

From Training to Transformation: My Journey with PAACS

DR. PROSPER NGWANG

I grew up in a small village in the Northwest region of Cameroon, where traditional medicine men had the final say on health matters. Their practices tragically led to preventable complications and untimely deaths. Christianity and pagan beliefs coexisted, but my understanding of Christ remained limited. However, when my mother became seriously ill with breast cancer, I pleaded with God for her healing and promised to follow Him. His answer was “no.” Yet, through her suffering and the hopelessness that surrounded her illness, God was at work in me. He taught me perseverance, strengthened my faith, and prepared me for the path ahead.

After my mother’s death, I moved to live with my sister and was mentored by two American missionaries. Their influence ignited my desire to become a doctor. By God’s grace, I completed medical school and then was accepted into the PAACS training program at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in 2018. At the time, the program was thriving, with patients coming from across Cameroon and beyond. The volume of surgical cases was high, and the learning environment was exceptional. I vividly remember weekends when we would admit between 25 and 30 patients.

But things changed quickly as the anglophone crisis escalated. The region was devastated and at some point, it became clear that training could not continue under the prevailing circumstances. Our program directors, Dr. James Brown and Dr. Mark Snell, made the difficult decision to relocate us to continue our training elsewhere.

I was transferred to the Malamulo PAACS program in Malawi in 2019. Training was rigorous and the challenges were many, but every time we were stretched beyond our limits, we learned to depend on God, the ultimate source of our strength.

After graduation, my wife Unity and I returned to our home country, Cameroon, to serve at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. The anglophone crisis remains unresolved, and the constant kidnappings around Mbingo have been concerning. But we press on, one day at a time, caring for patients who have nowhere else to turn. Many of them travel long distances, through dangerous territory, hoping for a chance at healing. We are here because God called us and because PAACS prepared us.



To all the partners and supporters of PAACS, we remain deeply grateful. Every single life is created in the image of God, and every life in need deserves the very best we can offer. Your prayers, sacrifices, and generosity are not in vain. Through your support, lives are being healed, hope is being restored, and the Gospel is being shared, not only in Cameroon, but across Africa and beyond.



Dear PAACS Family

We are delighted to share this edition of the Alumni Newsletter with you.

Please read these stories from Dr. Prosper Ngwang and Dr. Ngam Blessing Ngoin, two alumni from Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Both began their surgical training at Mbingo, but as conflict in the region intensified, Dr. Ngwang had to complete his training in Malawi before returning home. Today, despite ongoing challenges, both serve faithfully in Cameroon as PAACS faculty. They are not only caring for the sick but they are also discipling the next generation of Christian surgeons.

Their journeys remind us why PAACS exists. We want to train and equip African surgeons to meet not only the urgent surgical needs of their people, but also to shine the light of Christ in places of deep need.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your partnership makes it possible for stories like these to be written across Africa.

Yours in Christ,

Lemfuka Dieudonne, MD,
FCS (ECSA)
PAACS Graduate &
Alumni Newsletter Editor

“ Nothing is more satisfying than witnessing the joy of a life truly transformed, both physically and spiritually, through our surgical ministry. Caroline is a vivid example of this. She came to us chronically ill, having endured tremendous suffering because a surgical sponge had been left inside her abdomen during a previous Caesarean section. By God’s grace, we were able not only to diagnose her condition and perform surgery to remove the sponge, but also to minister to her during her stay in the hospital. Today, Caroline is living with renewed strength and joy. She has regained her health, and more importantly, she has found hope again, after once believing she was going to die. ”

Raised to Care, Called to Serve

DR. NGAM BLESSING NGOIN

I was born in the northwest region of Cameroon into a family that already had two boys. I was the third child, unexpected, but immediately cherished, hence the name Blessing. My parents, both nurses, moved frequently between villages, caring for their patients with unwavering dedication. Watching them serve with compassion and expertise inspired me deeply. Villagers often brought us food as gratitude for the care my parents provided, fueling my admiration for their work and planting a seed in my heart: I wanted to be a doctor, to touch lives as they did. My parents also guided me spiritually, leading me to accept Christ at a young age.

They encouraged purity in thoughts, words, and actions, nurturing my spiritual growth and instilling values of humility and hard work. During summers at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (where they worked) I interned with the surgical team. The experience was eye-opening; surgeons and residents treated patients with approachability and kindness that set them apart. Their example inspired me to pursue a similar path.

Encouraged by these mentors, I applied to PAACS at Mbingo. It is a program that symbolizes excellence and resilience. Despite initial setbacks due to conflict, I became part of this rigorous training, which often felt like military discipline. Balancing my residency with my marriage to Mobit was challenging. We had limited time together, but it strengthened my patience, discipline, and focus on what truly matters. Training in the midst of an armed regional conflict and heightened insecurity not only tested my resilience but also deepened my dependence on God's sovereignty, provision, protection, and the sense of community support systems.

Throughout this journey, I discovered a newfound passion for teaching and prayer. Observing my teachers, asking questions, and witnessing how prayer transforms hopeless situations have profoundly shaped my approach to medicine and life. This training broadened my perspective, fostering a global outlook on healthcare and a network that fuels my career as a clinical researcher and educator.

As a young physician in my community, I now serve as a role model for many young women, guiding them with the values I hold dear—integrity, faith, family, hard work, and humility. I have come to believe that even when a condition is inoperable, hope persists beyond physical healing. My journey with PAACS has not only refined my surgical skills but also transformed me into a better person. Through PAACS, I have realized that surgery is not just about healing bodies but also about opening doors for the Gospel to be seen in action.

Recently, we cared for a young girl with gastric cancer. Her case was complex. Her refusal of chemotherapy and her developing postoperative complications challenged us deeply. Yet, through prayer and compassionate care, we built a profound relationship, sharing faith and hope. Though she ultimately passed away, her peace and her family's gratitude reminded me of the impact of genuine care rooted in faith. This experience reinforced my calling: to blend surgical excellence with faith-based compassion. I aspire to teach future residents how to exercise faith amidst adversity, ensuring that even in life's darkest moments, hope and love remain. My journey has only just begun, and I am committed to serving with purpose, humility, and unwavering faith. I believe God has called me to be more than a surgeon. I am called to be a mentor, a teacher, and a witness of His love in the operating room and beyond.



Dr. Ngam and her husband Mobit.



**PAACS Graduates are
now serving in
25
African countries!**