



# The Lord Lights My Path

DR. ELIJAH MWAURA, KENYA



My name is Elijah Mwaura, PAACS Surgeon (GS) at PCEA Chogoria Hospital, Kenya. I am a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, a husband to one (Carol), and a father of two girls (ages two and five). I was brought up in a large family with seven siblings in Central Kenya and graduated as a doctor from Moi University at Eldoret Kenya.

I heard about PAACS after my medical training through a newspaper advertisement. PAACS was not commonly known as a surgical training program at that time. There were only two training classes before mine at Tenwek Hospital. My training through PAACS at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya was excellent. I was able to get hands-on, intense, and quality surgical training. Despite the rigor of the program, my training was also very enjoyable. Everyone at the PAACS program made me feel like we were all part of a family.

Since 2015, I have been working at PCEA Chogoria Hospital in Kenya, a place with a wonderful community. I am the Chief of Surgery and also the Program Director for COSECSA. I can now see that my training through PAACS prepared me for these leadership positions. My surgical interests are minimally invasive surgery and upper gastrointestinal surgery. This region of Kenya has had many cases of gastroesophageal disorders which has led my focus in this direction.

***"I am praying that the Lord will not just light my path, but also help me to walk in His path."***

As I move forward in my work, I want to be more involved in providing surgical training, mentoring, and discipling similar to what I received at PAACS. I want to give back to my community and people what I received through God and the PAACS ministry. I am praying that the Lord will not just light my path, but also help me to walk in His path. I desire to fulfill the purposes which He has for me.

We have felt the effects of COVID-19 in my work at Chogoria Hospital. In the beginning of this pandemic, the number of patients we treated decreased. There was a lot of fear and uncertainty in the community and few people wanted elective surgery. There were even many questions and fear among the physicians and surgeons about what would happen if one of our patients had COVID-19. This is where I must continue to trust God through this situation. However, the fear has subsided, and the patient numbers have increased. We still face a challenge with referrals and transfers. The inconvenience of determining the COVID-19 status of the patient before referral is a big problem. Hopefully, tomorrow brings better tidings.

Please continue to pray for me and my family. May I walk in the path that God has set before me and fulfill His purposes and plans as a believer, leader, surgeon, husband, and father.

# Think Like Jesus

DR. ED SCEARCE, SPIRITUAL DEAN

The mind is a powerful thing. It is capable of taking us to dizzying heights and dismaying lows in a matter of moments. Certain professions require a particular mindset. This is most certainly true in the surgical world. Perhaps we could say, "To be a great surgeon, you must first think like a great surgeon."

The same is true for the spiritual area of our lives. To be a fully devoted follower of Christ, you must think like Christ. Here is how the Apostle Peter stated it; "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,..." 1 Peter 4:1 (ESV)

Notice the imperative in this verse: We are to "arm" ourselves. It has the meaning of "making preparations for some activity", "to equip oneself." Every great surgeon makes certain they are prepared and that their OR is equipped for the upcoming surgery. To do less would be a travesty.

Likewise, as believers, we must equip ourselves for the mission God has set us upon. The equipment referred to here is not some instrument we hold in our hand but a mindset, a heart attitude. We are to arm ourselves with the same way of thinking that Jesus displayed. Our actions will reveal if indeed we are thinking like Jesus. Below are a couple of ways that come out of the context of 1 Peter 4.

- We live for the will of God. (v. 4:2)
- Our godly lifestyle surprises those who are not believers. (v. 4:4)
- We love one another earnestly. (v. 4:8)
- We show hospitality willingly. (v. 4:9)
- We seek to glorify God with our every action. (v. 4:11)
- We expect to suffer for our faith. (v. 4:12; 2:21)
- We look for opportunities to share the gospel. (3:15)
- We do not retaliate. (2:23)
- We entrust our lives to God. (v. 4:19)

As you "think" through the above list, are you in need of an attitude adjustment? Remember, it is possible to do some or perhaps all on the list and yet not think like Jesus. This is not a checklist of things we must do. Who we are is revealed by what we do. It is a heart and mind attitude of living as Jesus lived. We cannot do this in our own strength. We need supernatural help. That is why Romans 12:2 exhorts us to "...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Oh God! Help me think like Jesus!

