



THE PAACS BULLETIN

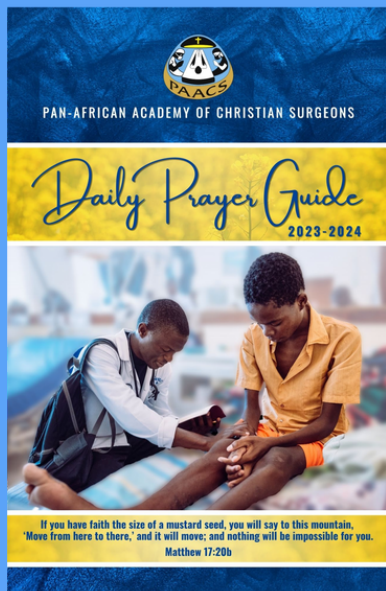
Monthly Newsletter
Issue #230
September 2023



Malamulo Adventist Hospital
PAACS Faculty Drs. Moses Kasumba
and Brent Sherwin



PAACS Resident Dr. Wycklife Ooko and wife,
Debbie, with their new baby, Janice Grace



PAACS 2023-2024 Daily Prayer Guide is now
available [online!](#)

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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



Dear PAACS Family,

As we enter the fall season, I am thrilled to share some exciting news and upcoming events with all of you.

*Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer*

First and foremost, I am delighted to let you know that our annual [Prayer Guide](#) is now available to download at [paacs.net](#). This resource is one item that is at the heart of our mission, guiding us to seek God's will and witness His work within the PAACS community. Together we'll lift our prayers and watch as God moves throughout our ministry.

This month also marks the beginning of our second Alumni Travel Fellow's visit across the United States. During this time, Dr. Jack Barasa will be participating in a series of educational and fundraising events that promise to be both enriching and impactful. Stay tuned for updates as he shares his experiences with us.

Another exciting event on the horizon is Laps for PAACS in Cresson, Texas, our biggest fundraising event of 2023. It's right around the corner and offers a fantastic opportunity to showcase the incredible work God is doing in Africa through PAACS.



PAACS Travel Fellow
Dr. Jack Barasa and his family

Speaking of events, our PAACS Conference is just a few weeks away. It has evolved from our Board of Directors meeting into a forum for broader discussions, fresh ideas, and collaborative efforts. We are looking forward to the participation of many PAACS members. Your involvement and enthusiasm will be crucial in keeping us on the path God has planned for us.

Next week, beginning on October 2, we will host our second PAACS Faculty Development Conference. This gathering is an invaluable opportunity for our educators to exchange insights, enhance teaching skills, and further strengthen the educational foundation of PAACS.

As we move into fall, I am filled with gratitude for all the remarkable individuals who make up our PAACS family. Together we are turning our vision into real change across Africa. Let's embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and work together toward our shared goals. I can't wait to connect with many of you during the upcoming events and activities across the US.

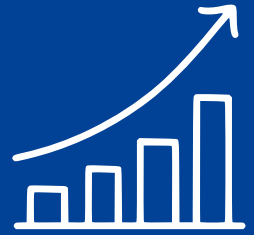
Blessings,

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



THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF PAACS

David Thompson, MD
Founder



Twenty-seven years ago, nine missionary surgeons established the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. Their lofty goal was to begin to formally train Africa's best Christian surgeons at their mission hospitals. I was privileged to be one of those surgeons. A year before that meeting, I was praying and pleading with God to send me help when I heard him say to me, "You train them!" At the time it seemed impossible. We had no money, no permission from any government or surgical college, no clear curriculum, and no candidates. But we were certain that God would make a way.

**"Do not despise these small beginnings,
for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."
Zachariah 4:10**

There were some who laughed at the idea, but several years earlier Dr. Harold Adolph had already started training African surgeons at Galmi Hospital in Niger. In 1996, most of Africa's 54 nations had medical schools, but fewer than half of Africa's countries were formally training surgeons. Why would they object if surgeons from developed countries started teaching African doctors to become expert surgeons?

I started training my first resident in 1997 and for the next four years added an additional resident each year. In 1999, PAACS managed to open a second program at a Presbyterian hospital in Cameroon, but one year later, the program collapsed for a variety of problems. This was a good training ground for PAACS and taught us many lessons. That same year, Dr. Adolph developed macular degeneration and was forced to return to the US for treatment. Galmi Hospital's training program closed. These were not only "small beginnings," but intensely painful beginnings! But they were foundational.

God was with us every step of the way. Loma Linda University agreed to accredit PAACS academically, providing regular inspections of our training programs, international professorship status for our program directors, and allowing us to put the university's logo on our diplomas. Very soon after this, PAACS became an official "Council" under the Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA), allowing us to use their non-profit status and name recognition.

In 2006, I took on the role of "Director for Africa" and Dr. Bruce Steffes, a surgeon with wide academic experience, took over as the new CEO. That same year, Dr. Keir Thelander joined me at Bongolo Hospital.

The early years of PAACS were like riding a roller coaster, as PAACS opened 11 new training programs and closed four, for a net gain of seven. However, God continued to steer PAACS in the direction it should go. In 2012, the Lord sent Dr. William Wood to be our first Academic Dean and Rev. Stan Key to be our Spiritual Dean. That same year, Dr. Steffes signed an MOU with COSECSA, enabling PAACS residents to sit for COSECSA certification exams.

continued



MALAMULO ADVENTIST HOSPITAL NEWS

THANK YOU, DR. MOSES KASUMBA

The PAACS Family at Malamulo Adventist Hospital gathered together to thank Dr. Moses Kasumba for his service as the PAACS General Surgery Program Director. Dr. Kasumba is a PAACS Graduate and is continuing his training at the University of British Columbia Children's Hospital. Please join us in praying for him and his family.



MALAMULO RESIDENT WELCOMES NEW BABY



Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Mkandawire, 3rd Year General Surgery Resident at Malamulo Adventist Hospital, and his family on the birth of their new baby boy!

"Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him."
Psalm 127:3



RESIDENT PROFILE

DR. BRIAN MALUKI

Orthopaedic Surgery Resident
Kijabe/CURE-Kijabe
Kenya

Dr. Brian Maluki's journey with PAACS has been an inspiring transformation, shaping him from a hopeful physician into a confident and capable 5th-year orthopaedic resident at AIC Kijabe Hospital/CURE. His story embodies the profound impact and purpose of this ministry.

Through PAACS and the faculty at AIC Kijabe Hospital and CURE-Kijabe Hospital, Dr. Maluki is steadily becoming a skilled surgeon. Every new day brings fresh challenges and opportunities to refine his skills. His mentors walk beside him guiding his steps, including supporting him emotionally and spiritually, which has even been extended to his family. He recognizes the opportunity he has to impact the junior residents and share his skills and knowledge. He has grown as a leader, mentor, and teacher. After graduation, he looks forward to teaching and impacting more surgical trainees.

Dr. Maluki is thankful to PAACS and its partners for providing much more than surgical training through such a supportive community. The weekly spiritual curriculum has greatly enriched his faith. He has a solid grounding, a growing relationship with Christ, and is confident when faced with questions from unbelievers. The synergy of surgical training with spiritual discipleship acknowledges the importance of the Holy Spirit's guidance, even in the operating room. He recognizes that while medical skills are crucial, a dependency on God is equally vital.

At the hospital, Dr. Maluki cares deeply for referral patients who arrive after enduring numerous surgeries elsewhere. For these patients, their savings and insurance have been exhausted, and they are reaching out for hope. They arrive with great expectations, and the first thing he tells them is that the next step is not about him or the surgical team, but about God stepping in to bring their suffering to an end and restoring their hope.

While Dr. Maluki is becoming an excellent Christian orthopaedic surgeon, he is also a shining example of why PAACS exists—to cultivate Christ-like leaders and servants who provide excellent, compassionate care to those who need it most. He is living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick, which embodies the very essence of this ministry, and supporters like you have made this possible.

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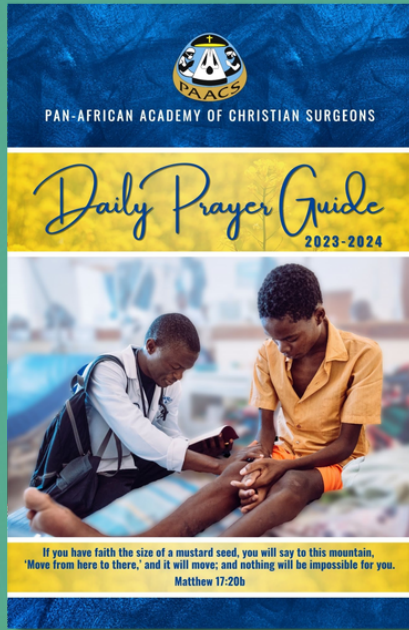
"Know Thyself," Proverbs, and Emotional Intelligence: Part III

John Tarpley, MD
Academic Dean

Today's "paragraph" follows Part II from the August 2023 PAACS Bulletin and presents ideas from Proverbs 18-31. Verses are from The Good News Bible and The Bible in Today's English Version.

- 18:12a No one is respected unless he is humble.
18:13 Listen before you answer.
18:15 Intelligent people are always eager and ready to learn.
19:2 Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good; impatience will get you into trouble.
19:8 Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper.
19:11 If you are sensible, you will control your temper. When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it.
19:25b If you are wise, you will learn when you are corrected.
19:27 Son, when you stop learning you will soon neglect what you already know.
20:18 Get good advice and you will succeed; don't go charging into battle without a plan.
20:30 Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.
21:3a Do what is right and fair.
21:5 Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly, you will never have enough.
21:21 Be kind and honest and you will live a long life; others will respect you and treat you fairly.
21:23 If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say.
21:28b ... the word of someone who thinks things through is accepted.
23:4 Be wise enough not to wear yourself out trying to get rich.
23:9 Don't try to talk sense to a fool; he can't appreciate it.
23:17b ... let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life.
23:23a Truth, wisdom, learning, and good sense – these are worth paying for.
24:5 Being wise is better than being strong; yes, knowledge is more important than strength.
24:10 If you are weak in a crisis, you are weak indeed.
24:21a Have reverence for the Lord.
24:26 An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.
25:28 If you cannot control your anger, you are as helpless as a city without walls, open to attack.
26:17 Getting involved in an argument that is none of your business is like going down the street and grabbing a dog by the ears.
27:1a Never boast about tomorrow.
27:2 Let other people praise you—even strangers; never do it yourself.
27:5 Better to correct someone openly than to let them think you don't care for him at all.
27:12 Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later.
27:17 People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.
28:6 Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest.
28:13 You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.
28:23 Correct someone, and afterward he will appreciate it more than flattery.
29:7a A good person knows the rights of the poor.
29:8b Those who are wise keep things calm.
29:11 Stupid people express their anger openly, but sensible people are patient and hold it back.
29:18b Happy is the man who keeps God's law.
29:20 There is more hope for a stupid fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.
29:23 Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected.
29:25a It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you.
31:8, 9b Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless... Protect the rights of the poor and needy.

PAACS 2023-2024 DAILY PRAYER GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE



Prayer is the greatest gift we can give to one another. May this new prayer guide inspire you as you intercede for this ministry and everyone associated with it. The new 2023-2024 Daily Prayer Guide can be downloaded from [this link](#) or by visiting the PAACS website under Resources.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

[View or Download the PAACS Daily Prayer Guide](#)

LITEIN RESIDENT WELCOMES NEW BABY



Congratulations to Dr. Wycklife Ooko, 4th Year General Surgery Resident at AIC Litein Hospital, and his wife, Debbie, on the birth of their baby, Janice Grace!

SALINE PROCESS WITNESS TRAINING

Pre-Conference Event at the 2023 Global Mission Health Conference

Saline Process Witness Training (SPWT) will be offered as a pre-conference event at the Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference begins at noon on Thursday, November 9. The SPWT will be all day on Wednesday, November 8 and the morning of Thursday, November 9, 2023. The purpose of the Saline Process® is to equip Christian healthcare workers to be witnesses for Christ in their clinical settings. Participants learn principles and tools that can immediately be applied in their interactions with patients and colleagues. [Click here](#) to register.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SURGICAL SKILLS COURSE

Registration is open for the International Humanitarian Surgical Skills Course presented by the Center of Innovation of Global Health at the Stanford University School of Medicine. The course will take place January 20-21, 2024, providing an overview of the scope of conditions that one might encounter in resource-limited environments. [Click here](#) to register.



PRAY

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs across Africa. Pray for the PAACS Programs in Gabon, Niger, and Togo specifically as the countries are under strain.
- Pray for protection and provision for all the PAACS residents, faculty, graduates, and their families.
- Pray for the PAACS Conference October 12-14. Pray for travelling mercies for attendees and for meaningful fellowship and prayer time as we gather together.
- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors, leadership, and administrative staff as they seek to faithfully lead the PAACS ministry.
- May God supernaturally and abundantly provide financially for the needs of the PAACS ministry. May there be no lack, but rather abundance for the will and work of God.

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

- Linda Thure
- Ondago Faith Akinyi
- Brenda Laureen Nyambake
- Gael Brillant Gahimbare
- George Waiyaki Karanja
- Daniel Baraka Karomo
- Eric Yegon
- Deodatus Oike
- Matekeya Hicks
- Elisha Kiptoo
- Mike Kipnetich Ronoh

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ARTICLES ON SURGERY

Compiled by Margaret Tarpley

- [Comparative Safety of Robotic-Assisted vs Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy.](#)
- [Head and Neck Surgery—The Call to Joyful Sacrificial Giving.](#)
- [Pattern of Recurrence in Early Breast Cancer at a Tertiary Center in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Retrospective Cohort Study.](#)
- [Perioperative Team-Based Morbidity and Mortality Conferences: A Systematic Review of the Literature.](#)
- [The Global Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery Workforce.](#)
- [Emotional intelligence, leadership, and work teams: A hybrid literature review.](#)
- [Do doctors need to be told to be kind?](#)
- [Otolaryngology and the Pregnant Patient.](#)
- [Epidemiology and outcomes of geriatric trauma patients consulting at the Center Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali Emergency Department.](#)
- [We Cannot Tackle Maternal Mortality Without Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Care.](#)
- [The Impact of Global Collaboration on the Academic Focus of the West African College of Surgeons: Are Worldwide Efforts Aligning with Local Priorities?](#)

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