

PAACS

2020 EDITION

TRAINING HIS SURGEONS
CARING FOR HIS PEOPLE
SHARING HIS LOVE

Caring for Africa

25th
Anniversary
Edition



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS



*From the Desk of
Susan Koshy,
CEO*



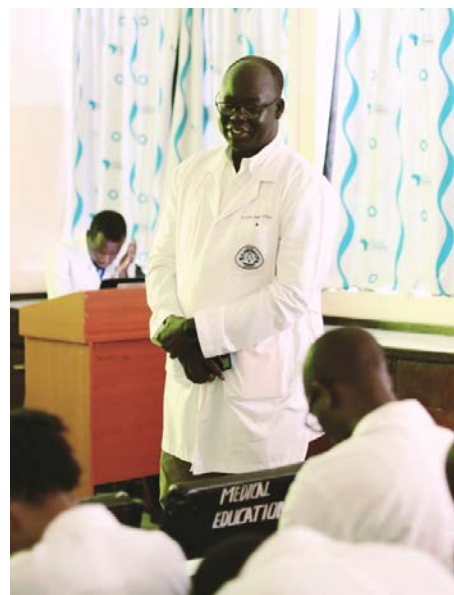
Dear PAACS Family,

It is a great pleasure to share with you the 25th Anniversary Edition of the 2020 magazine "PAACS: Caring for Africa". This magazine contains the true accounts and testimonies of PAACS faculty, residents, and graduates. These are stories of hope, answers to prayer, and transformation of lives.

I pray that you are inspired by these testimonies of God's faithfulness in the lives of these dedicated servants who are bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to Africa.

Blessings,

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



MISSION

PAACS exists to train and disciple African surgeons to glorify God and to provide excellent compassionate care to those most in need.

VISION

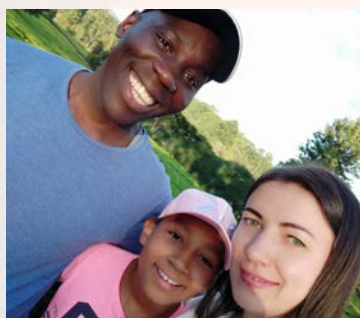
We envision African surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick.

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Changing the Surgical Landscape

Featuring David R. Jeffcoach, MD

Dr. David Jeffcoach never would have predicted he and his family would be living in Ethiopia. But through a series of events orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, they find themselves serving at Soddo Christian Hospital, where David is the hospital's Chair of Surgery and PAACS Program Director.

David's parents instilled in him a love for missions at a young age, but he had no intention of becoming a doctor. "I always passed out at the sight of blood," he said. "It wasn't until the end of undergraduate studies that I felt the Lord calling me to medicine for the purpose of missions. I had to be obedient, and I applied to medical school."

David and his wife, Krichele, were married the summer before he started medical school at UC Davis School of Medicine. While he was in medical school, Krichele became a physician assistant and received her master's in public health. They then moved to Tennessee, where David completed general surgery training and they added three children to their family. "Medicine did not come easy for me," he said. "It took many hours on my knees asking the Lord to sustain me through another day. He is made perfect in our weakness. I chose trauma surgery as a specialty. It is a bit ironic."

While he was still in medical school, they attended the Global Missions Health Conference. He was contemplating which medical field to choose, but he wasn't sure how his love for surgery would work in missions. That's when he met Dr. David Thompson and Dr. Bruce Steffes who told him about the PAACS program. He knew, "That was it."

He kept in touch with PAACS through the rest of his training. "Surgical training was a spiritually dark place for me," he said. "I accepted a faculty position (in California) and was shopping for a house in the country where I could rest. At the end of my fellowship, I had an opportunity to spend a month abroad. My wife and I felt we had to at least go visit a PAACS program. That is when we came to Soddo, Ethiopia for a month in 2017."

That month changed their life's trajectory. Today, David has been serving as Program Director at Soddo Christian Hospital for more than a year. They arrived at Soddo in February 2019, where then-director Dr. Andrew Chew guided David through the administrative process, new surgical techniques, and other details before leaving at the end of 2019. **"It has been trial by fire, but I tell my wife all the time this is the best job I've ever had," David said. "It has been radical to see God's provision by the way He prepared me for this prior to arrival. This job requires all I have and so much more that dependence on the Lord is required."**

Soddo Christian Hospital is a 130-bed hospital with six operating theaters, seven residents, three general surgeons, two orthopaedic surgeons, two Ob/Gyn physicians, and 420 employees. Their patients come from all over Ethiopia, as well as an increasing number from neighboring countries. With one of the only CT scanners in the region, they attract a large volume of trauma and oncology patients.



In addition, they have a staff of seven chaplains who assist with evangelism. David said, "We make evangelism a daily part of our jobs. Our residents are the evangelists on the team. It is common to see patients accepting Christ on a regular basis, and for this we give thanks. I recently operated on a wealthy patient. After his care, he recounted that he thought the staff and residents were treating him special because of his social status. But then, he looked around and saw they treated all the patients the same way. This is a testament to the attitude of service by our residents."

At Soddo, the work is challenging. "My scissors are not sharp, the equipment frequently breaks, the language is challenging, there is a severe lack of medical resources in the country, our patients die of diseases that are not often lethal in the U.S. and the political landscape is tumultuous," David said. **"But the rewards far outweigh the challenges. I work with some of the brightest and the most compassionate people I've ever met. I get to see people come to know Christ for the first time.** We get to pray daily with patients. It often happens that when I am exceptionally tired and frustrated, we have someone accept Christ on rounds in the morning, and I'm reminded why we are here. Clinically, I am convinced our outcomes are supernaturally good. People are healed in ways that do not make sense to me. I take immense joy in watching the residents learn new skills. Every time I find I am no longer needed for a procedure, I think how great it is that these men and women will take their new skills into their communities and country long after I am gone."

Each day as he faces these challenges, David leans on Galatians 6:9 (NASB), "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary." "There are times I want to just throw in the towel," he said, "but this verse keeps my mind towards eternity, to continue to do good and to constantly pray for wisdom to know what 'doing good' is in each situation."

The other Scripture he relies on is John 7:4 (NASB), "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." In David's words, "There was so much more Jesus could have done while on earth. He could have healed millions more, given so many more sermons and disciplined more followers. But that is not what He did. Instead, he was most concerned with accomplishing the work the Father had given him to do. I often get lost trying to tackle every problem that enters my sphere. **But true freedom is found in trying to remain aware of the Lord's calling and the Holy Spirit's guidance each day. My only purpose is to do the work He has called me to that day.**"

For their family, their time in Ethiopia has been different in a completely restorative way. "Working for PAACS has restored my soul," he said. "Five years of residency and two of fellowship had taken its toll on my family. I was tired, angry, and frustrated, and I'm sure my family felt the same way. I get to eat three meals a day with my wife and children. On my days off, I have nothing to do but spend time with my wonderful children without modern distractions. I feel more like my old self now than when I first started."

And for David, it is an amazing experience to see the men and women at Soddo Christian Hospital live out the gospel of Christ and the mission of PAACS. "They sacrifice much to be obedient to what the Lord has called them to do," he said. "Our new interns said a couple weeks ago they are amazed at how many people are surviving here. That, to me, is evidence of the Lord's work in this place."

**"Souls are being saved and bodies restored.
Thank you, PAACS, for what you are doing to
shape the surgical landscape for Christ
on a continent."**



A Passport to Missions

Featuring Kasumba Kaggya Moses, MD

For Dr. Kasumba Kaggya Moses, his journey to PAACS has been the pursuit of a passport to missions. Moses grew up with five siblings in a poor home in Uganda where food, clothing, and drinking water were scarce. Through it all, Moses stated, “Our faith and trust in God never lagged.” Moses was baptized at age 12 after accepting Christ as his personal Savior.

“My love for medicine traces back during my grandfather’s sickness for prostate cancer and stroke. I was his caregiver at the age of eight,” he remembers. “I watched how a doctor catheterized him as he screamed from pain. I was so shocked and traumatized. Upon returning home, I started learning how to operate on chickens so I could help my relatives and other people later.”

He focused on biology, chemistry, and physics in secondary school, but his poor academic performance didn’t qualify him to attend either of the two medical schools in Uganda. “My dream of ever becoming a medical doctor seemed to have logically ended at that point,” he remembers.

“At home, during daily evening prayers, Mom and Dad would always pray that God would show me a way forward.”

Several years later, he saw an advertisement in the local newspaper for a Ukrainian medical school offering training in English. He signed up immediately, and a week later he said goodbye to his parents. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a scam. No one spoke English and there was no medical school. Moses stayed in Ukraine and eventually applied for medical school on his own. With God directing the process, Moses was accepted and finally began medical school.

“During my third year, due to political situations in Ukraine, the English medical school was closed, and several of my friends moved on to a different university,” he said. “On my end, that was not realistic, as it required a huge sum of money. I made a bold decision to cross over to a purely Russian medical school at the beginning of my fourth year.”



During his fifth year of medical school, a Ukrainian student from the faculty of foreign language saw how he was struggling with the Russian language. **She offered to help him and also helped provide food and care for him for the rest of medical school. That student became his wife two years later.**

In 2007, he returned home to Uganda to begin an internship at Mulago Hospital. As he interned, his unquenchable appetite to do surgery landed him in trouble with his superiors at the hospital. They were not willing to train him, so he returned to Ukraine with his family to start his surgical dream there. However, an American friend who had given him money to go to Ukraine went bankrupt and his Ukrainian surgical dream also vanished. He headed back to Uganda and started working at a district hospital in Uganda.

"I promised God—if it is your will, that I become a surgeon, my priority will be to serve you," he said. God finally answered his prayer when he received a letter from PAACS asking him to complete an application in 2012. Later that same year, Moses and his family moved to Cameroon to begin his surgical residency at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Today, Moses serves as acting PAACS Program Director at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi. Malamulo is a 212-bed hospital with 60 surgery beds that serves a catchment of 1.2 million people. They perform more than 2,000 surgeries each year, consisting of general surgery, Ob/Gyn, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, neurosurgery, and more. The PAACS residency at Malamulo has grown from two residents in 2014 to seven residents in 2020. They have three long-term general surgery faculty members, a gynecologist, two internal medicine specialists, and a pediatrician, as well as more than 300 staff workers. The hospital also has a chaplain department to help meet the patients' spiritual needs.

"God appeals to me daily, and like He saw and continues to see my life struggles, He has kept the needs of others in my sight, a calling through which I enjoy ministering," Moses said. **"My role at Malamulo is sharing Christ's love to patients through surgical care and training residents in a similar way I was trained."**

The PAACS program has taken Malamulo to a whole new level. Surgical training has had a massive positive economic impact. "In many hospitals, the financial impact of post-graduate clinical training as part of this is poorly understood; however, at Malamulo, it's well appreciated,"

said Moses. "Malamulo is found in one of the poorest countries on earth in a rural setting and takes care of the poorest of the poor. **What makes it unique is that our patients refer to our hospital as a church that happens to provide medical care, rather than a hospital that happens to offer some spiritual talks.**"

"Without faith, this career is senseless and is reduced to only what we do to people who come to us," said Moses. "What motivates and keeps me going is that science is limited. The understanding that we are His hands and that He will return to take us home from the suffering we face daily is what I view as my best motivator and makes me prioritize my personal needs well."

Those personal needs include Moses' family, as his wife, Valeriia, and their daughter, Michelle, are currently living in Ukraine. Michelle is completing her schooling there since there are no good options in Malawi. Being separated from his wife and daughter obviously affects Moses on a daily basis, "but they have grown to know that they are part and parcel of my ministry, they have shared into the blessings that God is showering us not for our actions but for our dependence on Him," he said. "We have prayerfully learned to hand over these challenges to God and to trust Him."

For now, Moses continues to meet the surgical needs of the people of Malawi by developing the surgeons of tomorrow at Malamulo Adventist Hospital. He marvels as he and other PAACS graduates are able to share their stories with their younger colleagues, encouraging them that they too can become surgical leaders in PAACS someday. He dreams of the day PAACS opens a program in his home country in Uganda. "My feeling of God's call to service is stronger, and it's growing to recognize He never will abandon us," he said.





Obeying and Ministering in Malawi

Featuring Nzanu Kipata Anatole, MD

My name is Dr. Nzanu Kipata Anatole, and I was born in a small town in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I come from a relatively poor background, but I was surrounded by loving and supportive relatives. Back then, our region was peaceful, and people lived routine lives. Today, if you are familiar with my country's history, that region is considered as the triangle of death and the population is impoverished, living in constant fear of losing their lives at any time.

When I was five years old, I lived for two years in my grandfather's home, while my dad was attending theological school. My grandfather was a retired Anglican priest who had very little education but was influenced by the founders of our church in DRC. He was a man of character, and though he could barely walk with a cane at the time I knew him, his authority inspired my young soul. That is where I learned the rudiments of Christian faith. That period of time shaped my life. I then rejoined my parents, as my dad was also an Anglican priest. From that point on, our family relocated multiple times due to my dad's assignment, including a three-year stay in Bangui (Central African Republic) at a theological school where my dad was taking his master's degree. That was my first encounter with an international community, which has also shaped my life.

Back in DRC, our family settled in Northern Congo for three years. It was about that time that my dad and I agreed upon me receiving medical training, as I was naturally drawn to medicine. While I was completing my secondary training, I received Christ as my personal Savior. During this same time, my country was going into its second civil war. I started my medical training at the Catholic University of Bukavu while the country was literally divided in two (West versus East) by the rebellion.

After I got my Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), my dad began searching where to send me for specialization training. That's how we first heard about PAACS in 2007. At the beginning, I didn't like the idea of specializing in Africa, so it took me some time to apply. A few years later, I applied to PAACS, was accepted into the program, and started in October 2010 at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon.

That was a long journey indeed, from 2007 to 2010, but God had His timing. Coming from the DRC, having trained in the part that belonged to the rebellion from Eastern Congo, it took a while for our university to be accredited. Meanwhile, I traveled a lot to look for a job or training to no avail. God was drawing me to PAACS, and we cannot resist God. When He calls, you have to respond. In this

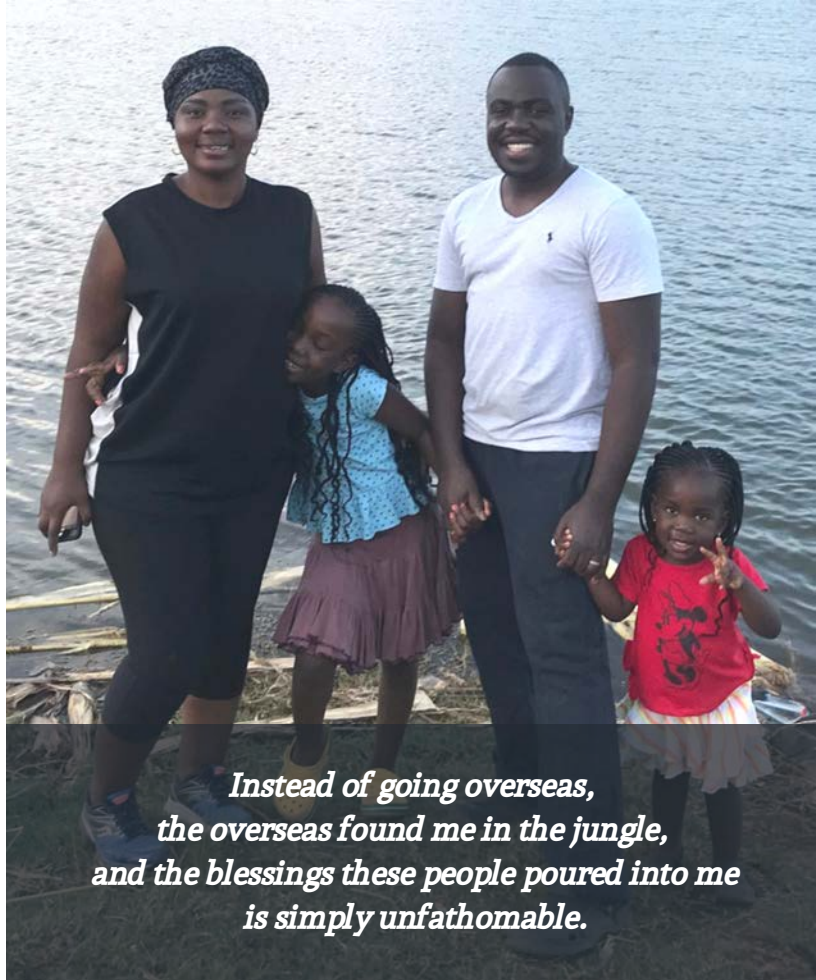
case, like in many others, God was pushing me into the only door He wanted me to go through. Serving others is God's command, and PAACS has serving others in its objectives, so God used PAACS to get me to live by His command.

My time with PAACS is one of the greatest things to ever happen to me. There will always be a "before PAACS" and an "after PAACS" in my life. Even though the training was challenging, having switched from a French training to an English system, it was a worthwhile challenge. The biggest challenge was the remoteness of our training site in Gabon. Remember, I was dreaming of going overseas and here I ended up in the middle of the jungle. I thought I was being punished. After all, how could good training come from such a remote place? It took me some time to accept that God wanted me there at a particular moment. I learned a big lesson of humility, living in a low resource environment and still getting to grow in each aspect of life.

On the other hand, by joining the PAACS program, I thought I had said goodbye to my chances of getting married anytime soon. I had been looking for a soulmate to no avail and was not hopeful of finding one in the jungle. And God proved me wrong in all my worries. While in training, I met my wife, Niva, and our two precious daughters, Hope and Faith, were all born in Bongolo. It became a second home to us, and it's a family matter as well. My father-in-law was trained at PAACS Bongolo, and my wife's brother-in-law is also a PAACS graduate.

And praise God, it turned into a wonderful experience. I got to meet men and women of God from different backgrounds, nationalities, and languages. Instead of going overseas, the overseas found me in the jungle, and the blessings these people poured into me is simply unfathomable. I will remember these friendships. In my entire training, PAACS was the first place where I saw a trainee getting close to the trainer and interacting on a daily basis. This is the only place where you are spiritually, scientifically, and financially supported during your training. This is a unique experience around the world that I sometimes took for granted.

After graduating from the program, spending three years working as faculty at Bongolo and then eight months working in Liberia, we are now serving in Malawi at a Korean-founded hospital called Dae Yang Luke in Lilongwe. I will go everywhere God sends us to minister. Malawi is not yet a training site, but I have joined another PAACS graduate here. With the help of God, we are



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the overseas found me in the jungle,
and the blessings these people poured into me
is simply unfathomable.*

working to become a future PAACS training site. And opening new sites is important. Back when I was trying to join PAACS, they were literally looking for candidates; today, we have more candidates than the sites can accept. I have a number of young friends who have been trying for years to join but have never been selected. In all the different countries where PAACS is present or where the graduates are working, they are the light and the salt of their worlds.

The biggest impact PAACS makes in my life today is how everyone continues to pray for me. PAACS really cares about its members. I like this saying, "Once PAACS, always PAACS." PAACS's vision is "We envision African surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick." This means everything to me now that I have graduated, because this sets me apart from any other surgeon, the fact that I take care of both people's bodies but also their souls and spirits. You take away the gospel, and we become like any other surgeon.

I praise God for what He has done. I never believed we could have received training that Africa needs and will continue to crave. People ask us where we were trained when they see the impact we are making. For as long as God will want me in Africa, I will obey and minister to my people.

Being a PAACS Resident

Featuring Asaph Elvam Guilou-Via, MD

Today, Dr. Asaph Elvam Guilou-Via is a second year surgical resident at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. And he is the first PAACS resident from the country of Chad in Central Africa.

Asaph grew up in a Christian family where he was taught the Word of God and God's ways. His dad was a pastor, and his mom was a women's leader in their church, and Asaph accepted Jesus as his Savior at an early age. From kindergarten through high school, he attended Catholic schools. After receiving his high school diploma, he traveled to Senegal where he applied for general medicine training at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. He was finally admitted to the program after a long waiting period.

His calling into medicine developed while he was still a young child. "In my early infancy, my parents noticed that I was compassionate about sad situations happening around me and about people suffering in my environment," Asaph said. "They found it good to prepare me for medicine, discussed it with me, and I am convinced that God is calling me to be a medical doctor."

Asaph first heard about PAACS from a medical professor in Chad who announced it to several churches in the country. One of Asaph's uncles heard this announcement in his church and encouraged Asaph to apply for the program. "I prayed to God and asked, if this is your will, then let it be," he said. He applied successively for two years, and he was accepted into the program in the second year.

For Asaph, getting to join the PAACS residency program in Gabon was an opportunity to be professionally trained in surgery, but it was more important to be trained to be a Christian surgeon. "Through PAACS, God called me to evangelize to the people I am exposed to," he said. "He called me to be available and provide good healthcare to the needy. And He called me to be a light to my country and my environment, to show the way to Him."



Today, Asaph is enjoying being part of a big family through PAACS. "It is enriching," he said, "I have been learning a lot, whether in the professional aspect or the spiritual aspect from my attendings, seniors, visitors, and men of God I encounter."

"Faith has been keeping me moving forward in my career," Asaph said. "I pray for every challenge I meet in my surgical practice and for challenges in the operating room. Challenges always remind me to pray. I don't think I can make it without the faith."

Through the PAACS program, Asaph is being encouraged to grow more in his faith, and he says he prays more, reads his Bible more, and trusts God more for answered prayers. He said, "Spiritually, I learned to count on God, on His grace and on His favor, as well as to serve Him on a daily basis."

As his daily walk with Christ has improved during his training, so has his ability to share his love of Christ with the patients he serves each day.

"We recently had a patient with a serious kidney failure," Asaph remembered. "And He was very despaired, depressed, and thought he was going to die. He once said, 'If I have to grade my health state, I would give myself 0/10.' But the whole team and I prayed for him and asked him to put his confidence in God. The healing we witnessed at that time was a divine intervention. The patient went home healed and satisfied."

Asaph's motivation for continuing in the program comes from his faith in God and in God's Word. **"There is a reward for every work," he said. "And there is a time for everything under the sun. Now is the time to work hard."**

He is committed to making a difference for his fellow countrymen throughout Africa. "Many Africans have accessed a new standard of care through the PAACS program," he said. "One of the most concerning needs in Africa is the presence of leaders that are really engaged in transforming the course of the continent. PAACS has been providing Africa with well-trained leaders that can be a light for the continent."

After he finishes his training, Asaph would like to return to Chad, because there is such a great need for surgeons in his home country. In Chad, they have needs for qualified human resources in the health system, a stronger health system and leadership, medical and

surgical specialties training programs, more general practitioners and specialists, well equipped hospitals, and the list goes on and on. He hopes to be able to return to his country and serve his people with the skills he has learned through PAACS, "but I submit to the will of God for any guidance," he said.

As Asaph continues through his training with PAACS, he sees that the surgical training program is equipping him to be the man He is called by God to be, a fulfilled man who is ready to impact his country for Christ and His kingdom.

"I came to realize how influential my position is in the advancement of the kingdom of God," Asaph said. "I have the opportunity to reach as many people as a pastor or an evangelist can reach but with a different approach."

"God's call to serve Him in Africa is evident because of the needs I see," Asaph said.

"Evangelism is a mission asked from our Lord Jesus.

And as the apostle Paul recommended, let's run the race and wear a crown at the end of it all."



ONE-ON-ONE WITH A PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Featuring Philip Blasto Ooko, MD

PAACS: To get us started, tell us a little about your individual background (school, training, personal life, family, etc.)

Dr. Blasto: I attended medical school at the University of Nairobi (2003 to 2008), did the required one-year internship at Tenwek Hospital (2009), then enrolled as a general surgery resident at Tenwek Hospital (2011 to 2015) under PAACS/COSECSA. I am married to Sandra Chao, and we have one child, Catherine, who will be four years old this November.

PAACS: What drew you into medicine?

Dr. Blasto: My mother wanted to be a nurse, and she took every opportunity to instill in me the benefits of helping others. I was thankful I was chosen to study medicine after completion of high school, and as I interacted with the medical fraternity, the joy of helping those who are sick and suffering grew as well.

PAACS: How did you first get involved with PAACS?

Dr. Blasto: I got involved in my interactions with the faculty at Tenwek during my internship and residency. I applied to residency because of the Christian witness I saw from the missionaries at Tenwek.

PAACS: What motivated you to get involved in serving with PAACS? What was the process like?

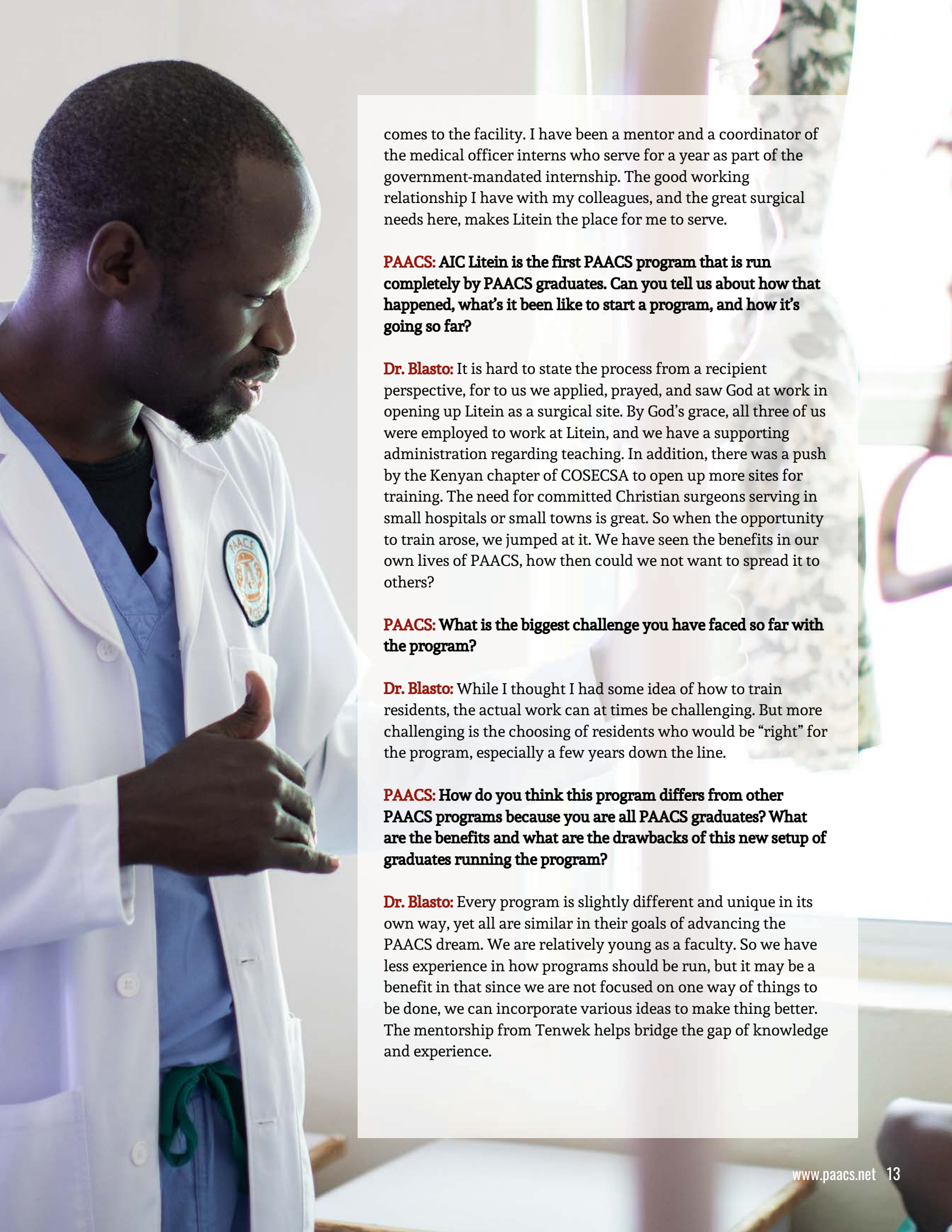
Dr. Blasto: I was a product of PAACS, and I had benefitted immensely from the teachings in surgery and in life. So when we heard that PAACS may be considering to open new sites, we were thrilled. It was our opportunity to give back and to bless others with what we had received.

PAACS: What is your individual role at AIC Litein? What made you want to serve there as opposed to elsewhere?

Dr. Blasto: I serve as a general surgeon, working alongside my colleagues to offer surgical care to every patient who

Dr. Philip Blasto Ooko is a general surgeon who is serving as a PAACS faculty member at AIC Litein Hospital in Kenya, which is the first PAACS program that is run completely by PAACS graduates.





comes to the facility. I have been a mentor and a coordinator of the medical officer interns who serve for a year as part of the government-mandated internship. The good working relationship I have with my colleagues, and the great surgical needs here, makes Litein the place for me to serve.

PAACS: AIC Litein is the first PAACS program that is run completely by PAACS graduates. Can you tell us about how that happened, what's it been like to start a program, and how it's going so far?

Dr. Blasto: It is hard to state the process from a recipient perspective, for to us we applied, prayed, and saw God at work in opening up Litein as a surgical site. By God's grace, all three of us were employed to work at Litein, and we have a supporting administration regarding teaching. In addition, there was a push by the Kenyan chapter of COSECSA to open up more sites for training. The need for committed Christian surgeons serving in small hospitals or small towns is great. So when the opportunity to train arose, we jumped at it. We have seen the benefits in our own lives of PAACS, how then could we not want to spread it to others?

PAACS: What is the biggest challenge you have faced so far with the program?

Dr. Blasto: While I thought I had some idea of how to train residents, the actual work can at times be challenging. But more challenging is the choosing of residents who would be "right" for the program, especially a few years down the line.

PAACS: How do you think this program differs from other PAACS programs because you are all PAACS graduates? What are the benefits and what are the drawbacks of this new setup of graduates running the program?

Dr. Blasto: Every program is slightly different and unique in its own way, yet all are similar in their goals of advancing the PAACS dream. We are relatively young as a faculty. So we have less experience in how programs should be run, but it may be a benefit in that since we are not focused on one way of things to be done, we can incorporate various ideas to make things better. The mentorship from Tenwek helps bridge the gap of knowledge and experience.

PAACS: Do you see this as a new model for PAACS of having graduates run the programs?

Dr. Blasto: There are many programs whose graduates have joined faculty and play an active role. This should be encouraged. Where appropriate, and possible, a program can be fully run by graduates.

PAACS: Tell us about your hospital.

Dr. Blasto: AIC Litein Hospital is a 200-bed faith-based facility located in Southwestern Kenya, about 60 kilometers from Tenwek Hospital. We undertake about 2,400 to 2,600 cases per year in the fields of general surgery, Ob/Gyn, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, and ENT. There are about 300 staff, with three general surgeons, two orthopaedic surgeons, two gynecologists, one ophthalmologist, and one ENT surgeon. We have a dedicated chaplaincy that prays regularly with patients and holds a daily service for patients. In addition, the surgical staff prays with patients at the beginning of rounds and before any surgical operation.

PAACS: What are the primary needs of this site currently?

Dr. Blasto: There is a need for more theatre space and increased bed numbers. To that end, the administration has commenced on building phase two. In addition, we need equipment to improve the quality of care given to patients.

PAACS: What type of impact does the PAACS program have upon the hospital in general?

Dr. Blasto: It has led to an improvement in the quality of care given to patients, and increased patient numbers.

PAACS: What kind of impact do you see the program having on the patients and the local community?

Dr. Blasto: The patients, most of whom come from the local community, have felt the better care as a result of the increased staff and care given.

PAACS: PAACS's vision is "We envision African surgeons living the gospel and ministering to the sick." What does that mean to you?

Dr. Blasto: That my life, in the hospital and out of the hospital, should be a reflection of the faith that I profess. And that while we can give treatment to the diseases that affect patients, we should give time and effort to direct them to the one who would save their souls.

PAACS: What type of results are you seeing in Africa through PAACS—in your patients, your personal life, your co-workers, etc.?

Dr. Blasto: Patients are very appreciative of the care and concern that we have for them. I get stopped multiple times by patients asking if I remember them or their diagnosis, which I usually don't. But I see the joy that they have, and I am thankful.

PAACS: How do you see PAACS impacting Africa today as you serve Him?

Dr. Blasto: Day by day, as we offer services, care, and spiritual help to the suffering, we are laying ground for evangelism.

PAACS: What's the best advice you can give to others about how to get involved in transforming the world for Christ?

Dr. Blasto: I am not sure that I have any advice, maybe in a few years. But one thing is to try to touch the world around you. There is no task too small or too big. Just a step at a time, with God's guidance.





PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

56 million people in Africa are in need of surgical care. In some areas there is only 1 surgeon for 250,000 people. In other places, it is worse – 1 surgeon for 2.5 million people. The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) is a strategic response to the need for surgeons in Africa. PAACS trains African physicians as surgeons to care for the poor and the sick. PAACS also disciples these surgeons to share the love of Christ with their patients to bring hope to those who are suffering.

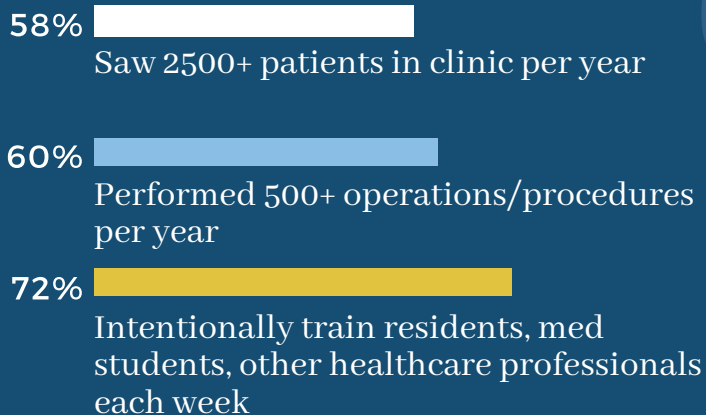
MISSION

PAACS exists to train and disciple African surgeons to glorify God and provide excellent, compassionate care to those most in need.

VISION

We envision African surgeons living the Gospel and ministering to the sick.

IMPACT OF PAACS GRADUATES



5

PAACS is a 5 year surgical and spiritual training program.
\$25,000 per year per resident;
\$125,000 over five years

8

PAACS has training programs in 8 countries:
Cameroon, Gabon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania

16

PAACS has 16 training programs.

- 10 General Surgery Programs
- 3 Orthopaedic Surgery Programs
- 1 Pediatric Surgery Program
- 1 Head and Neck Surgery Fellowship
- 1 Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship

21

PAACS has graduates in 21 African countries.

98

PAACS has 98 residents in training.

102

PAACS has issued 102 Graduate Certificates as of August 2020 and another 16 is expected by the end of 2020.

As of November 2020

www.paacs.net 15

PAACS LOCATIONS

Harpur Memorial Hospital
Menouf, Egypt

SIM Galmi Hospital
Galmi, Niger

Mbingo Baptist Hospital
Bamenda, Cameroon

Bongolo Hospital
Lebamba, Gabon

Malamulo Adventist
Hospital
Makwasa, Malawi



Kibuye Hope Hospital
Burundi - STARTING 2021

Soddo Christian Hospital
Soddo, Ethiopia
& CURE Hospital
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AIC Kijabe Hospital,
BethanyKids & CURE Kijabe
Kijabe, Kenya

AIC Litein Hospital
Litein, Kenya

Tenwek Hospital
Bomet, Kenya

Arusha Lutheran
Medical Centre
Arusha, Tanzania

SHARE

this magazine with friends
and family members. God
may use it to challenge them.

PRAY

for PAACS and all the people
and places you read about in
this magazine.

TELL

someone about **PAACS**. Many
seek opportunities to be a part of
God's work in Africa.

SUPPORT

**the growing number
of residents** we train
by donating at
paacs.net/donate

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