

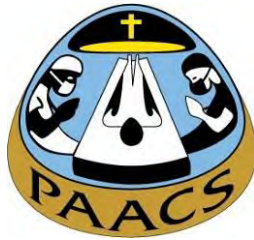
Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations are due to the first Ethiopian graduate of PAACS and the eight graduate overall. We've still a long ways to go to reach our goal, but it is still possible with your help and God's blessing.

We've known for a long time that PAACS has attracted some of the best and most committed people in medical missions. As you will see in this issue, the Medical Missionary Hall of Fame thought so too. We're equally pleased that Mercy Ships has invited one of our residents on board as part of a pilot program. We trust that as you read this issue, you will be encouraged and blessed by all that God is doing through PAACS. If you are not already supporting PAACS, we welcome you to join with a growing number of Christian surgeons around the world and Africa to help us reach our goal of training and discipling 100 African surgeons by 2020.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dave Thompson
Editor



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

BULLETIN # 62
March/April, 2009

Bringing Christians together from around the world to train and disciple African surgeons in Africa.

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

ONE MORE PAACS GRADUATE!

Congratulations are due to Dr. Frehun Ayele, who has finished a four-year program at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. He graduated on March 26, 2007 to become the 8th PAACS graduate. Frehun began his training at Soddo Christian Hospital in January 2005 when Soddo Christian hospital first opened. He scrubbed on the first surgeries done at SCH under the tutelage of Dr. Kelemu Desta, the founder of the hospital and present PAACS instructor.

Dr. Frehun did his medical school training at Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He served in rural Ethiopia for 2 years to pay back his obligation to the government and then began his surgical training at SCH. Dr. Frehun did outside rotations at Myungsung Medical Center in Addis Ababa in neurosurgery and anesthesia, chest surgery and trauma at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, and Pediatric surgery at Kijabe Medical Center in Kenya where he acquired a keen interest in pediatric surgery. He came back to Soddo Christian Hospital from Kijabe with an interest in further training in pediatric surgery. In January 2009, Dr. Frehun was contacted by Dr. Dan Poenaru,



the pediatric surgeon in charge of the BethanyKids at Kijabe and director of the PAACS pediatric surgery training program there at Kijabe Medical Center, Kenya, and was invited to begin a three year fellowship in pediatric surgery.

Dr. Frehun will begin his pediatric surgical fellowship in June 2009. He will be married on May 10, 2009 to Miss Yewubdar Samuel before starting the next phase of his education. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Frehun Ayele in his graduation from Soddo's PAACS, and for the joy of finding a godly wife.

WE NEED YOU!



All of our programs are bursting at the seams – too much to do, too many patients, too many teaching opportunities. We have more prospective residents than we can take. We have a great need for a second career missionary board-certified surgeon at Mbingo Hospital in Bamenda, Cameroon. A second career general surgeon at Ngaoundéré would help tremendously. We have six hospitals that need two career surgeons to start a program. All of the programs are groaning for help. We need not just surgeons of all types, but anesthesiologists, OB-GYN, radiologists, pathologists and gastroenterologists. Can you give two weeks, a month, or longer to make a tremendous difference? To become Jesus Christ with “skin on” to the patients who have not heard and who need medical help and to the residents who need you to impart your skills? Contact admin@paacs.net or paacsdirectorofafrica@gmail.com if you can help or are interested in seeing if you could be used.

MERCY SHIPS WELCOMES PAACS RESIDENT



Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno (l) assists Dr. Gary Parker (r) with the resection of a recurrent ameloblastoma

On April 2, Dr. Jean Faya Yaradouno, a 4th year PAACS resident, joined the team on the Mercy Ship *Africa Mercy* that is docked in the Cotonou harbor in Benin, West Africa. He will spend three months working under the able supervision of Bruce Steffes, performing a large number and wide variety of challenging surgical cases. He will also be gaining experience in maxillofacial, orthopedics, ophthalmology and anesthesiology. This is a pilot program, and if it works well, other PAACS residents may follow. We are grateful for the donor's gift that made this possible and for the financial support from Mercy Ships.

Yaradouno's experience may be hampered if the ship is not able to quickly recruit more nurses to care for the ship's many post-operative patients. The following is an urgent appeal received from the ship:

“Mercy Ships, which is currently in field service in Benin, West Africa, is in critical need of additional volunteer OR/Theatre Nurses to fill vacancies from June to August 2009. Volunteers must be a registered nurse with a current license, at least 2 years clinical OR experience since graduation, and able to both scrub and circulate.

“In order to help fill this urgent need, Mercy Ships is offering a limited amount of financial aid to those who have found the cost of serving with us at this time prohibitive. For this one time offer, we have agreed to waive the crew fees (\$625/month) and assist with airfare as needed. We in turn ask for a minimum commitment of at least 4 weeks. If you can help, please contact Dawn Crowther at dawn.crowther@mercyships.org us as soon as possible, but no later than April 27 with your dates of availability.”

STEFFES INDUCTED INTO MEDICAL MISSIONS HALL OF FAME

On March 28, Bruce Steffes, the CEO of PAACS, was inducted into the Medical Missions Hall of Fame, in Toledo, Ohio. Below is the introduction to his acceptance speech:



Bruce and Micky Steffes with award

“Dr. Geelhoed, Dr. Conway, Dean Metting, Mr. Saevig, Fellow Inductees and Ladies and Gentlemen, I must confess that being named for this honor has left me rather befuddled. Given the great accomplishments of those who have been inducted before me and those on this stage with me, I feel most unworthy. In the light of all that Jesus Christ has done for me, I have done precious little in return, indeed too little in the face of all the suffering that exists. But rather than dwelling on my own inadequacy (a topic which could take us well beyond my allotted five minutes), I will choose to accept this honor on behalf of all the medical missionaries with whom I have worked. Those wonderful men and women are not likely to be lauded as they rightfully deserve, but they are my friends and my heroes. To them I bow and humbly acknowledge all the dedicated and thankless hard work that they have done in the face of tremendous odds. I especially thank the men and women who are now training the 29 surgical residents in the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons.”

Steffes is the second PAACS luminary to be inducted into the Medical Missions Hall of Fame in Toledo, Ohio, the first being Dr. Harold Adolph, who served for more than three decades as a missionary surgeon in Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, and in 1996 was one of the original group of surgeons who founded PAACS.

Steffes has recently written and published a book for those considering short term medical missions entitled, “Medical Missions: Get Ready, Get Set, GO!” The book has received glowing endorsements thus far. David Stevens, CEO of Christian Medical and Dental Associations and ex-missionary, has said about it, “*You would be foolish to leave home without it.*”

Richard Topazian, renowned oral surgeon and ex-missionary to India, wrote, “*When your book arrived last week I almost read through it in one sitting. It is wonderfully and clearly written and expresses deep insight into the important issues. I hope it will have wide circulation.*”

Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and the President of Samaritan’s Purse, added, “*Dr. Bruce Steffes has walked in the footsteps of the Great Physician for many years, serving in some of the difficult outposts around the world. Compelled by Christ’s command ‘to go into all nations and preach the Gospel,’ Bruce has assembled a handbook based on his experiences as a short-term medical missionary. For those who are contemplating missionary medicine, your emotions will be stirred by Bruce’s first-hand accounts, your mind will be put at ease by the practical suggestions he shares, and your heart will be prepared to receive God’s blessing by reading biblical passages that moved Dr. Steffes from the western world of medicine to the cutting edge of being the hands of Christ in a darkened world, crying out for a healing touch from the Savior.*”

A copy of the book will be given to any short-term faculty member who comes to serve at a PAACS hospital. If you would like a copy of the book and have already served in the past two years, please e-mail CEO@paacs.net and let us know when you served, where you served and what mailing address you would like used. We will send one to you by return mail. For those of you who do not qualify but who would like to get a book, serving with us is certainly our recommended way of getting one! But if serving is out of the questions, please e-mail ceo@paacs.net and we can tell you how to purchase one.

NEWS UPDATE FROM SODDO

Over the past year, there have been a number of significant developments at Soddo Christian Hospital. Dr. Harold Adolph recently summed them up in an email to the hospital's supporters:

1. Dr. Paul Gray, a general surgeon, joined Soddo as the assistant program director for PAACS.
2. An obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Sharon Morad, has joined the missionary team, improving care in her area of expertise. She is eager to develop midwifery training as well.
3. Dr. Duane Anderson, the orthopedic surgeon and field director, has done 7 total hip replacements and attracted a growing number of patients from around the country. A partnership with his home church is promoting the discipleship program which presently involves 97 of the 150 employees.



4. Engineering Ministries International came in February to evaluate the hospital and master plan. This work included architectural drawings for a clinic, resident housing, long and short term housing, inpatient ward extension, OR and ICU enlargements, 3 new wards and infrastructure development.
5. One-half of the funding for the building of the surgical resident housing has come in. Construction will start as soon as new land is secured. One-third of the funding for a clinic building is also available. They are also seeking help with two new OR's, an ICU, surgical equipment, a sterilizer room, a generator, and another water well. They have been greatly blessed by the arrival of a large oxygen-producing machine and more monitors. A Philips C-arm has been made available for Soddo Christian Hospital. In addition, World Medical Mission plans to send out a container and personnel before this summer.
6. The ACMI financial Christian accountability group placed their seal of approval on their activities.
7. Dr. Ruth Droppers, a specialist in geriatric internal medicine from the Netherlands, completed her course of Amharic language studies in capital city of Addis Ababa.



8. Check out the updated and revised website (www.soddo.org)
 9. The Eye Clinic was completed this year and is being run by Dr. Bowers. Three Ethiopian physicians are being trained as eye surgeons in the Dominican Republic. The Education Center, run by Jackie Anderson for 80 staff children, and the Pharmacy and Chapel were also completed and opened.
 10. Three of the children belong to the Ethiopian staff are in medical school.
- Please continue to uphold the work at Soddo with prayer and with your gifts of service and money.

GIVING TO SUPPORT PAACS

The budget we set this year to train 29 residents in seven training centers in Africa and Asia is currently \$55,000 below the level of giving we need by this time of the fiscal year. To remain on budget, between now and June 30 we will need \$180,000. To show our appreciation for your generosity, we are offering a free copy of Bruce Steffes' new book to anyone contributing \$1,000 or more in the next month!

Please be praying earnestly that God will provide all that PAACS needs to meet its many obligations.

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All of our programs are bursting at the seams – too much to do, too many patients, too many teaching opportunities. We have more prospective residents than we can take. We have a great need for a second career missionary board-certified surgeon at Mbingo Hospital in Bamenda, Cameroon. A second career general surgeon at Ngaoundéré would help tremendously. We have six hospitals that need two career surgeons to start a program. All of the programs are groaning for help. We need not just surgeons of all types, but anesthesiologists, OB-GYN, radiologists, pathologists and gastroenterologists. Can you give two weeks, a month, or longer to make a tremendous difference? To become Jesus Christ with “skin on” to the patients who have not heard and who need medical help and to the residents who need you to impart your skills? Contact admin@paacs.net or paacsdirectorafrica@gmail.com if you can help or are interested in seeing if you could be used.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray that God will provide the nurses Mercy Ships needs to provide post-op care, and that Jean Yaradouno will have a great surgical experience on the ship.
2. Pray that the rest of the funds needed to build resident housing at Soddo will come in so that construction can begin soon. Pray also that the city will grant the hospital additional property for the apartments.
3. Pray that giving for the PAACS budget will grow stronger and cover all of our expenses for the rest of the year. Pray specifically that God will provide \$180,000 by June.
4. Pray that God will give the Admissions Committee wisdom as it selects candidates from a waiting list later in April for the openings there will be in August, 2009 (selections for the openings in January will be selected on September 1).
5. Pray the God will give the Curriculum Committee wisdom as it strives to put together the 200 question 2009 annual exam in a way that will accurately assess the knowledge of the residents. Pray for the residents as they continue to study for this important exam.

David C. Thompson, MD, FACS, FWACS
Editor