at the University of Colorado who has been working in Rwanda since 2012, recently introduced the Tenwek residents and the PAACS program to the [GlobalSurgBox](#). The portable surgical simulator is designed to teach surgical skills in low-resource environments. A video demonstrating it can be seen [HERE](#). The website lists all the components and offers help in making one. It can be assembled using commonly available things at a relatively low price. It can assist medical students to cardiothoracic fellows.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Errata:** The article last month by Dr. Sherif Hanna contained two errors. Shady Fayik graduated in Dec 2016 not 2017, and Amgad Amir (not Amgad Nashat) graduated in 2018. Please accept our apologies for the errors.

- **Wedding Announcement:** On June 12, 2021, Dr. Tsegaye Woldegiogis married Jifare Gemechu at the Full Gospel Church of Soddo with a beautiful reception at the Lewi Hotel. Dr. Tsegaye is a fifth-year general surgery resident at Soddo Christian Hospital. He was born and raised in Soddo. His wife, Jifare, is from Addis Ababa and has her masters in pediatric nursing. She is currently a lecturer at Wachemo University in Hosanna. Tsegaye and Jafire met while on a medical mission trip to a region north of Soddo. It is only fitting that their relationship began while using their professional skills to serve those in need. They have a heart to serve and follow the Lord's leading on their life. Their relationship is a testament to the way that Christ loves His people. We look forward to watching how the Lord uses this couple to change hearts for Christ.



- **Anesthesia & Surgical Help Needed at Malamulo Adventist Hospital:** Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi has lost anesthesia services and is down to one provider. If any anesthesia professionals (including CRNAs) can assist on a short- or long-terms basis, they would much appreciate the help. Please contact Dr. Kasumba Moses at [mkasumba78@gmail.com](mailto:mkasumba78@gmail.com). Additionally, the Program Director at **Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi** is a 2017 PAACS graduate needing a vacation from June 15 to early August and the hospital needs additional hands to train (7) General Surgery residents during his break.
- **Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon** has (8) General Surgery residents and (1) Head & Neck fellow. Currently, there is a conflict occurring in Cameroon but people have started returning to the area. They greatly need short-term and long-term assistance. Contact Dr. Jim Brown at [jimbrownjab@gmail.com](mailto:jimbrownjab@gmail.com).
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at SIM-Galmi:** Beginning in April when Katherine Shafer goes on home assignment, there will 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](mailto:Yakoubou.Sanoussi@sim.org)
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at Bongolo:** The Bongolo Hospital general surgery residency program (6 general surgery residents) 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](mailto:bongolopd@gmail.com) if you are interested and able to serve in that time frame.
- **Short-term and Long-term Surgeons Needed at Harpur:** 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 now. For further information please contact Dr. Paul Lim via email at [lifenlim@pm.me](mailto:lifenlim@pm.me)

- **Mark Your Calendar**

- **Examinations:**

- **PAACS In-service Remediation Exams:** Depending on the training program, the remediation exams will be given July 23-24.
- **COSECSA Written exams:** The written exams for both the MCS and FCS level will be administered on **Wednesday, September 1, 2021**. The oral MCS exams will be entirely virtual and held the weekend of **November 19-21, 2021**. The details regarding the FCS level exams and the conference are still unsettled.

- **PAACS Conferences**

- **Fall 2021 Board of Directors Meeting** will be held as an in-person meeting on October 15-16, 2021, in Chicago. We plan to hold the preliminary council and committee meetings on Zoom ahead of time.
- **PAACS Basic Science Conference** is tentatively scheduled October 18 (Monday) – 29 (Friday), 2021 at the Brackenhurst International Conference Center in Limuru, Kenya. It is primarily designed for attendance by first- and second-year residents and some program faculty. Details will be forthcoming and requests for speakers will soon be e-mailed.
- **PAACS Faculty Development Conference** – the date in June 2022 has not been definitely set. It is hoped that it will be held at Brackenhurst International Conference Centre.

- **Other Conferences of interest:**

- **Prescription for Renewal:** The PFR conference sponsored by Samaritan's Purse/World Medical Mission will be held at Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld, Sept. 16-19, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. Registration has opened at [samaritanspurse.org/pfr](http://samaritanspurse.org/pfr).
- **Global Missions Health Conference** will be held in Louisville on the dates of November 11 – 13. Details can be obtained at [their website](#).
- **CMDA-CMDE conferences:** The Continued Medical and Dental Education Commission of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations is planning to have a virtual continuing medical education session on October 23, 2021 and an in-person conference to be held in Marathon Greece April 4 – 14, 2022. The 2020 and 2021 in-person conferences were cancelled because of the pandemic. Only candidates for CME, their spouses and children over 16 years of age will be invited to attend the Greece conference, but they must be able to prove a full vaccination against Covid. Further information will be forthcoming.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 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 Covid19 pandemic in Africa which continues to interfere with some travel plans.

- Please pray for the ongoing selection process (interviews, application reviews and final decisions) for new residents to start in January of 2022.
- Pray for Dr. Glory as she adapts to her new training program in Mbingo Baptist Hospital.
- Thank God for all the spouses of PAACS expatriate and national surgeons who participate in the discipling of PAACS spouses.
- Pray for God's hand of blessing on the marriage of Dr. Tsegaye Woldegiogis.
- Peace and stability in the PAACS countries. Pray especially for the ongoing tribal unrest 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. Plead 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 wisdom regarding the planning and preparation for the possible Brackenhurst PAACS Basic Science Course the last 2 weeks of October. Additionally, for a possible Brackenhurst PAACS Basic Science Course next year (2022) transitioning to an all 1<sup>st</sup> year conference.
- 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 general surgery training in Burundi, Malawi, Madagascar and Togo. Pray for God's guidance for the possibility of training in Liberia at ELWA.
- 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 Galmi Hospital which has an immense need for General Surgery help now and for the next 3-6 months. Pray also for the needs at Bongolo Hospital (June, July, and August), Harpur (now through 2022) and Kijabe Hospital. Please pray for the anesthesia needs at Malamulo Adventist Hospital.
- Pray for the Tenwek Orthopedic training program which has a great need for additional faculty members to sustain this vital program.
- Pray for those faculty members on home assignment – the Loves, the O'Connors, the Andersons, the Snells, Wendy Willmore, and Katherine Shafer - for their rest, for the times of medical work and for the meeting with their supporters and raising funds. Pray for Dr. Shafer as she is learning French until early next year. Pray for the faculty members that must cover their absence.
- Praise God for God's hand of healing for the Ganey family who had returned to the US to handle some health issues and who will soon return to Kenya.

- 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