



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS
A commission of
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

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THE BEAUTY of TRANSFORMATIONAL LIVING

by Rev. Ed Searce

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice... be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."

~ Romans 12 : 1-2

A KEY THOUGHT:

God's mercy makes transformational living possible.

For eleven chapters Paul has laid out for us three things:

- *Who we are,*
- *Who God is, and*
- *What God has done for us.*

Beginning in chapter twelve, he unfolds what the logical response of every believer should be. This response can be summed up in one sentence: "impact your culture through transformational living". This kind of living is only possible because of God's mercy. Paul says "by the mercies of God...". In other words, "in light of God's mercy", or "because God has extended mercy to you" every Christian should respond by totally surrendering their lives to Him. This kind of surrender is transformational.

Mercy is one of the attributes of God. It is a part of who He is. His mercy is often described with words like; lovingkindness, pity or compassion. We struggle to comprehend God's mercy because we view it through our eyes. We usually have no problem seeing the good in those we love, even overlooking the not so good. However, when we find the actions of others detestable, it is extremely hard to exercise mercy. Yet, though God finds our sin detestable, He continues to exercise mercy.

Mercy, love and grace all play significant roles in the forgiveness granted to us by God. Paul states "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Ro 5:8) Peter says "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

True Christian faith produces genuine compassion and fruit in the form of acts of mercy toward those in need. It was this characteristic of mercy that caused Christ to go among all kinds of people to help. Believers are to respond to the mercy shown them in the same way. The rest of the book of Romans shows us how we are to live transformational lives. This is possible only because God first had mercy on us.

How have you experienced God's mercy in your life? How can you demonstrate God's mercy to the people in your community? Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your understanding of God's mercy. Ask God to reveal to you those upon whom you need to exercise mercy. As we gain deeper understanding, it has a transforming impact on our lives. Thus the reasonable response to God's mercy is to present everything we know about ourselves to everything we know about God. That is the beauty of transformational living.

PAACS Alumni Newsletter

Dear PAACS Family

Welcome to another PAACS Alumni Newsletter. In this edition, Ed Searce, PAACS new Spiritual Dean writes his first article for our graduates. For the first time, we feature multiple alumni, "The Litein Three", from the same hospital in western Kenya - Dr. Philip Blasto Ooko, Dr. John Kanyi and Dr. Valentine Mitei. We also highlight the work of Dr. Philadelphie Dembele in Koutiala, Mali.

God is at work throughout Africa - 73 graduates are now working at various hospitals throughout the continent. Praise the Lord!

As the PAACS fiscal year comes to a close on June 30th, please consider a generous donation to help PAACS continue the work of discipling and training Christian men and women to serve the surgical and spiritual needs of Africa. Come be a part of their special stories!

Thomas C Robey, MD

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GOD'S SERVANT IN MALI

Koutiala Women's and Children's Hospital in Mali, West Africa is a Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) hospital that exists to meet the severe needs of the Malian people.

In Mali, nearly one out of 19 women die in childbirth and one in 5 children do not make it to their fifth birthday.

Dr. Philadelphie Dembele, a 2013 PAACS graduate from Bongolo Hospital, knows the statistics too well. Phila grew up in the village of Sanekuy in Mali with his seven sisters and two brothers. His uncle was a nurse and drew him into the field of medicine. He admired his uncle's ability to help all people regardless of their ethnic or religious differences. Phila decided to go off to medical school to follow in his uncle's footsteps. One month after medical school graduation, he took his first job working at a rural clinic run by the CMA. In May of 2006, the CMA opened the new hospital in the city of Koutiala in southeastern Mali. Dr. Dembele was called to help at the new hospital. As the hospital grew to meet the needs of the Malian people, it became apparent that a full-time surgeon was needed. The medical director of the hospital had heard about PAACS and encouraged Dr. Dembele to apply for a residency position.

After being accepted into the PAACS program, Phila was sent to Bongolo Hospital in Gabon for his surgical training. Dr Dembele had five wonderful years learning to operate under the tutelage of Dr. Keir Thelander, Dr. David Thompson and Drs. Zach and Jen O'Connor. His best memories from those years are the friendships he made among his fellow surgical residents, his attendings as well as the hospital staff.

It was also a new life for he, his wife, Rachele, and their growing family. During their five years in the lush jungles of Gabon, their family grew with multiple babies and an extended PAACS family that continues to pray for them to this day.



After graduation, Dr. Dembele headed back to Koutiala and assumed the role of the hospital so badly needed. Today, not only is he the chief of surgery, but he is also the medical director of the hospital and its 14 surrounding rural clinics. The Lord has brought him all the way from working at one of those rural clinics to running the whole health system. Nothing is impossible with our God! Phila's days are full of many demands and his biggest challenge is juggling all of his hospital duties with spending time with his wife and 4 children at home. All of this is made more difficult by the fact that he lives 5 kilometers away from the hospital. When he does get home, his favorite thing is to just rest and relax with his family. Dr. Dembele is a strong beacon for Christ at his hospital and in his community. Whether leading morning devotions at the hospital, gathering with his prayer group every Saturday night in his home or showing Christ's love and compassion to his patients, Phila's light is shining bright!

Please pray for Dr. Dembele, his family and his hospital. May God continue to grant him wisdom and the leadership skills to do the jobs to which he has been called. Lastly, pray for his country Mali, that the Good News may spread and more young men and women, like Phila, will be called to go into medicine and make a difference with the love of Christ for the Malian people.



THE LITEIN THREE



A.I.C. Litein Hospital in western Kenya is fortunate to have not one, not two, but three PAACS graduates all working together to improve the surgical care of the Kenyan people.

When I approached Dr. Philip (Blasto) Ooko to feature his work in western Kenya for the alumni newsletter, he asked that we feature not just him but the work of his PAACS colleagues as well, Dr. John Kanyi and Dr. Valentine Mitei - "The Litein Three!". To my knowledge, this may be the only hospital in Africa that has three PAACS graduates working side by side - how exciting to see God's plans come to fruition at A.I.C. Litein Hospital.

"The Litein Three" did not plan to have this happen. Dr. Ooko was the first to join the hospital in March of 2016 after graduating from his PAACS training program at Tenwek Hospital in 2015. Blasto grew up in the coastal region of Kenya with his two brothers and sisters. His mother had wanted him to become a nurse, but he ended up going to medical school instead.

He learned about PAACS during his internship and was fortunate enough to land a residency position at Tenwek Hospital. There he was mentored by older residents and his attendings who motivated Blasto "by the testimony of their lives". Dr. Ooko also has fond memories of pizza nights at Dr. Russ White's house, resident dinners at Dr. Carol Spears house and weekly volleyball games during his years at Tenwek. Most of all, his five years were spent with people who encouraged him to be the Christian surgeon God had called him to be. His broad surgical training prepared him for the complexities of working in rural Kenya today. After graduating from Tenwek, Dr. Ooko began working at A.I.C. Litein after hearing about an opening there from a Tenwek colleague.

Dr. Kanyi joined Dr. Ooko in January of 2017. An older surgeon who had been working with Dr. Ooko up to this point resigned to work at a government hospital in Kenya, thereby opening up a spot for Dr. Kanyi to join. Dr. Kanyi also graduated from Tenwek in 2016. Another Tenwek graduate from the class of 2017, Dr. Mitei, recently joined the duo this past April. She also is a native Kenyan having grown up in Kericho, just 70 km from Tenwek.

The three PAACS surgeons have a good working relationship with similar goals of advancing surgical care with a Christian focus. They really have enjoyed being a team and not having to shoulder all the surgical responsibilities which so many of the other PAACS graduates have had to do. Their weeks are spent divided between clinic and the operating room and they share call equally.

They also hold free clinics two or three times a month to meet the needs of patients in their surrounding area who are financially challenged.

When they arrived, the difficulties the three faced at A.I.C. Litein included poor patient outcomes from the prior surgeons, lack of patient satisfaction, and distrust of the services offered. This combination made presenting the gospel nearly impossible, because patients did not see Christ exemplified in their previous surgeons. Since "the Litein Three" have started, surgeon availability and accountability has increased, morale has sky rocketed and the trust of the hospital patients has improved significantly. Each of these three PAACS graduates now pray with their patients, and hospital chaplains now have an easier time sharing the Gospel, because patients are seeing Christ all around them. The three alumni begin their rounds each day in prayer and intercede for their surgical patients before each operation. Most of all, patients now know that it is God who is providing the grace and strength for them to overcome their health issues.

The biggest ongoing challenge these three surgeons have is the need for new equipment, including upgrading their anesthesia machines and getting more laparoscopy equipment. They also covet prayers for the Lord to provide enough patients for each of their practices to flourish. Please join us in celebrating what God is doing in Kenya through "the Litein Three" and may he continue to grant them success in their surgical practices.



DISCOUNTED HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

International Aid is an organization with expertise in delivering reliable hospital equipment at affordable prices to non-profit hospitals in Africa. Vital sign monitors, sterilizers, anesthesia units, etc., are just some of the typical possibilities, and sometimes larger equipment items can be provided.

All equipment comes with a 3-year warranty for customer service. They have partnered with hospitals such as Bongolo, Mbingo, and Tenwek in the past, and they are VERY eager to offer help to PAACS alumni.

Contact **Ms. Brooke Allison** at AllisonB@internationalaid.org for more details to see whether they can assist with your equipment needs. If your hospital is not eligible to partner with this group, PAACS should still be able to vouch for your personal integrity so that you can benefit.

Please Pray for Our PAACS Graduates

ANGOLA

Paulo Baltazar Buaki

GUINEA

Faya Bomde Yaradouno
Ruffin Loua

SIERRA LEONE

Aiah Lebbie

LIBERIA

Jerry Brown

NIGERIA

Chukwudi Okorie

CAMEROON

Jacques Ebhele
Gerald Ekwen
Domain Fuka
Marco Faniriko
Steve Kyota
Benjamin Malikidogo
Evaristus Njume
Anthony Nesoah
George Ngock
Henry Ndasi
Yali Bin Ramazani

GABON

Anatole Nzanzu
Simplice Tchoba

UGANDA

Martin Situma
Ighohwo Etuh

DRC

Jean Claude Bataneni
Hubert Kakalo

RWANDA

Edmond Ntaganda
Ronald Tubasiime



MALI

Philadelphie Demebele

MALAWI

Kasumba Moses Kaggya

TANZANIA

Catherine Mung'ongo
Henry Ine

LESOTHO

Mifila Degaulle

MADAGASCAR

Heuric Rakotomalala
Fabrice Ramaherimamonjy
Elson Randrianantenaina
Harison Rasamimanana
Roseline Razanamampionona

EGYPT

Shady Fayik

BURUNDI

Nkesha Gisita
Yves Mpongo

ETHIOPIA

Frehun Ayele
Segni Bekele
Mesele Bogale
Dejene Desalegn
Solomon Endrias
Daniel Gidabo
Surafel Mulatu
Tewodros Tamiru
Haileyesus Tesfaye
Efeson Thomas

KENYA

Beryl Akinyi
Jack Barasa
Elijah Mwaura Chege
John Kanyi
Arega Leta
Amos Chege Macharia
Damaris Mbalu
Valentine Mitei
Ken Muma
Tony Mwenyemali
Elizabeth Mwachiro
Michael Mwachiro
Mark Mwangi
Kamene Mwanzia
Jack Okumu
Agneta Odera
Mark Oolo
Philip Blasto Ooko
Ivan Seno