



Witnessing God's Glory

BY DR. SENO IVAN SARUNI, KENYA

I am Seno, a Kenyan from a mixed heritage of both Maasai and Kamba tribes. I grew up in Eldoret, Kenya, where both my parents worked for Moi University. In 2002, I began attending Moi University School of Medicine to start my journey into a medical career. In 2007, while studying at the International Medical and Technological University in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, there was a shift in my view of the medical field which sparked a deeper passion for caring for people through medicine. I spent the next year in Narok County carrying out the required internship period before moving on to work as a medical officer there.

One day in 2011, I escorted a relative to Tenwek Hospital and was amazed by the facility and the quality of training the staff and medics received. This visit marked the start of a very surprising journey. I began to read and learn about the PAACS program at Tenwek. In a desire to get first-hand information, I drove to the facility. During my visit, I met Dr. Carol Spears who was in the middle of a busy day, but still spared a few minutes to chat with this curious mind. She encouraged me to apply to become a PAACS resident at the tail end of 2011, which I did. I was selected, and in January 2012, my journey into the world of surgery began.

I had a beautiful PAACS surgical training experience that brought with it all the components of real life. There were good days, bad days, and great days. There were spiritual days, where all you lived and witnessed was God's glory, and there were days that got so rough that you asked, 'Why God?'

Since graduating from the PAACS program at Tenwek Hospital, I have been working in Eldoret at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) as a general surgeon, and I am now performing live-donor kidney transplants. From the values instilled in me through PAACS/COSECSA and Tenwek, I have also started a training program for surgery that now has 10 residents in training. My interest in teaching and service are still at the forefront of my calling. I hope to maintain the vision of PAACS and to continue being a good example of a Christian surgeon.

My wife, Betty, is in her final year of her internal medicine training. We are blessed with two beautiful girls, Ella and Hannah. Pray for us that we shall always hear when we are called to serve.



Dear PAACS Family

In this edition, we feature Dr. Seno Saruni and Dr. Alliance Niyukuri. Seno is the Program Director for the COSECSA General Surgery program at MTRH in Eldoret, Kenya, and Alliance is a general surgeon at Kibuye Hope Hospital and a clinical instructor in Burundi. Rev. Ed Scarce continues with his devotional column.

If you are a PAACS alumnus and would like to be featured in future newsletters, kindly email us at the email addresses below. We pray that these stories will inspire and uplift you as you continue to serve wherever you are on the African continent and beyond. God bless you.

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 - Samuel Fabiano Sassamella
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 - Jean Luc Kazoya
- Cameroon**
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 - Nzanzu Anatole Kipata
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- Nigeria**
 - Benjamin Kakule
 - Malikidogo
 - Chukwudi Okorie
- Rwanda**
 - Edmond Ntaganda
 - Ron Tubasiime
- Sierra Leone**
 - Aiah Lebbie
 - Juana Kabba

PAACS Graduates' Locations



- Tanzania**
 - Benson Harison Lyimo
 - Catherine Mung'ong'o
 - Emmanuel Lema
 - Henry Ine
 - Mugisha Nkoronko
 - Tewodros Tamiru
- Uganda**
 - Martin Situma

Martin Salia (deceased)

Vessels of Healing and Hope

DR. ALLIANCE NIYUKURI, BURUNDI

My name is Alliance Niyukuri. I was born and raised in Burundi in a family of five children with three boys and two girls. The first eight years of my life were spent in rural Burundi where my parents were teachers. My dad taught high school and my mother taught primary school. At the age of eight, I had to leave the country due to the civil war between a Tutsi dominated army and a Hutu dominated rebellion. My family felt unsafe in this situation, and God provided a way for us to move to Kenya where we lived for many years. Those were perilous times for my family, but God kept us safe, protected us when faced with death, and provided for our needs.

God eventually turned this difficult situation around for His glory in my life. Out of necessity, I left Kenya in 2006 to go back to Burundi to join the medical school at Hope Africa University. While attending medical school, I visited Tenwek Hospital in Kenya and heard about PAACS for the very first time. This changed the trajectory of my life and made a difference in my career. It was then that I decided I wanted to be a part of this incredible surgical training program serving the people of Africa.

In 2013, I began my PAACS training at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. Training was an interesting experience for my wife and me. It was both strengthening and challenging and was a great preparation for our work and ministry today. Having lived in large cities, relocating to a location as rural as Bongolo Hospital was a challenge in itself for both Cynthia and me. During this time, I suffered several losses, including the homegoing of our daughter Mercy, later my mum, Violette, and my father, Samuel. These were difficult moments for my family and me. **Because I was training with PAACS during these times of crisis, we had loving support from our Program Director, fellow residents and their families, attending surgeons, and even the international PAACS family. Cynthia and I appreciated that very much.** Other highlights of my training were the great mentorship opportunities PAACS offered. It was clear that they were all united under one vision: to equip me with the skills to serve as an excellent Christian surgeon, and they were successful. I thank them very much.

I am now working at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi. My role has mainly been that of a surgeon with intermittent teaching responsibilities at the university. I recently completed the Oxford Global Surgery course. This was a great opportunity to discuss and understand the various questions and challenges surrounding the provision of safe, affordable, and timely surgical care with a particular emphasis on low and middle-income countries like my own country of Burundi. I have enjoyed teaching at the university and at various conferences, and I especially enjoy mentoring young doctors who have an interest in surgical training.

The Lord has blessed our family with our fourth baby girl named Betsy Shynnah Niyukuri. My wife, Cynthia, just finished her training in business administration and is doing well. I hope to see God use us in a mighty way here in Burundi as His vessels of healing and hope to our nation through Kibuye Hope Hospital and other areas of ministry that open up for us.



By All Means, Live Peaceably with All

DR. ED SCEARCE, SPIRITUAL DEAN

Recently, I was sitting on the front porch of our home in South Carolina. The past several weeks had been really nasty weather. But that day was different. The sun was bright, and its rays felt warm against my face. The wind was still, the sky was blue... and there was the hope of spring in the air. Harmony is a good word for how it felt. It was just a very peaceful day. If every day was like this, it would be heaven on earth, I thought.

Reality is that life is more likely to be lived out in some stormy situations. We have no control over when or how the chaos comes. However, we do have control as to how we respond to the chaos. In Romans 12:18, Paul exhorts us "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

While we cannot control the attitudes and actions of others, we can live at peace knowing we have done all we can to be reconciled with others who are at odds with us. The context of Romans 12:17-20 gives us some principles by which to live peaceably with all.

Live honorably in the sight of everyone.

(v. 17) The word translated *honorable* in the ESV is the Greek word "καλα". It has several meanings. Good, loving, kind, right, righteous, and beautiful. Basically, it means taking the high road when others entice you to take the low road. In other words "don't hit back", rather think about showing others the beauty of Christ in you.

Make every effort to keep short accounts.

(v. 18) Sometimes people will speak or act towards us in adverse ways. Rather than put these actions or words on the altar of sacrifice or speak to the confronting person, we succumb to the "simmer syndrome". It's like a pot of soup simmering on the stove. It doesn't take long for the simmer to become a burn which then ruins the whole pot. By all means possible, keep short accounts.

Let God even the score. (v. 19)

It is a natural human response to strike back at those who harm us. We all keep score whether we are aware of it or not. However, as a follower of Christ, the "natural human response" should no longer be in charge. It is now a transformed response empowered by Christ in you. Leave it to God to bring about His righteous judgment in due time.

Surprise your antagonist with your generosity.

(v. 20) Surprise is one of the greatest weapons in warfare. If you can catch your enemy by surprise, you will have the upper ground. That is what this verse is saying when it states, "To the contrary." Contrary to what? The expectation of your enemy is that you will strike back with brutal force. However, God is saying to us in this verse "kill 'em with kindness". By doing so, you will "heap burning coals" on his or her head. Be careful not to take pleasure in the idea of "burning coals".

Triumph over evil by doing good. (v. 21)

Many lives are spoiled because of the "simmer syndrome" which is the failure to forgive. Forgiveness allows you to triumph over evil because you are empowered to do good. Someone has said "forgiveness is giving up all hope for a better past". Having done that, we then leave the future in God's hands.