



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY  
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

## PAACS RESIDENT TESTIMONY



My name is Julius Paul, a second-year PAACS general surgery resident, at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) in Tanzania. I was born and grew up in Christian family in a small village in northern Tanzania. I am the 6th born in a family of seven children, with five sisters and one elder brother. I recently got married to my lovely wife, Joyce N dipapa in February 2017. My wife is a nurse, currently pursuing her bachelor in general nursing at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) Moshi about 100 kms east of Arusha.

I went to primary school in a neighboring village about 4 kms walk and went to boarding secondary school for 6 years before joining medical school in 2007. I graduated at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in 2013 and then practiced

as an internal medicine doctor in a mission hospital 2013/14.

My mother got very sick while I was in class three. She was hospitalized for about a month in an under-resourced district designated hospital for pregnancy related complications due to advanced maternal age. She conceived her 8th pregnancy in her 40's. She was paralyzed following her illness, the condition that I then came to understand later in medical school was she succumbed to eclampsia, complicating to stroke and paralysis. She developed sacral pressure sores due to being bed ridden for a prolonged period. The wound kept worsening probably due to inadequate care, at the end it complicated to sepsis, which led to her death.

The spirit of becoming a doctor developed following the illness and death of my lovely mother. I believed I would have served my mother if I had been a doctor during that particular period. God made my desire come true and I went to medical school to become a doctor.

I heard of PAACS during my internship at Seliani, a mother hospital to Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC). I became interested in training as a missionary surgeon for Africa so that I can serve people who are suffering. I thank God that my application to join the PAACS program was successful. I joined PAACS in January 2016. Since I started my training, I have seen a tremendous change in my personal life and significant improvement in my spiritual relationship with God. We usually have time where residents and faculty members meet for bible study sessions. Through these bible sessions and different retreats that we had, I have experienced my spiritual growth day after day.

I have also seen remarkable transformation in the way I handle patients while providing services in clinics, wards and in the operating theater. Sharing the word of God with the patients that I meet is among the most wonderful experience, which I find rewarding both in spiritual and professional aspects. I am really thankful to God for both physical healing and spiritual healing to his people through the work that is being done under PAACS across Africa.

May God bless you for your generosity and kindness,

**Dr. Julius Paul**



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