



# THE PAACS BULLETIN

*Monthly Newsletter*

*Issue #226*

*May 2023*

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## PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

### PAACS MISSION

*PAACS' mission is to glorify God by training and discipling African surgeons and related specialists to become Christ-like leaders and servants providing excellent and compassionate care to those most in need.*

### PAACS VISION

*PAACS envisions a growing number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick.*

# From the Desk of the CEO



Susan Koshy, JD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

As we approach the end of another fiscal year for PAACS, we continue to trust in God's guidance and protection for this ministry. We believe that God will provide for all our needs as we follow His direction.

In April, Loma Linda University completed successful accreditation visits to the PAACS programs at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Egypt and Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi. Praise God!

May signifies the final application deadline for incoming PAACS residents to begin our training programs in 2024. We received 354 applications for less than 50 open seats. We trust God to guide us in selecting the best trainees for our programs.

In June, many of our residents will sit for the annual PAACS exams. Please pray for over 115 residents who will take these exams.

Our Board of Directors is gearing up for an important meeting next month. They will be discussing the approval of the budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 and exploring the potential for a new PAACS training program at CEML Hospital in Angola. We need prayer, discernment, and direction from the Lord.

As our fiscal year ends on June 30th, this signifies an important time to meet our financial goals so we can continue training and discipling PAACS residents. Please pray as we push forward for God to abundantly supply all our needs. As the fiscal year closes, we will begin preparing for our annual audit and the development of the PAACS 2022-2023 Annual Report. The Annual Report will showcase the impact of PAACS on the lives of residents, graduates, and those they have served this past year, which was made possible by the support of our generous donors and partners.

Lastly, we are already well under way in preparing the new Daily Prayer Guide. While it will be a few months before it's published, we look forward to sharing it with you and standing united in prayer for PAACS and its mission.

As we are winding down this fiscal year and getting ready for the new fiscal year, we covet and need your prayers.

Blessings,

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*Galatians 6:9*

P.S. This year we launched new programs, explored opportunities for expansion into new areas of Africa and welcomed more and more residents. We need your support to do this work which God has called us to do. If you have not yet given this fiscal year, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to this ministry. Your support will enable us to provide quality surgical and specialty training and discipleship for our 150 residents, equipping them to make a lasting difference in the lives of many across Africa.

**DONATE**



# LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SITE VISITS

*Keir Thelander, MD  
Executive Vice President*

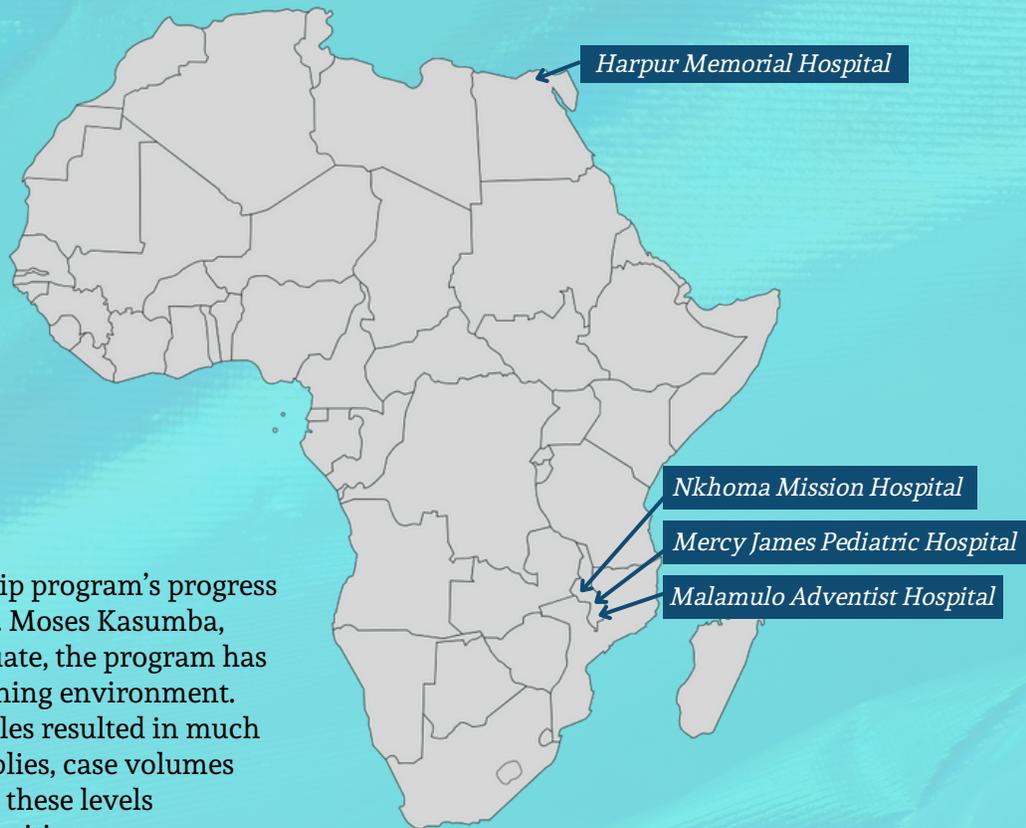
Dr. Mark Reeves, PAACS Board of Directors Loma Linda University (LLU) Representative and longtime friend of PAACS, with Dr. Andrei Radulescu, Pediatric Surgeon at LLU, were accompanied by PAACS Executive Vice President Dr. Keir Thelander while making accreditation visits to the PAACS programs at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt, and Malamulo Adventist Hospital (MAH) in Makwasa, Malawi.

After some minor travel inconveniences, they celebrated with Dr. Amgad Nashat in his graduation ceremony at Harpur. On Wednesday, the site visit took place. The development of the facility with an additional three-story building provides a wonderful outpatient surgical clinic, in addition to a state-of-the-art CT scanner and casualty department. The training and discipleship program equally demonstrates growth, now with three general surgical faculty and one plastic surgeon. Dr. Paul Lim and Dr. Shady Fayik took a program with a solid foundation (thanks to the leadership of Dr. Dave Thompson and, most recently, Dr. Sherif Hanna) and have propelled it forward educationally.

Travel continued with an overnight flight to Addis on the way to Blantyre. On arrival, meetings were held at Mercy James Pediatric Hospital where PAACS graduate Dr. Alliance Niyukuri will complete pediatric surgery training in December 2023. Meetings with Dr. Eric Borgstein and the Queen's Hospital Oncology Director went well before embarking on the one hour drive to Malamulo Adventist Hospital.

MAH's PAACS training and discipleship program's progress continues. Under the leadership of Dr. Moses Kasumba, PAACS Mbingo Baptist Hospital graduate, the program has advanced to become an excellent learning environment. Though the hospital's financial struggles resulted in much staff discord and challenges with supplies, case volumes increased during Covid and remain at these levels providing numerous teaching opportunities.

Finally, the team traveled to Nkhoma Mission Hospital to visit this 1.5-year-old program implemented at an over 100-year-old hospital. Stability has grown over this time in large part due to the efforts of Program Director Dr. Jens Vaylann and the surgical team that God has assembled: Dr. Yamikani Limbe, Dr. Wanda Lam, Dr. Beth Stuebing, and Dr. Bernhard Widmann. With strong support from hospital administration, the impact of this PAACS program in raising the level of care is undeniable. The trip was an immense success. PAACS is thankful for these collaborations and the work by the hospital administration, PAACS program directors, and faculty that has clearly catalyzed the growth of the institutions while training and discipling excellent surgeons and disciple-makers. We look forward to the first graduates from Nkhoma in December 2027 while anticipating continued growth and effectiveness of Harpur and Malamulo. Praise the Lord for the work He is doing.



# MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL: FIVE YEARS LATER

*Randall Owen, MD  
PAACS Head & Neck Council Chair*

When I visited Mbingo Baptist Hospital in 2018, the residents had just returned from being evacuated due to the civil unrest. Subsequently, many of the residents relocated to other programs around the continent and the surgeons remaining there faced a daunting task. In March/April of this year—five years later—I was able to visit Mbingo again and bring my endocrine surgery fellow with me to participate in the head & neck fellowship program there. Our PAACS fellow Dr. Penngnan Keofon Nchifor has become a skillful head and neck surgeon through her time there and is a pleasure to work with. Although the civil unrest is still present, there is generally a consensus that things are better than they were. A nearly full contingent of residents has filled the ranks at Mbingo and whereas I was the lone short termer last time, this time there were several expatriate short and longer termers sharing their skills and talents.

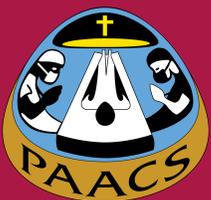
We were able to do surgery for about 15 patients including several impressive thyroid goiters, two mandibulectomies, resection of a carotid body tumor, a parotidectomy, a suppurative thyroiditis penetrating through the chest wall, and several facial fracture repairs. It was great to see the surgical team work well together and to see my fellow from New York work together with the PAACS fellow from Cameroon, Dr. Nchifor. I was humbled in that a couple of complications occurred during surgery and I was somewhat embarrassed. I realized that I need to redouble my carefulness in a somewhat unfamiliar environment and that I always have to trust God for the patient outcomes as I am a fallible human surgeon.



Dr. Randall Owen visits Mbingo Baptist Hospital

I think the highlight of the trip was some very meaningful conversations with some of the surgeons and residents there. Being married to a Nigerian doctor myself, I have some familiarity with the struggles of weighing a sacrificial calling against the expectations of the extended family in the African context, and our reasonable responsibility to our family's needs. Encouragement went both ways as we dove into these issues and others.

Please continue to pray for lasting peace and justice for the region, as well as excellence, compassion, perseverance, and a deep love for Jesus in the trainees and surgeons (myself included).



## SPRING ALUMNI NEWSLETTER IS LIVE

Check out the PAACS Spring Alumni Newsletter featuring two PAACS graduates, Drs. Yamikani Limbe and Aaron Kukulol. Dr. Limbe is a graduate of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Tanzania and currently serves as the Assistant Program Director for the PAACS General Surgery Program at Nkhoma Mission Hospital in Malawi. Dr. Kukulol graduated from the PAACS General Surgery Program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi and now serves as a General Surgeon at JFK Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.



*The Kukulol Family*

*Limbe Family*



**READ NEWSLETTER**

## PAACS ALUMNI VIRTUAL GATHERING

There will be a PAACS Alumni “virtual gathering” via Zoom on **Thursday, July 6 at 5pm GMT / 6pm WAT / 7pm CAT / 8pm EAT**. This will be a time for PAACS Graduates to share about current needs and discuss ways to support one another. Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka and Dr. Steve Doane will moderate the discussion. Invitations are coming soon via email.



# PAACS GRADUATE DR. DIEUDONNE LEMFUKA VISITS THE U.S.

*Deb Pedziwol  
Director of Partnership Development*

A warm welcome was extended to Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka, Graduate Representative for the PAACS Board of Directors, as he traveled from Liberia to the U.S. to attend the PAACS Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Lemfuka graduated from the PAACS General Surgery Program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. He is currently serving as a surgeon at Eternal Love Winning Africa (ELWA) Hospital in Liberia.

As part of his visit, Dr. Lemfuka spent time with Dr. Jonathan Saxe and Dr. CR Powell in Indiana, where he was immersed in surgical education activities at St. Vincent's Hospital as well as Indiana University. He also participated in several PAACS fundraising events at the homes of Drs. CR and Kristy Powell in Zionsville, Indiana, and Dr. Randy and Kathy Powell in Bloomington, Illinois.

PAACS was blessed with the opportunity to welcome Dr. Lemfuka and to facilitate the sharing of his testimony, how PAACS has impacted his life, and how he is now serving the people of Liberia as a PAACS graduate.



*Dr. Jonathan Saxe, Dr. Marvin Olasky, Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka, Dr. Jacques Ebhele, and Dr. Drew Huang at a meeting of the Christian Surgeons Fellowship*

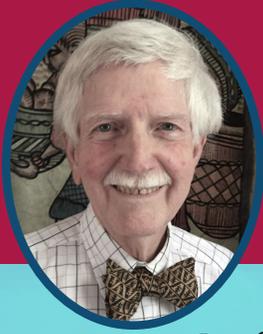


*Dr. CR Powell, Dr. Dieudonne Lemfuka, Kathy Powell, and Dr. Randy Powell*

WE NEED YOUR HELP to host a PAACS dinner, present PAACS to your church missions committee, or connect us with an affiliated foundation in your personal network!

**Please reach out to Deb Pedziwol at [deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net](mailto:deborah.pedziwol@paacs.net) or call (423) 612-1045 to schedule your event for 2023-2024.**





# REFLECTIONS ON THE PAACS DAILY PRAYER GUIDE AND A RECOMMENDATION

*John Tarpley, MD*  
*Academic Dean*

In a former PAACS Bulletin entry ([Nov 2021](#)), I mentioned, “Get in the habit of having good habits.” In that regard, I recommend you incorporate the PAACS Daily Prayer Guide into your devotions. I prioritize and seek to read and reflect on each day’s entry. This exercise helps me learn the faces, families, concerns of our trainees, faculty, many alumni, and administration and even see the faces and names of our board members.

We are thus reminded each day to pray generally and specifically for the many individuals that comprise our PAACS family. Many prayer requests fall into categories such as concerns for one’s family, especially the education of children, peace, success on PAACS or COSECSA exams, faculty number, a resurgence in volunteer faculty, financial issues, etc. Plus, the several introductory pages give us encouragement from Susan Koshy and Ed Scarce with specific prayers for PAACS on Day 1.

Some comments taken from the 2022-2023 PAACS Daily Prayer Guide follow.

- To “find rest in the business of life.”
- Prayers for security, countries afflicted by insecurities, protection.
- Jobs for spouses. A future spouse.
- Opportunities for further training in various specialties.
- Peace in and for Niger, Cameroon, Burundi, Ethiopia, the DRC, and no doubt, other countries.
- Patient care. That God would provide more workers.
- Wisdom in bringing up kids as they grow older.
- Medical problems in parents, spouses, children and no doubt in some trainees and faculty.
- Guidance on future service.
- Both praise for the number and unity among faculty and the need for more faculty.
- Requests for new PAACS programs where current graduates now serve.
- God’s provision, protection, and good health.

In my daily prayer time, I utilize the acronym ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, placing my requests last. I also use various prayers and hymns directed to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit, one such chorus is “Spirit of the Living God,” the text by Daniel Iverson who noted Acts 11:15.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

As we live our lives, may we be as William Barclay encouraged in his introduction to his commentary on Romans: **God focused, Christ centered, and Spirit controlled.**

## WELCOMING NEW LIFE IN CAMEROON AND NIGER



Chiraminui Kwenkuh

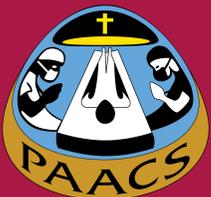
Congratulations to PAACS Resident Dr. Roger Tankombo, fourth year resident at Mbingo Baptist Hospital and his wife Blessing who added another boy to the quiver, Chiraminui Kwenkuh, born on May 2nd at 3.3kg.

Chief Resident at Galmi Hospital Dr. Sadock Irankunda and his wife Albine welcomed new baby Eran Hiram earlier this year. Dr. Sadock said, "My family is happy to have this gift from God. It is truly a blessing to our family. Glory to the Lord. We thank you all for your prayers."



Eran Hiram

Residents, graduates, and faculty: share your news with the PAACS Family!  
Email your updates to [emily.dennison@paacs.net](mailto:emily.dennison@paacs.net).





PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

# GLOBAL DAY OF FASTING & PRAYER

## Monday, June 12, 2023

*Please join us on Monday, June 12th, for the PAACS Global Day of Fasting & Prayer to unite with the PAACS family as we seek God and petition His blessings.*

*Join the Zoom call of your choice as we seek the Lord's face on behalf of PAACS.*

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR EITHER GATHERING](#)

### PRAYER GATHERING #1:

US and Canada:

Monday, June 12

1:00 pm ET / 12:00 noon CT / 11:00 am MT / 10:00 am PT

Africa:

Monday, June 12

8:00 pm EAT / 7:00 pm CAT / 6:00 pm WAT

### PRAYER GATHERING #2:

US and Canada:

Monday, June 12

8:00 pm ET / 7:00 pm CT / 6:00 pm MT / 5:00 pm PT

Africa:

Tuesday, June 13

3:00 am EAT / 2:00 am CAT / 1:00 am WAT

# PRAY

- Pray that PAACS will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.
- Pray for God to provide wisdom and guidance for the PAACS Board of Directors as they meet next month.
- May God sustain, protect, and provide His grace to all PAACS residents, faculty, and their families.
- May the Lord bless all the PAACS graduates and help them and their families as they serve God. May He provide for them and keep them in good health. May the Lord provide for the education of their children.
- Pray for blessings upon on all PAACS partnering organizations, supporters, and prayer warriors.
- Pray that as this fiscal year comes to a close on June 30th, for God to abundantly supply all our needs.

**Each month, we pray for residents by name. Please join us this month by covering these residents in prayer:**

- Rumbidzai Mlewah
- Joseph Mkandawire
- Sharon Bonya
- Emmanuel Kyobe
- Matthew Kolleh
- Estifanos Bafa Babulo
- Eric Ngoran
- Blessing Ngam
- Roger Tankombo
- Foletia Guillaume
- Tchinde Ngueping Marius Jordan

# GIVE

DONATE - U.S.

DONATE - CANADA

DONATE - OUTSIDE  
U.S. & CANADA

# ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Quality of life in children operated for spina bifida; low- and middle-income country perspective.](#)
- [A narrative review of ergonomic problems, principles, and potential solutions in surgical operations.](#)
- [Patterns of orthopedic and trauma admissions to a tertiary teaching and referral health facility in Kenya: Chart review.](#)
- [Effectiveness of warm-up interventions on work-related musculoskeletal disorders, physical and psychosocial functions among workers: a systematic review.](#)
- [Does reducing out-of-pocket costs for children's surgical care protect families from poverty in Somaliland? A cross-sectional, national, economic evaluation modelling study.](#)
- [Action competence in obstetric emergencies—can this be achieved via e-learning? Interprofessional blended learning module on diagnostics and emergency treatment of shoulder dystocia.](#)
- [EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVE World Journal of Surgery: We Asked the Experts-Performance Enhancement for Surgeons: Is Coaching the Answer?](#)
- [Magnitude and predictors of unfavorable management outcome in surgically treated patients with intestinal obstruction in Ethiopia: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)

**Read more articles compiled by Margaret Tarpley by [clicking here!](#)**

# CONNECT

