

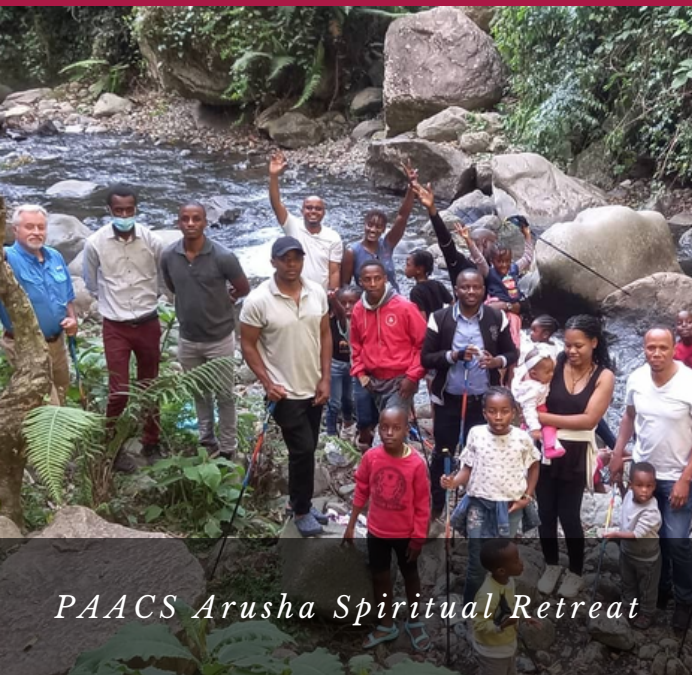


THE PAACS BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter
Issue #208
November 2021



PAACS Soddo Junior and Senior Residents



PAACS Arusha Spiritual Retreat

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From the Desk of the CEO

by Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family:

Research indicates that gratitude improves a person's well-being, happiness, and peace. Thankful people are inclined to be more content, experience greater enjoyment in life, and dwell less on the negative. Thankfulness is an attitude, a posture, and a way of life. God's word also reminds us to be thankful. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* God tells us that we are not to restrict our thanks to times of blessings but in ALL circumstances. This means even during difficult trials, we must give thanks to the Lord. This is a clear directive of the will of God for us. He is providing guidance for finding peace and joy despite the circumstances we face. Let us therefore continually give thanks.

The PAACS team is committed to posturing ourselves, to the best of our abilities, to follow the instructions provided by God in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. We meet as a team, almost daily, to give thanks and pray. This ministry is grateful for each member of the PAACS family and are giving thanks continually for you. It is our privilege to honor and bless you before the throne of God.

Each resident who is currently training, or graduate that has been trained through PAACS, have been a source of blessings to this ministry. These men and women are instruments in the hands of God to touch African nations for His glory. We are thankful for the privilege of being a part of God's plan in their lives and for the honor of working alongside and sharing life with such incredible surgeons and witnesses for Christ. We are grateful for the lives of these men and women and give thanks.

In addition, we are blessed by every Program and Assistant Program Director, faculty, and mission hospital staff serving as a part of PAACS. We appreciate their talents, skills, and wisdom in mentoring and training the next generation of PAACS surgeons and leaders for Africa. We are grateful for the sacrifices they have made to further God's work and kingdom. We give thanks for these surgical educators, disciple makers, patient caregivers, and evangelists.

We are also thankful for every prayer warrior, supporter, partner, volunteer, and leader who has touched this ministry. There are many who have helped make PAACS what it is today. Your work and sacrifices are never forgotten and have enduring impact. In addition, your prayers and support have sustained us and are a critical part of the growth and expansion of PAACS this year. We truly appreciate each of you and give thanks to God for an extraordinary group of partners who help us carry out our God given mission and vision.

There is much need for prayer and thanksgiving within the PAACS ministry. Please partner with us as we pray for His protection and provision for our PAACS residents, faculty, and staff at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. We are asking for peace to rule in that country. We continue to pray for Cameroon and the people at Mbingo Baptist Hospital for protection from the conflict in the area. We are asking for God's shalom in Cameroon and throughout Africa. We are also upholding all our programs, faculty, and residents as they face issues related to COVID-19. Would you please join us in praying and giving thanks for God's blessings upon this ministry and for His enduring help with the challenges facing PAACS and the PAACS family? As we do this, the joy of the Lord shall be our strength.

As we give thanks, we are bringing joy into our lives and are being obedient to God's command to give thanks in all things. I hope everyone had a wonderful and joy filled Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

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



A Word from the New Chairman of the PAACS Board of Directors

by Samuel Thompson, MD
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Dear PAACS Family:

It is a humbling honor to be elected Chairman of the PAACS Board of Directors. It has been a privilege to be involved in PAACS for such a long time and watch it grow. My experience reminds me of the Bible passage below in which Elijah, having just defeated the prophets of Baal, prays for the end of the drought on the land of Israel. When I first became involved in PAACS, it was like the little cloud the size of a man's hand in the passage. It was an organization with a few prayerful and faithful people. And now the sky over Africa is filling with the cloud of PAACS' influence and impact. We are starting to affect the health and spiritual care of many people on the continent. This is God's doing and blessing. Today I am hopeful that from these clouds a great rain of blessing will begin to fall. And the rain will fall on the good soil of Africa to grow and nourish the seed of the Gospel that is being sown by our PAACS faculty, residents, and graduates.

During my term as chairman of the PAACS Board of Directors, my plan is to pray and work towards what God is doing in Africa through PAACS. At this time in the life of our organization, I believe God is working through our strategic plan. This roadmap was painstakingly developed over the last year and then approved at our annual meeting. My goal will be to focus on implementing the strategic plan and traveling the path marked out by it. Please join me in this journey that God has prepared for us in advance. I invite you to pray, contribute, and work alongside me to further God's kingdom in Africa through PAACS.

Respectfully,

Sam T. Thompson, MD, FACS

1 Kings 18:42-45. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'" And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel."

IN MEMORY OF DR. JAMES JEWELL JR., ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF PAACS



In 1991, the Lord called Dr. Jewell to medical missions in Zambia, Africa, and he became the Medical Director at Luampa Mission Hospital in Kaoma, Zambia from 1991 until 1995. From 1996-2017, Dr. Jewell was Senior Lecturer, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Zambia.

In June 2002, Dr. Jewell was elected "Missionary of the Year" by the CMDA USA National Convention, Chicago. He was one of the founding members of PAACS. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Jewell, whom he was married to for 65 years. He has seven surviving children, 16 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

Read the full obituary [HERE](#).

FOCUS: Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, Tanzania

by Wendy Willmore, MD

Arusha PAACS program started in 2014 with a founding faculty of six (one PAACS fellow) and two residents. Currently, we have a full complement of 13 faculty (three PAACS graduates) and ten residents. Home base for us is downtown Arusha (a city of >1.6 million people). Everyone commutes to work daily (except the resident post-call). The majority of rotations are done at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre with some core rotations at Selian Lutheran Hospital, Peramiho St. Joseph Hospital, and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center.

We serve a diverse group of people, from local peasant farmers and herders to diplomats and tourists from all over the world. While education is mostly carried out in English, Kiswahili is the lingua franca here, and most casual, spiritual, and clinical conversation is carried out in this language.



Recently, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania – North Central Diocese has introduced wide-spread changes across their diocesan hospitals. Pray for our leadership and faculty as they navigate their changing environment. Pray for the residents as they also look forward to and wonder about their future.

Many of our faculty and residents are expanding their own families, too. Pray for us as we try to address the challenges of surgeon parents everywhere in a changing world. Most of all pray that we will wear the white well (Revelation 3), reflecting the glory of our soon coming King in a dark world.

CURRENT PROGRAM UPDATES

MALAMULO ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

*Malamulo Adventist
Hospital Update by Dr.
Moses Kasumba*

A bus filled with much needed supplies and equipment was shipped to Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi from the USA! It miraculously made it safely here two weeks ago, donated by Dr. Brent Sherwin's friends in support of the Lord's work.

Please send your prayers for the Sherwin family as they continue to build their new life on the mission field and grow in Christ and service to the Lord.





BETHANYKIDS

Congratulations to our two newest graduates from the PAACS Pediatric Surgery program at BethanyKids in Kijabe, Kenya: Dr. Yves Mpongo and Dr. Eric Irungu.



Drs. Yves Mpongo and Eric Irungu



Drs. Muma, Mpongo, Irungu Grayson, & Axt

MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL

PAACS Mbingo Update by Mark J. Snell, MD

Although the spiritual retreat is supposed to be annual, we have been unable to accomplish this much needed retreat since 2017. Our program was closed in late 2018 preceded by much unrest and remained closed through 2019. We were making plans for 2020 that were stopped by COVID.

We are very pleased to finally be able to gather again. We combine our retreat with the CIMS internal medicine residency program here at Mbingo. Half of each program attended on Friday, October 29th and half attended on Saturday, October 30th, doing the same program twice.

Our speaker was the Rev. George Minang accompanied by his wife, Prudentia. The retreat focused on Living the Kingdom Life in Prayers. This was broken up into sections - Do Not Pray Like Hypocrites and Pagans (Matt 6:5-8); Pray Then in This Way (Matt 6:9-13); Kingdom Attitudes in Prayer: Persistence and Humility (Luke 8:1-14); Kingdom Lifestyle in Prayer: The Example of Jesus (Mark 1:32-39).

It was well received and a very needed refreshment in our ongoing environment of unrest.



CURRENT PROGRAM UPDATES



SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

PAACS Soddo Update by David Jeffcoach, MD

While this past year has seen challenges ranging from civil war to the continued impact of COVID, there have been wonderful changes taking place on the Soddo campus. The Lord continues to provide in amazing ways. We were able to build four additional apartments to the PAACS residents' building and are fully funded for an additional twelve unit apartment complex that is set for completion early 2022. This will allow us to eventually have ten general surgery and ten orthopaedic surgery residents housed on site. Praise God for the many individual donations that made this possible. In addition, we are nearing completion of an eight room surgical complex. Thanks to a grant from USAID, we will enjoy a dramatic update and expansion to our surgical facilities. We pray that these additional buildings will be used to share the love of Christ with our patients and bring glory to the Lord through training future surgeons for Ethiopia.

Watching the residents learn, grow, and move forward in their training and relationship with Christ is a blessing. We celebrate with Dr. Muse Freneh, PGY-2, who will be leaving us to continue his training in pediatric surgery at Kijabe in January. All three of our MCS residents and one FCS resident have passed their written COSECSA exams and are feverishly preparing for their oral exams in November.

We have also enjoyed a resident initiated and led outreach to our local prison population. A couple of months ago, we had a medical campaign at the prison adjacent to our hospital where we cared for over 200 patients. Approximately 50 had surgical related problems. We have operated on around 20 prisoners and have returned to conduct follow-up appointments. This effort by the residents has been a tremendous blessing for the prisoners as well as the prison staff. Please pray for our trainees as they prepare for their upcoming exams, continue to seek out leadership and service opportunities, and share the gospel with our patients.



*New surgical facility
nearing completion*

Note: The conflict in Ethiopia has escalated with recommendations from many organizations and the US State Department to leave the country. While the program is still running, we covet your prayers for our residents and faculty. Please pray for strength and resolve for the residents. Please pray for wisdom and endurance for the faculty. Above all, pray that the Lord would bring lasting peace to the beautiful people of Ethiopia.



Prison Outreach Team

UPCOMING PROGRAM: Nkhoma Mission Hospital

Nkhoma Mission Hospital Joins PAACS

By Dr. Beth Stuebing Adams

A few short years ago, no one would have guessed Nkhoma Hospital in central Malawi would be launching a PAACS residency in 2022. They didn't even have a single surgeon, after all. But God was on the move. First Dr. Jens Vaylann would move to Nkhoma in 2019 after spending two years in Kenya at Tenwek Hospital. Jens had a vision to start a new PAACS program and the energy to get things rolling. A few months later, he was joined by Dr. Yamikani Limbe, a graduate of the Arusha PAACS program and the only Malawian PAACS graduate anywhere thus far. In January 2020, Nkhoma received a grant from African Mission Healthcare to build up facilities for a training program. The Medical Benevolence Foundation also generously helped to support Nkhoma Hospital and some of the faculty for the PAACS training program.

A couple of barriers remained. As you may know, it takes three surgeons to start a PAACS program. There's also a requirement to have an ICU. Well, oddly enough, also in January 2020, Dr. Beth Stuebing (who was born in Zambia and has been part of PAACS in the US) left her trauma surgery/ICU job in the US and started searching for where God could use her back in Africa. The answer was pretty obvious. She arrived in Malawi in August 2021.

Nkhoma will officially start our general surgery training program in January with our first residents: Dr. Caleb Kapengule and Dr. Vitu Mwafulirwa, both promising young Malawian doctors. We also have two more faculty members arriving in the next six months: Dr. Wanda Lam from the US, and Dr. Bernhard Widmann from Austria. We recently learned that will mean we have more general surgeons than any hospital in Malawi! To accommodate all these future cases and patients, we are finalizing plans for a new surgical and maternity center which will house adult and neonatal ICUs as well as space for PAACS education. We've had two containers of equipment arrive in the past month, and we have several nurses taking critical care and anesthesia courses in Kenya this year to prepare for our surgical and ICU growth. Pray with us for all these transitions and growing pains, and that all the funding for the new building is secured soon. And rejoice with us for all that God has put in place for this moment!



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

by Keir Thelander, MD
Executive Vice President



FCS Exams

On November 15th and 16th, the General Surgery FCS Exams took place in Kenya. There were nine PAACS General Surgery residents who sat for the exam out of 25 total. There was a total of six PAACS Orthopaedic Surgery residents who sat for the FCS exam in Zambia and Tanzania on November 17th and 18th (respectively). Two PAACS Cardiothoracic Surgery residents sat for the exam virtually on November 21st and 22nd, and two PAACS Pediatric Surgery residents sat for the exam on November 22nd and 23rd in Malawi. No official results are available yet.

MCS Exams

The MCS exams were all virtual this year, and many of the PAACS family were involved as examiners. We are sincerely grateful to the many PAACS volunteers, faculty, graduates, staff, and supporters listed below that assisted with the exams.

Dr. Carl Haisch
Dr. Keir Thelander
Dr. Jana MacLeod
Dr. Tim Nunn
Dr. Elsie Kamene
Dr. Zach O'Connor
Dr. Laurence Wicks
Dr. Beryl Akinyi Ooro
Dr. John Tarpley
Dr. Ronald Tubasiime
Dr. Yakoubou Sanoussi
Dr. Krista Kaups

Dr. David Joyce
Dr. Wairimu Ndegwa
Dr. Tim Love
Dr. Jack Barasa
Dr. Michael Mwachiro
Dr. Ivan Seno Saruni
Dr. Fernando Riveron
Dr. Andrew Chew
Dr. Louis Pisters
Dr. Thomas Sims
Dr. Moses Kasumba
Dr. Heath Many

Dr. Rich Davis
Dr. Mark Snell
Dr. Robert Riviello
Dr. Elijah Mwaura
Dr. Edmond Ntaganda
Dr. Jason Fader
Dr. Steve Doane
Dr. Russ White
Dr. Peter Bird
Dr. Ron Cheney
Dr. Tiffany Chao

PAACS Participates in the Global Missions Health Conference

Several key members of the PAACS Administration and Leadership participated in the recent Global Missions Health Conference on November 11-13 in Louisville, Kentucky. PAACS Academic Dean, Dr. John Tarpley and his wife Maggie participated in a panel called, "Healthcare Education Missions, Cultural Competence, Critical Thinking". It was led by our own Dr. James D. Smith, Chairman of the Professional Development Committee.

PAACS Executive Vice President, Dr. Keir Thelander, participated in a panel called, "Finding Your Sending Agency" along with a breakout session called, "How to Prepare for the Mission Field". A PAACS update was also provided by Dr. Thelander during dinner on Friday night and attended by about 60 people where he featured the new general surgery training program at Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM) in Madagascar.

Fun Fact: For the first time in his life, Keir met another Keir while at the conference!

(Article continued on next page...)



Bishop Mouneer Anis and his wife, Nancy were in attendance at the conference during their visit from Egypt.

Pictured left to right: Mrs. Nancy

GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE, cont'd

PAACS also had a booth set up next to the Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP), which is an organization for post-graduate medicine education. CAAP and PAACS share many of the same values and goals for improving healthcare in Africa.

Pictured left to right: Ms. Susan Koshy, PAACS CEO, Dr. Bruce Dahlman (CAAP), Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS EVP, and Dr. Stephen Merry (CAAP)



PAACS Display at the conference.



Pictured left to right: Ms. Rachel Huth, PAACS Administrative Assistant and Dr. Keir Thelander, PAACS EVP.



ACADEMIC DEAN REPORT

*by Dr. John Tarpley
Academic Dean*

Get in the Habit of Having Good Habits and the COSECSA Exams

The week of November 15th this year witnessed the annual COSECSA General Surgery FCS Exams in person and the MCS Exams virtually. In addition to PAACS residents, many PAACS faculty, volunteers, and staff participated as examiners. As stated in last month's column, I live in part by aphorisms, proverbs, and quotes.

This month I share habits and practices that have helped me personally and residents over the years and are applicable to the various phases of one's professional and personal life.

1. "Work as though it depends on you; pray as though it depends on God." I heard this the first months of medical school. It speaks to "God helps those who help themselves." Work and pray. The Latin phrase "laborare est orare" states "to work is to pray" and derives from St. Benedict.
2. "Education is something you do as you go, not something you go to do." Try to make every aspect of your workday educational, not just the morning or weekly conference. Talk, discuss, teach, ask questions as you round, scrub, operate, or see patients in clinic.
3. Surgical Devotions: I have no original ideas other than how to make a colostomy bag out of a milk tin, a bread bag, a piece of inner tube, and some string. Dr. Vijay Maker, Chair and PD of MGH Chicago introduced me to the following daily habit which Dr. Kyla Terhune of Vanderbilt labeled "Surgical Devotions". Just as it is important to daily have a prayer and Bible study time, morning, evening, and/or both, it is important to have a habit of reading, study, and reflection on the surgical front which helps whether one struggles or excels on exams. Dedicate 30 minutes a day, six days a week to **Read** (20 minutes), **Reflect** (5 minutes), and **Record** (5 minutes). Ideally try to schedule your Surgical Devotions the first thing in the morning while your brain is fresh. Couple your Surgical Devotions with your personal Bible study, reading, and prayer time. Both are important, even crucial. Remember "A healthy child is a growing child". You want to be growing academically and spiritually. Pick a topic that is related to a current clinical rotation or recent experience or have a monthly topical area, perhaps related to your textbook reading assignment or other for the month. Reflection is key. You won't remember everything you read; you can focus on three things you must know and use for patient care and/or recall for exams. Either underline or take notes. Then capture it and on a Word document and save to your computer for review later when needed or in preparation for a "high stakes" PAACS, COSECSA, or other exam and more importantly when caring for your patients. Retention is abetted by capturing and then rereading the entries later, evoking an amnesic response. I contend that writing down and/or entering key information helps "concretize" or hard wire it in your brain: you have seen it visually, you have manually captured it, and you have cognitively focused on it and preserved it for later, easier access.
4. Also, according to Dr. Vijay Maker, before you sleep, reflect, and ask yourself: "What three things did I learn today?" Do not waste a day. Again, reflection is a key. If you learn something every day and forget less, you will know more at the end of the year, the end of your life than now. Coupled with reflections on your clinical experiences you can separate the "wheat from the shaft", the important from the esoteric. Dr. Maker required his residents at their six-monthly interview to bring their laptops to the conference and show him their notes from their reading and reflections and the three things they learned each day.

Thus, "Get in the habit of having good habits." I have personal experience both in the USA and in sub-Saharan Africa with residents who employed the Surgical Devotions formula to excel and not fail on exams.



SPIRITUAL DEAN REPORT

*by Dr. Ed Searce
Spiritual Dean*

The Need to Retreat

In Mark chapter 6:6-13, Jesus sends the twelve disciples out in pairs of two to minister to the people. He gave them specific instructions as to what to do, what authority they had, what to expect, and what to take with them. It was a very successful trip. Yet it was an exhausting time, so upon their return Jesus said to them “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while” (v. 31). Mark records that the opportunities to ministry were so great they did not have time to eat. It is no little thing that even in the process of seeking to rest they are challenged with the feeding of the 5,000.

The demands of ministry are many and can appear to be unending. This is especially true in the medical field where most needs are of the urgent kind. This account of successful ministry in the lives of the disciples serves as a good example for all of us. There are times when we simply need to step away from the demands of ministry to refresh and refocus.

This is one of the reasons PAACS places a high value on the spiritual maturity of residents and faculty. The use of five spiritual curriculum books is one of the ways in which spiritual development is implemented. Another methodology is the conducting of annual spiritual retreats at each PAACS location. It is a time designed to step away from the busyness of medical demands in order to refresh and refocus. These retreats are ideally held over a period of two to three days in a location away from the hospital. It is designed for residents and faculty to come together around the Word of God as they seek to go deeper in the process of becoming fully devoted followers of Christ.

It is the desire of the PAACS Spiritual Dean to share in as many of these retreats as possible. Yet the number of opportunities make this goal very challenging. Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon is a location where the Dean has scheduled to participate on four different occasions starting first in 2018. However, each opportunity has been interrupted either by the ongoing conflict in Cameroon or family illness. Then the COVID pandemic hit which furthered complicated participation. Though still unable to participate, we are pleased to announce that in October 2021, Mbingo was able to hold a spiritual retreat. For this we are thankful to God!

On page five of this Bulletin is a report about the retreat at Mbingo from Dr. Mark Snell, PAACS Assistant Program Director at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Dr. Snell is also the leader of spiritual development at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.



PAACS SUPPORTERS

SUPPORTING PAACS WITH NEW AND UNIQUE IDEAS



Grace Church in Middleburg Heights, OH, chose to support PAACS through their coffee shop ministry, Global Grounds. During the month of September, the baristas and volunteers donated all the tips they received to PAACS. They also set up a table with additional resources for those who were interested in learning more about the organization they were donating towards.

By the end of the month, they had collected almost \$1,000 from people who were simply coming in to get a cup of coffee – while raising awareness for some of the amazing things God is doing in Africa through PAACS!

The coffee shop hosts many other events like open mic nights, calligraphy lessons, and monthly “support a mission” gift boxes, where all proceeds go to either a local mission or their denomination’s Great Commission Fund. They’ve been a great lesson in what some creative thinking can do to start engaging more of the church with what God is doing both in the community and around the world.



'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING

As we head into the final month of 2021, **WE NEED YOUR HELP** more than ever to support the training of the largest incoming class of PAACS surgical residents. In January 2022, we will welcome **39 new residents** into the PAACS training programs across Africa! We also plan to open **three new general surgery training programs**. You have been instrumental in helping us reach this point of exciting growth. We could not have done this without your support and prayers.

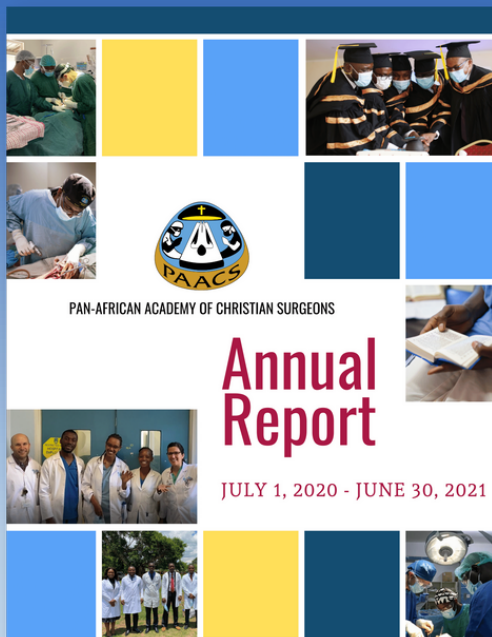
It is our prayer that the growth and expansion of PAACS will bring about greater access to surgery and better healthcare for the people of Africa. It is also our desire that this will lead to more people hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that this ministry will be used to impact this continent for God’s glory.

Please continue bringing more hope and healing to Africa through PAACS by making a special year-end gift today! May God bless you for your sacrificial giving and prayers for this ministry.

**PLEASE GIVE BEFORE
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

DONATE

ONLINE RESOURCES



PAACS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

The PAACS 2020-2021 Annual Report can now be viewed online. Read about the impact that PAACS is making throughout Africa.

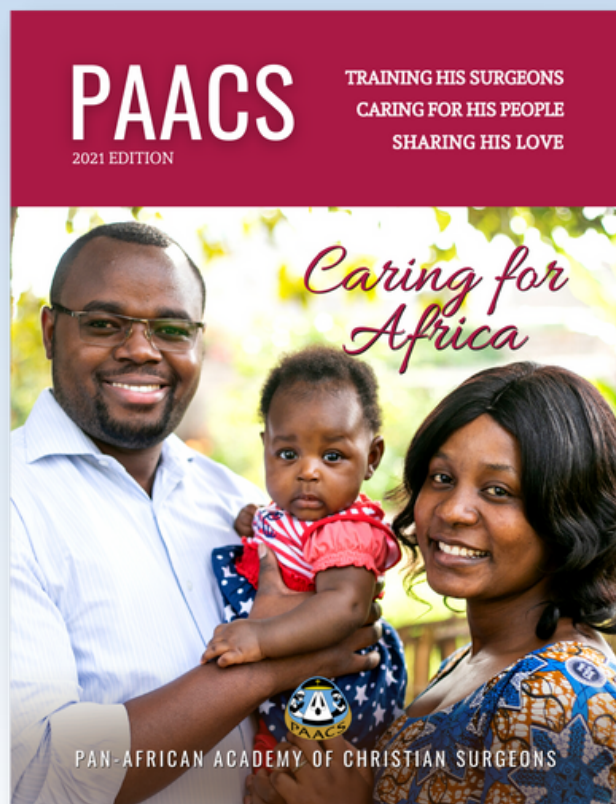
[READ ONLINE](#)

PAACS MAGAZINE 2021

The latest issue of the PAACS Magazine: *Caring for Africa* is now available to read online. Supporters have been sent hard copies of the magazine in the mail.

Articles include:

- "Leading in the Midst of Conflict" by Dr. James A. Brown, Program Director
- "From Strangers to Family" by Dr. Solomon Machedmedze, PAACS Resident
- "Becoming Both Doctor and Pastor" by Dr. Lemfuka Afidu Dieudonne, PAACS Graduate
- "Mentoring the Next Generation of Graduates" by Dr. Beryl Akinyi Ooro, Assistant Program Director
- "One-on-One with a PAACS Resident" by Dr. Jacques Fadhili Bake, PAACS Resident



[READ ONLINE](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE IN SURGERY

*Compiled by
Margaret Tarpley*

[A cross-sectional survey investigating the impact of COVID-19 on surgery training at teaching hospitals accredited by the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa.](#)

[REVISED High infectious disease burden as a basis for the observed high frequency of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections in sub-Saharan Africa \[version 3; peer review: 2 approved\].](#)

[Low COVID-19 impact in Africa: The multifactorial Nexus \[version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review\].](#)

[Access to paediatric surgery: the geography of inequality in Nigeria.](#)

[Systematic analysis of authorship demographics in global surgery.](#)

[RIS Atlas: Identifying existing cohort study data resources to accelerate epidemiological research on the influence of religion and spirituality on human health.](#)

[Disparities in the surgical treatment of adult spine pathologies: a systematic review.](#)

[Development and application of an inpatient traffic lights classification to improve the surgical ward round quality.](#)

- Please pray for strength and resolve for the residents of the program at Soddo, Ethiopia, because of the political unrest. Please pray for wisdom and endurance for the faculty. Above all, pray that the Lord would bring lasting peace to the beautiful people of Ethiopia.
- 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 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.

