



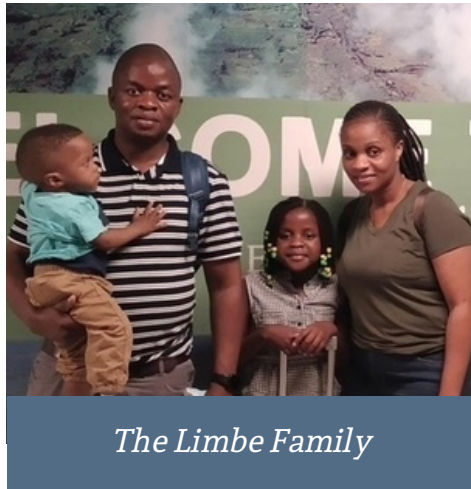
PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Serving My Home Country

DR. YAMIKANI LIMBE

I was born in Zomba, Malawi. I was raised in a Christian family with five siblings. When I was a child, my father got very sick to the point of death. We took him to the hospital, but we couldn't find a doctor. It was devastating. I started thinking. What if I trained to be a doctor? Maybe I could have helped him.

I learned about the PAACS surgical training program during my second year as an employee of Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) in Tanzania. My two-year contract with ALMC had expired and I went to consult the Hospital Director, the late Professor Mark Jacobson. I always wanted to further my studies in surgery, especially following my father's experience. Dr. Jacobson told me about PAACS! I was very excited about a training program where I could grow both as a surgeon and as a follower of Christ. I had never heard of an organization like this. Through my PAACS training, I developed surgical skills to serve my community and learned to praise and worship our Lord Jesus Christ with my brothers and sisters in faith, despite cultural differences.



The Limbe Family

I have relocated back to my home country of Malawi and I am working as the PAACS Assistant Program Director for the General Surgery Program at Nkhoma Mission Hospital. **I am the first Malawian PAACS graduate to go back to my country and serve.** I pray for God's wisdom to guide me as we are learning how to run a surgical resident program!

A Reminder to Pray at All Times

A Patient Testimony from Dr. Yamikani Limbe

While I was working at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, we were about to perform a below knee amputation on a patient with a dead limb which was complicated due to uncontrolled diabetes. Before the procedure, as was our custom, we offered to pray for him. He agreed. The procedure was uneventful.

While I was writing the post-operation notes, the patient said, "You started this procedure with prayer, and you said the procedure went well. How come I didn't see you and your team praying again to thank the Lord for enabling you to have a successful surgery?"

I called the whole team back. Several of us prayed including the patient himself, even though he had just lost a limb. He praised God and thanked Him for our surgical team.

This was a life-changing experience for me. **This patient who had a Muslim background was used by God to remind us to come to Him not only when we need His help, but to thank Him afterwards and praise Him.** Ever since that day, I always pray before, during, and after procedures regardless of the outcome.



Dear PAACS Family

We are excited to present to you the latest PAACS Alumni Newsletter, and we hope this finds you well in your various locations. In this edition, we are blessed to feature articles from two of our PAACS graduates, Drs. Yamikani Limbe and Aaron Kokulol.

Dr. Limbe is a graduate of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Tanzania and currently serves as the Assistant Program Director for the PAACS General Surgery Program at Nkhoma Mission Hospital in Malawi. Dr. Kokulol graduated from the PAACS General Surgery Program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi and now serves as a General Surgeon at JFK Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

As you read this edition, reflect on Isaiah 40:31: *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

This verse reminds us that our hope should always be in the Lord and that He will renew our strength. As we serve in the medical field, we may face challenges and obstacles. But with our faith in Him, we can overcome them and continue to soar like eagles. Let us be inspired by the stories of our fellow PAACS graduates and continue to serve with hope and faith.

PAACS alumni, we would love to hear what God is doing through you since you graduated. Please email me at afidulemfuka@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,

Lemfuka Dieudonne, MD, FCS(ESCA)
Editor

Living Out My Calling

DR. AARON KOKULOL

I was born in Monrovia, Liberia. At the age of three, a civil war separated my parents. My mother raised me and I didn't see or hear from my father until 20 years later. Growing up in a war-torn Liberia was harsh. I faced a lot of challenges and obstacles in terms of good schools and opportunities to pursue my dreams. **Surrounded by trauma and devastation caused by the war, I knew I wanted to care for the people of my country.**

My mother raised me in a Christian home and I was baptized as a baby in the Catholic church. From a young age, I always felt called to help people. During my childhood, I recognized that my desire was to become a doctor. Later in my teens, I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and I was baptized again. I trusted that God would guide me toward fulfilling this dream to care for Liberians.

I heard about PAACS from Dr. Jerry Brown, a PAACS graduate serving in Liberia. He recommended that I apply to become a part of the PAACS program. Dr. Brown was a God-fearing, humble, and kind surgeon. He inspired me and I wanted to be a surgeon just like him. In 2015, I applied to PAACS but was unsuccessful. My persistence paid off and in 2016 I was accepted into the PAACS program at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi.

From the first day that I started my residency, I knew this training was different. It was not just focused on equipping me with surgical skills, but rather making me a better person, husband, and father. The training was Christ-centered and focused not only on treating our patients' physical ailments, but also sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. I personally grew spiritually and got closer to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This also helped strengthen my young marriage.



The Kokulol Family

orthopaedics, gynecology and more. I'm so grateful to PAACS for changing my life and giving me the knowledge and skills to help my patients and most importantly making me an overall better person and Christian.

I feel blessed to have been a part of this incredible training and discipleship program. It is an honor for me to serve God by providing care for His people in Liberia and also by sharing His Word and hope with those who are suffering.

I was fully supported by PAACS, enabling me to take care of my family and focus on my studies. I graduated in 2021 and have since returned to my home country of Liberia. I am now working as a General Surgeon. **God has fulfilled my dream and I feel I am living out my calling by caring for the people of my country.** My unique skills acquired during my training afford me the opportunity to do a lot of operations including urology, pediatric surgery,

Praise God for PAACS!

A Patient Testimony from Dr. Aaron Kokulol

I recently encountered a patient who was struggling following a complicated hysterectomy. She had developed wound dehiscence combined with transection of her left ureter - a serious and potentially life-threatening complication.

But with God's help and my training through PAACS, I was able to perform a complex surgery to reimplant the ureter back into the bladder and repair her abdominal incision.

When the surgery was complete, the patient's relief was obvious. She was overjoyed and deeply grateful - so much so that she decided to hold a thanksgiving service to honor God for His grace and mercy.

This patient's faith was strengthened by her experience. She shared with me that she is more dedicated than ever to serving God faithfully for the rest of her life. I felt humbled and honored to have been a part of her healing journey. Praise God for PAACS!

21 Countries with PAACS Graduates

