

“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”



As many of you have already heard, **Dr. Al Snyder** went to be with his Lord January 8, 2009 following complications after knee replacement surgery in November 2008. Dr. Al served in Burundi and Rwanda as a missionary surgeon for many years, and was the visionary founder of CAHO in 1990, remaining its soul and motivator until his death. A long time friend and physician colleague noted, when hearing of his death, “a giant among us has fallen.” He will be greatly missed not only by his family, but also by many friends around the world. He leaves big shoes to fill, with the challenge to those remaining behind to pick up the torch and continue the work supporting mission hospitals that drove his life. His tribute as published in the *Jackson Citizen Patriot* (1-10-2009) is copied below, and the memorial service can be viewed at :

www.springarborfm.org/media_video

SNYDER, C. ALBERT M.D. - Of Spring Arbor, went Home to be with the Lord, Thursday, January 8, 2009, age 82 years. He was the son of Clarence and Lefa Snyder, born December 6, 1926, in Wayne, MI. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Louise Snyder; four sons, Glenn (Kamilia) Snyder, Robert (Alice) Snyder, Steven Snyder, and Daniel (Dee Ann) Snyder; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister, Ruth (Glenn) White; two brothers, Arthur (Janet) Snyder, and Harold (Ellen) Snyder; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; many beloved friends in Central Africa. He was preceded in death by his parents. Dr. Snyder served his country during World War II in the United States Army. He earned his M.D. degree at the University of Michigan and trained in general surgery at Butterworth Hospital (now Spectrum Health) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, certified by the American Board of Surgery, and received a diploma in tropical medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. He was ordained a minister by the Rwanda Africa General Conference of Free Methodist Church where his heart and passion remained until his death. A Memorial Service will be held at **SPRING ARBOR FREE METHODIST CHURCH**, Saturday 4:00 p.m. with the Reverend Mark VanValin and Reverend Gerald Bates officiating. Private Interment Spring Arbor Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Central Africa Health Care "Sponsor a Bed" or Scholarship Endowment, CAHO P.O. Box 580, Spring Arbor, MI 49283.

19TH ANNUAL CAHO CONFERENCE

APRIL 24-26, 2009

SPRING ARBOR, MICHIGAN

“Created to do good works — partnering to fulfill God’s purposes.”

Make plans join with us in Spring Arbor for the 19th annual gathering for all who are interested in Christian health outreach to the underserved overseas. There will be time to remember the challenge left to us by Dr. Al, as well as to learn and encourage each other in the work the Lord has for each of us. Conference speakers will include Rev. Anastase Rugirongoga who works in reconciliation ministry in Rwanda as well as with various groups in the U.S.; and Dr. Bob Snyder, currently a professor at College of the Ozarks, who has worked extensively in missions and development, most recently serving as country director for Food for the Hungry International in Kenya and Mozambique. **IF YOU’VE NOT YET BEEN TO A CAHO CONFERENCE, MAKE THIS YOUR FIRST!**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church Family Community Center.

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.: Fellowship followed by conference sessions. Fireside Room and Chapel, Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church.

Sunday, April 26, 9:00 a.m.: Worship together at Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, followed by conference closing session and noon meal together at Spring Arbor University.

REGISTRATION

To register, please contact Mrs. Ruth Rupert at The Free Methodist Foundation either by phone (800-325-8979) or email (rrupert@fmfoundation.org).

Even if you do not need housing or transportation, we do need to know if you will be participating in the conference meal times (some of the best times for fellowship at the conference!).

CONFERENCE LODGING

A block of rooms at discounted rates has been reserved at the Jackson Hampton Inn. Please contact Mrs. Ruth Rupert by March 27 if you would like a room reserved for you (contact info. above).

Other lodging (no rate discount): Country Inn & Suites, 3506 O’Neill Drive, Jackson, MI 49202 (I-94 Exit 137), 517-788-6400 or 800-456-4000.



TRANSPORTATION

For those arriving by air, transportation from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) to Jackson is available on the Michigan Flyer (www.michiganflyer.com), with pick-up and drop off at the Jackson Hotel and Conference Center (former Holiday Inn). If you will need a ride from Jackson to Spring Arbor, please contact either Ruth Rupert (see front page) or Glenn Snyder (AglennS1@aol.com).

NEWS

Dr. Bruce and Judith Young and family, Olathe, Kansas, return in April from 8 months of service at Kibogora Hospital in Rwanda. The Youngs will be sharing at the CAHO Conference.

Dr. Roy Winslow, CAHO Board Chairman and surgeon from St. Joseph Michigan, returned in early March following 6 weeks at Kibogora Hospital (a trip delayed by having to be at the other end of the scalpel to repair a pesky cervical disk in December---you can ask Roy for more details at the conference!). **Dr. Sarah Schultz**, general surgery resident from Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan, returned to Kibogora to work with Roy in March. She has been followed by her resident colleague **Dr. Joel Green, wife Paula and 2 kids**, who arrived for a month of surgery at Kibogora in March. They will be working with veteran surgeons **Dr. Bill (General Surgery) and Dr. Lydia (OB/GYN) Rambo**, who have worked extensively overseas and are based in South Carolina while in the U.S.

CAHO Board member **Dr. Burt and Helen Hodges** (Milan, Michigan), along with **Dr. Ed and Shirley Davenport** (Jackson, Michigan) and **Jerry and Eva Stein** (Ewart, Michigan) are traveling to Nundu Hospital, Congo, and Kibuye Hospital, Burundi, in March to conduct dental clinics and general missions support. They will be back in time to share at the CAHO Conference.

Veteran missionary surgeon **Dr. Frank and wife Rev. Carol Ogden** left their home base in Washington on February 24 to continue their work at Kibuye Hospital, Burundi. In addition to medical work, they will continue working with Burundi church leaders in training and development of the Hope Africa University Medical School. The Ogdens return to the U.S. in May.

Mr. And Mrs. Randy and Alice Mathewson returned in December 2008 to Nundu Hospital, Congo, to continue the rebuilding of the hospital. (Randy and Alice previously served as missionaries in Congo, and Randy recently retired from engineering at Boeing---experience that will serve them well as they face the challenges of rebuilding infrastructure in that part of the world!).

Dr. Dan and DeeAnn Snyder returned to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in late summer 2008 where they coordinate the medical work at Dessalines Hospital. They will be traveling to the U.S. for daughter Ashley (Jewell) to receive her R.N. from Andrews University, and daughter Rachel to graduate from Spring Arbor University. Son James will graduate from high school in Haiti and return to the U.S. this summer for college.

OF INTEREST

Need medical equipment for your mission hospital or have equipment to give, but don't know how to give it? Check out Med-Eq, an organization to connect those "that have with those that have not": www.med-eq.org. Also worth a look is REMEDY (www.remedy.org), an organization collecting unused but no longer needed surgical supplies in U.S. hospitals for use by health care workers and hospitals around the world.

From the most recent newsletter of Christian Connections for International Health (www.ccih.org): "This article from the latest Lancet gives an intriguing perspective on the work of medical missionaries. This prestigious U.K. medical journal does not frequently report on medical missions. **Medical missionaries deliver faith and health care in Africa**", The Lancet, Vol. 373, Issue 9666, p. 795-797, 7 March 2009: "...little noticed in this flurry of recent attention [major reconsideration of how foreign aid should be administered] is that the missionaries never left... Although missionaries seem the opposite of contemporary foreign assistance, there are in fact similarities. And in some ways, missionaries are on the cutting edge. They are aggressively local, often learning the language of the people they are working with, and they stay for years at a time. They are not pulled by the fashion of high-profile diseases...but work on primary health issues such as infections and diarrhoea, that are often ignored in the funding priorities of big donors..." (Full article at www.thelancet.com)

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU NEXT MONTH IN SPRING ARBOR!

If you would like to receive future CAHO Chronicles via e-mail, please notify Ruth Rupert at rrupert@fmfoundation.org.



Publisher:
Glenn
Snyder

Editor:
Danette
Harper