

A Testament of God's Grace

I was born in small town called Fiche, 120 km north of the capital city of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. I was blessed to be taught about Christ early in my childhood, that it's only God through Christ who can save me and give me eternal life. I am now married to Dr. Meklit Girma, and we have one adorable son, Baalperazim. My wife is currently a Pediatric Resident at St. Paul Medical College in Addis Ababa.



DR. EBENEZER GEZAHEGN
ETHIOPIA

Since high school, I wanted to get involved in a profession that improved the quality of life for others. I decided to be a doctor, and I attended a medical school at Black Lion Hospital, Addis Ababa University. During my second year, I heard about PAACS when Dr. Paul Gray came and talked about the PAACS Surgical Training Program at Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH). After medical school, I went to work as a General Practitioner at a rural hospital in Ethiopia called Sawla Primary Hospital for two years. It was one of the most blessed times of my life.

God's Hand of Grace Brings Healing

After some time, I joined PAACS Ethiopia at SCH, which was one of the greatest learning experiences for me. Through PAACS and the help of God, I became a Christian surgeon who was able share Christ while providing high quality surgical care. Since graduating from PAACS, I moved to a rural hospital called Jinka Hospital where I operated on hundreds of patients. Since I was the only surgeon in more than a 200 km radius, I operated on general surgery, orthopaedic, and some gynecologic cases. With the limited resources we had at the hospital, I have witnessed God healing many people through His hand of grace. I am now working in Bethel General and Teaching Hospital in Addis Ababa as a General Surgeon and Medical Director. We are praying for God to open new doors so that we can serve people and share the love and life that we have been freely given!



Dear PAACS Family

In this edition, we introduce Drs. Mike and Elizabeth Mwachiro as the new editors of the PAACS Alumni Newsletter. Liz is the Assistant Program Director of the General Surgery Program at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya. Mike heads the Endoscopy department.



Rev. Ed Scearce, PAACS Spiritual Dean, will continue with his column, providing a devotional reading with each edition. We are grateful for his continued support and ministry.

In Appreciation

We would like to thank Dr. Tom Robey for the great work of continuing the newsletter over the years. He shall stay engaged in a support role in its development. May God continue to bless the work of his hands.



Angola

- Paulo Baltazar Viegas Buaki

Burundi

- Alliance Niyukuri
- Gisita Nkesha Theophile
- Jean Luc Kazoya

Cameroon

- Benjamin Kakule Malikidogo
- Domain Bananga Fuka
- Evaristus Etape Ekwogge Njume
- George Ngock
- Henry Ndasi
- Sama Akanyun
- Steve Kasereka Kyota

DR Congo

- Bataneni Jean Claude Bakonga
- Hubert Kakalo
- Lemery Nigo Sam

Egypt

- Amgad Amir
- Nayer Naiem Wahba Dous
- Shady Fayik

Ethiopia

- Chala Regassa Hunde
- Daniel Gedabo
- Dejene Desalegn
- Ebenezer Gezahegn
- Efeson Thomas
- Frehun Ayele
- Gezaheng Tilahun
- Haileyesus Tesfaye
- Mesele Bogale
- Segni Bekele
- Solomon Endrias
- Surafel Mulatu

Gabon

- Nzanzu Anatole Kipata
- Tchoba Simplicie

Ghana

- Etuh Igoghwo

Guinea

- Jean Faya Yaradouno
- Ruffin Loua

Kenya

- Agneta Odera
- Amos Chege Macharia
- Arega Fekadu Leta
- Beryl Akinyi Ooro
- Damaris Ndambuki Mbalu
- Elijah Mwaura Chege
- Elizabeth Okemwa Mwachiro
- Elsie Kamene "Mesh" Mwanzia
- Fasto Ladu Yugusuk
- Ivan Seno Saruni
- Jack Barasa
- Jack Okumu
- John Kanyi
- Justus Obonyo Lando
- Ken Muma
- Mark Mwangi Waithaka
- Mark Oolo
- Michael Mwachiro
- Philip Blasto Ooko
- Ramazani Yali Bin
- Shelminth Wangari Muthee
- Tony Benjamin Mwenyemali
- Valetine Mitei
- Victor Sowayi Alubokho
- Yves Mpongo
- Yvonne Wairimu Ndegwa

Locations of PAACS Graduates



Lesotho

- DeGaulle Mifila

Liberia

- Dieudonne Afidu Lemfuka
- Gerald Ekwen
- Jerry Brown
- Juvenal Musavuli

Madagascar

- Elson Randrianantenaina
- Heuric Rakotomalala
- Marco Faniriko
- Ndrimanalintsoa Fabruce
- Rasamimanana Sahalnirina
- Roseline Razanamapionona

Malawi

- Jacques Angundru Ebhele
- Kasumba Kaggya Moses

Mali

- Dembele Philadelphie

Niger

- Anthony Nesoah

Nigeria

- Chukwudi Okorie

Rwanda

- Edmond Ntaganda
- Ron Tubasiime

Sierra Leone

- Aiah Lebbie
- Juana Kabba

Tanzania

- Catherine Mung'ong'o
- Emmanuel Lema
- Henry Ine
- Tewodros Tamiru

Uganda

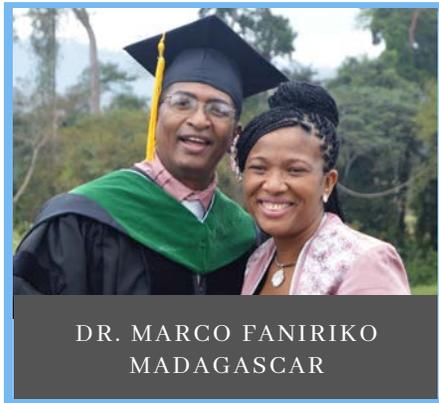
- Martin Situma

- Martin Salia (deceased)



A Journey of Faith

My name is Dr. Faniriko Marco, and I am a graduate of the PAACS General Surgery Residency Program at Bongolo in Gabon and the PAACS Head and Neck Fellowship at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. I am from Madagascar and live there with my wife, Marguerite.



DR. MARCO FANIRIKO
MADAGASCAR

I grew up in Ampasinambo Nosi-Varika, which is an inaccessible area. I moved to Vangaindrano district for secondary and High School. I attended medical school in Mahajanga and received my medical degree in 2007.

I first heard about PAACS in 2007 at a meeting for Christian doctors where I met Dr. Roseline, a former resident of the PAACS program at Bongolo Hospital. She gave an inspiring testimony about what God is doing through PAACS in Gabon and throughout Africa. My interest in the program was sparked, but I didn't speak English, which was a requirement in the application process. In 2008, I set out to learn English at the American Cultural Center in Antananarivo. A year later, I was accepted into the program at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. After six months, I was forced to return to Madagascar because I couldn't renew my visa. It was a difficult time for me, but I kept trusting the Lord to fulfill His plan. When I returned home to Madagascar, I worked as a General Practitioner in Mandritsara Baptist Hospital, and then in Antsirabe Lutheran Hospital in Andranomadio. In 2011, I married my beautiful wife, Marguerite.

In 2012, God opened the door for me to be accepted into the PAACS program at Bongolo in Gabon. My wife and I moved there and spent the next five years completing my General Surgery training. After this, I was accepted to be the third PAACS Head and Neck Fellow at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. We were very grateful that I was able to complete the training despite the unrest in Cameroon and before the program had to be suspended. I also successfully passed my FCS General Surgery COSECSA exam in Kigali in December of last year. We returned to Madagascar in January 2019 and I took a position at a Lutheran hospital in Ambohibao working in General, as well as Head and Neck Surgery.

A Dream for a New PAACS Program in Madagascar.

I am highly interested in doing research, writing publications, and giving presentations about the cases I have seen in my home practice. I am dreaming of a new PAACS program in Madagascar and of building a special Head and Neck ward in our hospital. I am grateful to God for having my wife Marguerite helping me during my tough residency program and fellowship. In Madagascar, she found a job as a financial officer in the Miral Welfare Foundation. We praise God for His faithfulness and provision in returning us to our family and community in Madagascar. Please pray for us as we serve the Lord, that God will bless my new practice, church activity, and life together in Him.

Please Partner with Us

Please pray for the graduates of PAACS as they bring the fruit of this ministry to the needy in Africa.

Would you please consider supporting PAACS through a donation so that we can train more surgeons like Marco and Ebenezer? You can give online at www.paacs.net/donate/ or use the enclosed envelope to mail a donation.

Your partnership is appreciated.

By All Means Bless All People

DR. ED SCEARCE, SPIRITUAL DEAN

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Rom 12:14–15 (ESV)

Persecution can come in many forms. According to Open Doors we are living in a time when persecution against Christians is the highest in modern history. While martyrdom is at an all-time high for Christianity, most of us will never face a life or death question about our words of faith or actions of obedience to Christ. Rather, our persecution are those times when people intentionally seek to disrupt our lives by their words or deeds.

The above verses call us into action.

What are we to do? Our response is not avoiding this person or persons. It does not call for relocating. It is not disassociating ourselves altogether with the source of persecution. Neither is our response passivity. The action called for is radical. It runs counter to our natural instincts. Many times we want to even the score by retaliating. That is not what is called for. Jesus uses similar language in Luke 6:28; "bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." From the context of these verses, we conclude that we are actually to pray for this person's good. In other words, don't call a curse upon them as Paul states. Our response goes beyond our actions and also involves the attitude of our heart.

To curse someone is to wish them evil. It is to hope something bad will happen in their lives. Rather we are called upon by God to bless this person. We are to bless and pray for something good to happen to these people. That is radical!

What does it mean to bless another person?

The word used in the original manuscript of the Bible is the word **ΕΥΛΟΓΕΩ**. It is the source of the English word eulogy. What do we do when we give a eulogy? Typically it is done at someone's funeral. When have you heard a person called a scoundrel during their eulogy? Likely never.

To bless those who treat you badly has a twofold effect. Number one, it prays for the goodness of God to be manifest in that person's life. Secondly, it prevents a root of bitterness from taking hold of our hearts. You may not be able to change how someone treats you, but you are in control of how you respond to that bad treatment. Oh you may have fleeting thoughts of cursing them, but we should remember "Vengeance is mine, I will repay", says the Lord" (Rom 12:19). To bless someone who has mistreated you will likely involve the act of forgiveness which can be very difficult. We may not feel in our heart we can or want to forgive. Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom says, "Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

It is all about the change that God brings about in the heart of a person. This life is no longer about our desires; it is the exaltation of Christ in our lives, through the way we live. That is radical! That is truly life-changing! By all means, bless all people.

