

More than Surgery



Provide biblical tools for African missionary surgeons

Missionary surgeons are not rich! Especially in Africa. SF partner, the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons, trains surgeons not only to do surgery but to become missionaries and spiritual leaders of character, but they lack books. Support *More Than Surgery* to provide the spiritual “sword” to go with their scalpel by giving each French-speaking surgeon a Christian missionary surgeon’s biblical resource pack.

Synergie Francophone is looking to raise \$10,000 to equip 30 African missionary surgeons as well as residents in preparation. Meet two of them here:

In God’s kingdom, many servants are faithfully toiling without much recognition, praise, or earthly support. Surgeons Dr. Jacques Ebhele and Dr. Samy Nigo working at a mission hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are two such unsung heroes. Their journeys to their current place of service are long and filled with examples of God’s guiding hand.

Both doctors were raised in devout, Christian homes and were involved in their local churches from childhood. Dr. Nigo had a personal encounter with Christ in medical

school during a message from Mark 5 about the woman healed by Jesus after bleeding for 12 years. Dr. Ebhele had his medical school fees paid by an uncle, but after his uncle died, he fell on hard times and almost had to quit school. In desperation, he turned to the Lord in fervent prayer. He saw the Lord meet his needs providentially, allowing him to graduate.

Dr. Samy Nigo was born at Centre Médical Evangelique de Nyankunde/Bunia in the DRC, the same hospital where he now serves. He first heard of the five-year surgical residency training provided by the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) from a missionary who had taught his father. Dr. Ebhele wanted to go to the US to continue his own medical training but found out about PAACS through his father-in-law who was studying at Wheaton College. **He was especially impressed that PAACS is a discipleship program, not just a surgical residency.**

After graduation from his PAACS residency in Gabon in 2015, Dr. Jacques Ebhele tried to go back to serve at a hospital in his hometown in eastern DRC, but the hospital could not afford to pay him. Instead, he served several years as surgical faculty at the PAACS program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Unfortunately, he had to move his family to Malawi when the civil war closed all the schools in western Cameroon.



Dr. Nigo graduated from his PAACS residency at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon in 2018 and has worked at the Centre Médical Evangelique de Nyankunde/Bunia in the DRC ever since. Dr. Ebhele recently joined him part time.

Working at a mission hospital in the DRC presents many challenges. Civil unrest surrounds Bunia. The hospital is poorly equipped for surgery. The two operating rooms lack surgical lighting and anesthesia machines. They struggle to get basic supplies such as suture and bandages. Sometimes they must cancel surgeries due to the lack of equipment. The hospital workers need more training. Drs. Nigo and Ebhele teach skills as they can, on top of their tremendous workload.

Only four surgeons in their area serve a population of about 1 million, a 1:250,000 ratio compared to a 1:1,800 ratio in the US. They are overwhelmed by cases and chronically overworked.

Finances are a problem. Dr. Samy is paid a very modest salary and he can only arrange occasional financial compensation for Dr. Ebhele whose family is living on savings. When the funds run out, Dr. Ebhele says he looks to the Lord to provide.

The education of their children is a challenge. Dr. Nigo and his wife, Faida Rose, have three boys, Eliezar (7), Allan (4) and Jason (16 months). As the local schools are poor, he is concerned for his future at the hospital. Dr. Ebhele and his wife, Dinah, have four children, Samuel (10), Jean-Luc (8), Joel (6) and Rita-Joy (5). His family lives in a rented house in Kampala, Uganda so that the children can attend a Christian school in English. Dr. Ebhele visits them every 1–2 months for a week at a time. This situation is not sustainable but is necessary right now to provide an adequate education for his children while he serves the people of the DRC.

Despite many obstacles, both men are committed to stay in the DRC to provide good surgical care. They see their work as a mission field and every encounter with a patient as an opportunity to share the Gospel because patients bring their spiritual needs to the hospital too.

The two surgeons are examples to their colleagues of Christ-like behavior and service and are frequently approached for spiritual advice. Both men often give devotional messages at the daily hospital service. Dr. Ebhele preaches one to two times per month in his church. Dr. Nigo serves as administrator of his church's choir. Both give lectures at a local Christian medical school and are involved in discipling students.



Both Dr. Nigo and Dr. Ebhele speak multiple languages—French, English, and their African tribal tongues. While they look for ways to improve their English, reading in French, especially on spiritual topics, is easier. Books are very difficult to find in the DRC, and those that are available are expensive. Internet access in their region is scarce and too expensive for most people. Having books in French would help the doctors in their own spiritual enrichment and their discipling activities. Right now, when they read something in English, they must relay the contents to their students in French. Having Christian Bible study and discipleship books in French would help them more effectively benefit others around them.

The provision of French-language Christian books would greatly enhance the ministry of these and other surgeons. They look forward with gratitude to what God will do in their own ministries and through this new initiative of Synergie Francophone.

For the full story and a testimony visit our website.

Provide biblical books for African missionary surgeons by visiting Synergiefrancophone.org

Or mail a check to
Synergie Francophone
PO Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60187-0629
Mention: For *More than Surgery* project



Together —

Planting, watering,
growing fruitfulness