

# PAACS RESIDENT TESTIMONY



## PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS



Greetings. I am Marvin Simiyu and grew up in Kenya. I was born and raised in a strict Christian family and so by default I was a Christian. We attended church every Sunday. I always thought I was born again. Through high school I participated in Christian union and carried myself as a Christian. During the calls for being born again, I thought they were meant to be for others and not me. When I was young, my dad was sick and was admitted for a chronic leg wound. My mom cried endlessly every evening. Later she told us that dad needed an operation on the wound but there was no surgeon to perform it. Dad was a civil servant and so had an insurance policy. Still he lacked a doctor to do this small procedure on his leg. I feared for the less fortunate in society with no insurance cover. And so I set my mind on becoming a doctor to help the less fortunate.

My parents could not support me through private sponsored medical school in Kenya. It is very expensive. So an opportunity came in Burundi and I took it. I believed God had opened a door. It was less expensive studying there despite the challenge of learning a new language: French. In the university is when I learnt what being a Christian meant. I was tempted and there was a lot of freedom. I started taking alcohol and going to night clubs. I lived a careless life. I had no time for church and hated people who encouraged me to go to church. I had less time to attend classes but enough to drink with my friends. In my 3<sup>rd</sup> year I started being afraid that I was pushing myself out of medical school because of poor grades. I felt guilty that I had neglected and let down my parents' belief. I had a self-conviction, of my wrong and sinful habits, I felt dirty before the Lord and not worthy of His presence. It is at this moment that I went to my knees, cried to God and asked for forgiveness.

HE HEARD ME. I left all my ways and decided to follow Jesus. The same year, I got baptized in water, and joined a wonderful Christian church.

Since then God was faithful to me. He provided a Christian family for me far away from home. He gave me financial support when my parents could no longer support me, and clear a mind in my education. His love reigned in my life and I worshiped, praised Him and worked hard for Him in church. I completely gave up everything in life for Him, and He walked with me always.

I graduated in 2014, joined a group of American missionaries working with Serge in Burundi and worked as a surgical medical officer under Dr. Fader. My faith with Christ grew stronger every day, especially working with the less fortunate in society and providing physical and spiritual care to them. I felt strongly God calling me to help the less fortunate in society with the only skills I had. Through and with the help of Dr. Fader, I got admitted to Tenwek PAACS program in Kenya. It was double blessings because I was coming back to my country after 8 years away. God was blessing me and answering all my prayers.

I joined the PAACS program and worked hard. It was a very demanding schedule but I have learned a lot. I am grateful to be part of PAACS.

Just as I was settling in I lost my dad. He was my friend and moral support system. Now, I had to learn to always look upon the Lord and asked him for strength. Psalms 121 has encouraged me, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 20: 15 has kept me going with many challenges I faced. I am the only working child in the family. I have to support my siblings and my mother. It has not been easy. The above verses and support from my PAACS colleagues has kept me going. I also dropped behind in my class due to all these happenings but God has been faithful to me. I am learning to leave it to Him who knows everything. He also can carry all our burden. I plan to serve God all of my days and be the best surgeon I can by taking care of His people. Thank you to God and PAACS for giving me this opportunity.

**Marvin Simiyu**

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