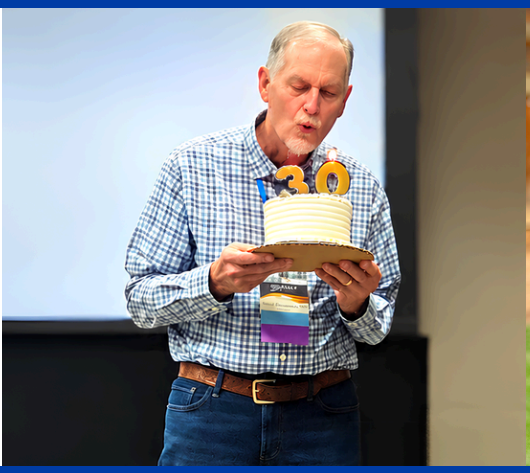
The PAACS Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter • Issue 267 • October 2026







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.

VISION

PAACS envisions a growing number of African surgeons and related specialists living out the Gospel and ministering to the sick.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Susan Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Dear PAACS Family,

This October, we had the privilege of celebrating 30 years of the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). Looking back, I am grateful for the many ways God has provided for this ministry. What began as a vision to train African surgeons has grown beyond what our founder could have imagined. Today, PAACS graduates are serving patients and sharing the love of Christ in 27 African countries. We give God the glory for what He has accomplished!



Remembering God's Faithfulness

From October 8–10, the PAACS family gathered in Des Plaines, Illinois, for our 2026 Fall PAACS Conference. We heard from leadership, partners, faculty members, graduates, representatives of surgical colleges, researchers, and short-term missionaries. Their presentations traced 30 years of growth, showed how surgical education and discipleship are advancing across Africa, and pointed to the opportunities ahead.

One of the most meaningful moments came during a time of remembrance inspired by Joshua 4:1–8. Just as the Israelites set up stones so that future generations would remember what God had done, attendees placed a stone as a memorial, representing a testimony of God's faithfulness to PAACS. Together, those stones told the story of three decades of God's care. Another special moment came when PAACS founder Dr. David Thompson blew out the candles on our 30th-anniversary cake, a reminder of how far God has carried a vision that began with a few surgeons and a deep burden for Africa.

Growing Where the Need Is Greatest

On Saturday, October 10, the Board of Directors approved two new programs. A General Surgery program will open at Al-Germaniyya Hospital in Egypt, and a Surgical Endoscopy program will be established at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. The endoscopy program will equip surgeons to diagnose and treat many conditions, extending advanced care to patients who would otherwise have to travel far or go without.

These programs join the General Surgery program at HEAL Africa Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which the Board approved in 2025. When it begins in 2027, it will bring PAACS into its 13th African country. Each new program means more African surgeons and related specialists trained and discipled to provide compassionate care in communities that have waited too long for it.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE (CONT'D)



A Graduate's Story

From October 23–25, PAACS was represented at the first Canadian Medical Missions Conference in Toronto. Under the theme "Health for All Nations," medical professionals, educators, and mission agencies gathered to consider how faith and professional skill can serve a hurting world.

PAACS graduate Dr. Marco Faniriko Bien Aimé was also there. His story shows what 30 years of training and discipleship can produce. Dr. Faniriko is from Madagascar, a country with fewer than one surgical, anesthesia, and obstetric specialist for every 100,000 people. After completing his PAACS general surgery training in Gabon, he trained further in head and neck surgery in Cameroon. He then went back home to Madagascar to serve his people and share with them the Gospel.

Preparing the Next Generation

We concluded the month with our annual Senior Trainee Conference, held October 25th–31st at Brackenhurst in Kenya. Thirty-five residents and fellows gathered for a week of learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth as they approach the final year of PAACS training and discipleship. Please join us in praying for these future graduates as they enter the next chapter of their calling.

With Gratitude

Reflecting on these 30 years, I am especially grateful to the people who have helped make this ministry possible. Our faculty members, graduates, partners, and supporters have generously given their time, shared their knowledge, and lifted PAACS in prayer. Because of you, we continue to reach more communities with compassionate surgical and related specialty care and the hope of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We have much to celebrate, and there is still important work ahead. I look forward to seeing how God will use PAACS in the years to come.
May His faithfulness continue to inspire all that we do!

Celebrating 30 Years, Looking to the Future

Susan A. Koshy

Susan A. Koshy, JD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS: PAACS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT THE 2026 FALL CONFERENCE







The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) 2026 Fall Conference, held October 8–10, marked a significant milestone as the ministry celebrated 30 years of God's provision. The two-and-a-half-day gathering brought together PAACS Board members, leadership, faculty members, graduates, partners, and friends to reflect on God's goodness over the past three decades and look toward the ministry's future.

The conference opened Thursday evening with worship and a time of remembrance inspired by Joshua 4:1–8, where the Israelites set up stones so future generations would remember what God had done. Attendees each placed a pre-marked stone bearing words such as "pray" and "grateful to God," as a memorial of God's faithfulness. PAACS Founder Dr. David Thompson then delivered his message, "Trusting in God's Unfailing Love." Dr. Thompson reflected on the life of missionary David Livingstone and the early missionaries whose sacrifices and steadfast service helped prepare the way for the work of PAACS. His message reminded attendees that today's ministry builds on the foundation laid by generations of missionaries who answered God's call to serve in Africa. Dr. Richard Hart, President Emeritus of Loma Linda University (LLU), followed with a reflection on the longstanding relationship between PAACS and Loma Linda University. LLU has been a devoted partner, and PAACS was honored to have Dr. Hart present.

Friday began with a devotional by Dr. Bill Curtis, Lead Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, on "Remembering God's Goodness – Stepping into His Future," which echoed the stones of remembrance from the night before. PAACS Chief Executive Officer Susan Koshy reflected on 30 years of PAACS, tracing its journey from the first residency program at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon to its expanding work across Africa. Executive Vice President Dr. Keir Thelander provided updates on PAACS programs and surgical training, while Spiritual Dean Rev. Ed Scearce emphasized the importance of spiritual formation and discipleship as central to the PAACS mission.

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS: PAACS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT THE 2026 FALL CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

Partnerships have been integral to PAACS' work over the past 30 years. Dr. John Pierce of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, Scott Hughett of World Medical Mission, Ken Amstutz of St. Luke's Healthcare Foundation, Dr. Greg Neal of the Christian Healthcare Executive Collaborative, and Dr. Greg Kirschner of the Christian Academy of African Physicians shared perspectives on strengthening medical education, supporting faith-based hospitals, and ensuring long-term sustainability. Their presentations reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing Africa's healthcare needs and equipping the next generation of African medical professionals.

A highlight of the conference was hearing directly from PAACS faculty members serving at faith-based hospitals across Africa. Dr. Hugh Sims-Williams of AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, Dr. Laurie Elit of Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, Dr. Ryan Horazdovsky and Dr. Moselle Starke of Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, and Dr. David Skavdahl of Bongolo Hospital in Gabon shared updates on their programs, the challenges and opportunities of surgical training, and the importance of spiritual discipleship. Their presentations offered a firsthand look at the commitment required to train and mentor residents and fellows, often in resource-limited settings. PAACS faculty members are central to the ministry's mission, investing their time, expertise, and lives in preparing African surgeons and related specialists to provide excellent, compassionate care while sharing the hope of Christ.

Equally significant were the presentations from PAACS graduates, whose work demonstrates the lasting impact of the ministry. Drs. Marvin Wekesa, Jean Faya Yaradouno, and Kimutai Sylvester shared how their training has equipped them to provide surgical care, strengthen healthcare systems, and invest in others. Serving in Kenya and Guinea, their experiences illustrated the multiplication that occurs when PAACS graduates return to serve their communities, train other medical professionals, and assume leadership responsibilities. Their testimonies offered a tangible reminder that the impact of PAACS extends far beyond the years of residency training.

The conference also addressed the broader development of surgical education in Africa, with presentations from Professor Abebe Bekele of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and Professor King David Yawe Terna, former President of the West African College of Surgeons. Their presentations highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards in surgical training and strengthening African-led medical education. Research presentations led by Dr. John Chae and Dr. Grace Kim highlighted PAACS research initiatives and the ALL-SAFE program, while winning abstract presentations included Elie Abecassis' research on trauma care and Dr. Gildas Konde's research on wound care in resource-limited settings. Dr. Louis Pisters and Dr. Elizabeth Drum also addressed the contributions of short-term medical volunteers and the importance of anesthesia in surgical care.

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS: PAACS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT THE 2026 FALL CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

Saturday's sessions continued with reflections on God's providence and His work on the mission field from Dr. Bill Curtis and Stan Reiff, followed by additional testimonies from PAACS graduates. Drs. Armia Kamel, Kimutai Sylvester, and Marvin Wekesa discussed the value of short-term medical visitors in their training. Dr. Chege Macharia, a PAACS graduate and Executive Director of AIC Kijabe Hospital, shared how his surgical training prepared him for hospital leadership. These presentations underscored the importance of investing in African physicians who are not only skilled surgeons but also leaders, educators, and mentors.

The conference concluded with an update from Dr. Dana Witmer and Ted Witmer on medical education and the Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, followed by discussions led by Stan Reiff and Dr. Drew Huang on opportunities to support PAACS and its annual educational conferences.

Throughout the two-and-a-half days, worship, prayer, and fellowship remained central to the gathering. The 30th anniversary provided an opportunity to recognize the missionaries, faculty members, graduates, partners, volunteers, and supporters whom God has used to build and sustain PAACS.

As PAACS enters its fourth decade, its mission remains unchanged: to train and disciple African surgeons and related specialists to become Christ-like leaders and servants providing excellent and compassionate care to those most in need. The conference reminded us that God's steadfast care over the past 30 years provides a firm foundation for the work that lies ahead.

Great is His faithfulness!









A DREAM REALIZED: FIRST PAACS GRADUATES AT HOPITALY VAOVAO MAHAFALY MANDRITSARA

Keir Thelander, MD, FACS, FWACS, FCS (ECSA)
Executive Vice President



The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) Executive Vice President, Keir Thelander, and PAACS Associate Spiritual Dean, Robert Yanduya, joyfully joined PAACS faculty members, Dr. Ted Watts and Dr. Marco Faniriko, as well as many local and national leaders in celebration of the first PAACS graduates from Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM) and the opening of the new laboratory building, on 17 September 2026 in Mandritsara. The momentous occasion included a cookout meal with the staff complete with Oumby (local beef) and dancing from not only the staff, but with some of the residents calling and leading the dances... though we trust they will not give up their surgical careers to become entertainers!! The beautiful new laboratory space received about 200 people on tour after the formal ceremony of local government and hospital officials offering their reflections and observations on the accomplishments of the facility and new graduates, followed by a fully tented sit-down multicourse meal.



A DREAM REALIZED: FIRST PAACS GRADUATES AT HOPITALY VAOVAO MAHAFALY MANDRITSARA (CONT'D)

Ted Watts, BMedSci BMBS FRCS FCS (ECSA)
Program Director, General Surgery
Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara, Madagascar

In the words of Dr. Ted Watts, PAACS Program Director at HVMM, "On the 17th of September 2026, we had the joy of celebrating the graduation of our first two residents from the PAACS General Surgery training program in Mandritsara, Madagascar.

This was the culmination of many years of dreaming, praying, and hard work since the surgical training program began in a remote, rural region of Madagascar.

We celebrate the incredible achievement of our first two graduates, Dr. Tefinirina Aina Mirana Razafimanantsoa (Tefy) and Dr. Radoniaina Dinamalala Olivier (Rado), who have not only passed their examinations but have also demonstrated wonderful Christian character and surgical skill. We are confident that they will be a tremendous blessing for the island of Madagascar and a wonderful asset to the Kingdom work here.

A DREAM REALIZED: FIRST PAACS GRADUATES AT HOPITALY VAOVAO MAHAFALY MANDRITSARA (CONT'D)

We also celebrate and thank all our faculty members, both long-term and visiting, who have poured so much time, energy, and expertise into training these two young men over the past five years.

But above all, we praise God for His faithfulness in turning what once seemed like a rather far-fetched dream into reality. Madagascar has moved from having 100 surgeons for 30 million people to having 102! And what's more, they are surgeons who know the Lord and want to make Him known!

Our hearts are full of thankfulness for God's grace and kindness to us, and of hope and expectancy as we look forward to seeing how He will use Dr. Tefy and Dr. Rado in the years ahead, for His glory and the further spread of the Good News of Jesus."











A DREAM REALIZED: FIRST PAACS GRADUATES AT HOPITALY VAOVAO MAHAFALY MANDRITSARA (CONT'D)

Rev. Robert Yanduya
Associate Spiritual Dean

Dr. Tefinirina Aina Mirana Razafimanantsoa (Tefy) and Dr. Radoniaina Dinamalala Olivier (Rado), the first graduates of HVMM's PAACS General Surgery program, are men who know the Lord and want to make Him known. Before their graduation, they were reminded that their hospital's name, Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly Mandritsara (HVMM), means "Good News Hospital," and that they have been trained to carry good news twice over: healing for the body through skilled surgery and the Good News of Christ for the soul. Their skill must never become the only good news they carry; every patient who leaves their operating table should also meet something of the love of the God who heals. As the very first graduates, they now set the standard that every class after them will hear about, a story of compassion joined to excellence and of faithfulness when it would be easier to leave. Mandritsara is not easy to reach, and that is precisely the point: these surgeons were trained for Madagascar's most forgotten districts. Through them, God continues to spread "the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere" (2 Corinthians 2:14). May the Lord who called Luke "the beloved physician" call Dr. Tefy and Dr. Rado beloved, and may the good work He began in them reach villages the Good News has never yet reached.

If you have never attended a PAACS graduation, these events mark the culmination of the grit and perseverance required to successfully complete the rigorous PAACS training and discipleship program. Maybe you too would like to join a future graduation celebration. We rejoice with Drs. Tefy and Rado, and we look forward to seeing how the Lord will use them in His harvest field for decades to come.





THE SURGEON ALSO NEEDS CARE: SUPPORTING RESIDENTS THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP AT TENWEK HOSPITAL

Andrea Parker, MD
Faculty Member, General Surgery
Tenwek Hospital, Kenya



Anyone who has been through surgical training, or knows someone who has, knows that the demands are incredible. The hours are long and unpredictable. Residents take overnight call, care for critically ill patients, study for examinations, and gradually assume greater responsibility for decisions with enormous consequences. At the same time, they have relatively little control over their schedules. Family, church, holidays, and ordinary evenings at home all compete with the needs of patients and the demands of training.

Training in a resource-variable setting adds another layer. Our residents regularly care for patients with advanced disease and life-threatening injuries. Treatments readily available elsewhere may not be accessible. Patients sometimes arrive too late, or families cannot afford the care their loved one needs. Residents break bad news, walk alongside grieving families, and then move on to care for the next patient. Over time, that takes a toll.

Burnout, characterized by emotional exhaustion, detachment, and a reduced sense of effectiveness, is well documented among physicians and residents in sub-Saharan Africa. Residents may also experience moral distress when they know what a patient needs but cannot provide it because of circumstances beyond their control, or carry grief and self-doubt after an unexpected death, adverse event, or medical error.

And when residents go home, they remain husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and friends.

For PAACS residents, there is another dimension. We seek not only to train excellent surgeons, but to form followers of Jesus Christ. Yet residency can make the very practices that previously sustained a trainee's spiritual life increasingly difficult. How do you attend church when you are on call? How do you participate in family devotions when you arrive home after your children are asleep? When an hour is available, do you prepare for tomorrow's examination or read your Bible? What happens to your faith after a week in the ICU when patient after patient has died?

Creating a Different Kind of Role: About a year ago, the Medical Education Department at Tenwek Hospital, with the support of PAACS, created a new position of Discipleship Leader to address these needs more intentionally. We wanted someone who could give focused attention to spiritual formation while also providing residents a safe place to talk outside the formal evaluation structure of their training programs. Some of what residents carry also requires more than faculty mentorship, so we specifically sought someone with training in both counseling and biblical studies.

THE SURGEON ALSO NEEDS CARE: SUPPORTING RESIDENTS THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP AT TENWEK HOSPITAL (CONT'D)

We found that combination in Mrs. Abby Buyuka, a former Tenwek counselor who holds a diploma in Bible theology and is completing a master's degree in clinical psychology. Over the past year, she has provided counseling, spiritual assessments, Bible studies, retreats, and ongoing discipleship across Medical Education.

I recently sat down with Abby to ask what she has learned. Why do spiritual formation and emotional support belong within medical education? Abby: If you expect someone to show up and give 100 percent while ignoring everything else happening in their life, that doesn't work. Who they are as a person is part of how they come to work. If they are struggling, it affects how they treat patients, how they learn, and how they perform. PAACS is about the whole person. We are not interested only in producing a great surgeon; we want God to work on their character and how they relate to others, so they become a blessing to their families and the people they serve.

You have mentioned that many residents feel guilty about their spiritual lives during training. What are you hearing? Abby: One common thing I hear is, "Before residency, I feel like I was a better Christian." They may previously have had more time for church, Bible study, mentoring, or family devotions. Now there can be guilt: I'm disappointing my family. I'm disappointing myself. I'm disappointing God. What I help them understand is: God knows that you're in residency. That doesn't mean putting God aside for five years but learning what it looks like to dwell with Him in this season. A ten-minute walk to the hospital can be time with God. Praying for a patient is dwelling with Him. Before a difficult conversation, it may simply be, Father, help me. Give me the words. Maybe you cannot read a chapter of Scripture every day. Take one verse—The Lord is my shepherd—and carry it with you throughout the day. You can dwell with God in the middle of your day.

The Healer Also Needs Care: In our conversation, Abby used a Swahili saying: Mganga hajigangi, which translates to "the healer cannot heal herself." Our trainees spend their days caring for others but may not recognize, or have space to work through, the emotional, relational, and spiritual burdens they carry themselves.

Abby has heard residents wrestle with grief, marriage, past wounds, guilt, and identity. One resident asked, "If I stop being a doctor, if I stop being this great surgeon, who am I?" Abby's response comes back to something deeper than professional achievement: your identity is in Christ. Having someone whose role is to listen, ask the right questions, and create space for honest reflection allows residents to stop, process what they are experiencing, and receive care themselves.

Our goal in PAACS is certainly to train more surgeons. The need for surgical care across Africa makes that imperative. But the kind of surgeons we train matters just as much. We want physicians who are clinically excellent and technically capable, but also compassionate, spiritually grounded, secure in their identity in Christ, and prepared to disciple and train those who come after them. Supporting the whole resident is not separate from that mission. It is integral to accomplishing it.

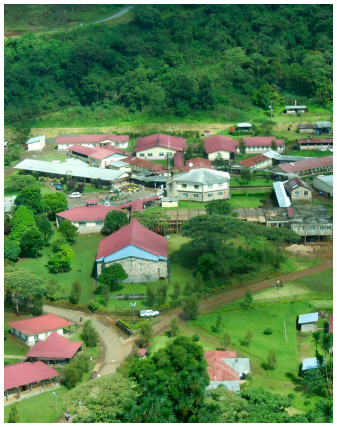


MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL CANCER TEAM VISITS BOSTON: GOING WHERE NO ONE ELSE WILL

Laurie Elit, MD, MSc, DTMH, FRCS(C)
Faculty, Gynecologic Oncology
Mbingo Baptist Hospital

I was asked to present a boots-on-the-ground example of health and development work. At Mbingo Baptist Hospital, our cancer care project is built on the pillars of medical oncology, surgery, and soon to come radiation oncology. The organizers wanted to understand how this is happening in a faith-based context as repeatedly we heard how faith-based organizations go to places where no one else wants to go.

My presentation included the findings from our Bridges Foundation funded quality improvement study, which came out of the ACQUIRE (African Consortium of Quality Improvement Research in Frontline Healthcare) education process spearheaded by Dr. Mary Adam at Kijabe Hospital. I was also able to present the Mbingo Hospital Cancer team's work on fundraising, education (including 3 radiation technologists at the Uganda Cancer Institute, 2 radiation physicists at Vellore Christian College in India, another medical oncologist at UCI and a surgical oncologist at Loma Linda), and building and equipping of the radiation bunker, the proposed cancer center and 4 patient hostels. It was an honor to present the work of so many over the last decade.



Harvard and MIT jointly host the annual Global Health Catalyst Summit in Boston. This year's summit focused on "Comprehensive Cancer/Care Centre powered by AI." This meeting is unique as it involves health care providers who are engaged globally, physicists and other allied health professionals in radiation biology/technology alongside industry, ambassadors, first ladies and the diaspora with strong representation on this occasion from Cameroon, Gabon and Uganda. The summit moved through "building better health together" to "commitment and sustainable implementation" to "breakthrough sciences, AI-enabled translation and global collaboration". There was a powerful call to action given by the first lady of Sierra Leone, Fatima Maada, who also spearheads the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD). This group is instrumental in providing scholarships for salary support for health care professionals acquiring subspecialty training in cancer care. Among the speakers was Professor Cheryl Willman, the executive director of the Mayo Clinic Cancer Programs, who showed how there can be a center without walls to deliver cancer expertise to patients no matter where they are. Professor Julie Gralow, the CMO of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, discussed their international engagement and among a list of opportunities she discussed the 25 annual international development and education idea awards which come with mentorship. A very interesting session on the Global Financing of cancer care outlined various models including vouchers, bonds and taxation of items like alcohol. The ambassador from Gabon provided a background for how political willingness, industry engagement and international support has led to Gabon being chosen as the pilot site for shaping the future of cancer care in Africa. The work of a number of AMPERE (Access for Medical Physicists to education and research excellence) fellows was highlighted.



DR. EFESON THOMAS REFLECTS ON LIFE AFTER PAACS: WHAT LOOKED LIKE SACRIFICE WAS AN INVESTMENT

Efeson Thomas, MD
PAACS Graduate, General Surgery
Myung Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia

I knew that surgery was my calling just before I applied for PAACS. At the time, I was wrestling with whether to pursue specialty training or take a shorter path toward financial stability for my family. God spoke clearly to me through His Word and through His servants. It was not an easy decision, but by faith, I chose to follow His leading and applied for a PAACS General Surgery residency in 2012.

Because I believed surgery was not simply a career but a calling, I expected eventually to serve in a rural area with little or no access to surgical care. After completing residency in 2017, I continued at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia as a junior consultant and still planned to eventually move to the district hospital in Sawla. Then an unexpected opportunity came from MyungSung Christian Medical Center (MCM) Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They invited me to work with a colorectal surgeon with the possibility of pursuing fellowship training in colorectal surgery. My immediate response was, “Thank you for considering me, but I cannot come.” Moving to the capital city and working in a private hospital had never been part of my plan.

When I told my wife about the conversation, her response changed everything. She reminded me that I did not know God’s plan and encouraged me to remain open to His leading. I called the Medical Director back, and eventually we arranged for me to join MCM in August 2018 after completing my commitment at Soddo. We were leaving our comfort zone. In Soddo, we lived within the hospital compound, my salary was approximately twice what I would receive at MCM, and the cost of living in Addis Ababa was more than three times higher. By normal standards, the move looked like a significant downgrade financially, socially, and in our living situation.

But we chose to obey. The years that followed were not always easy. There were times when the path ahead was unclear and we wondered whether we had heard God correctly. Looking back now, however, we are beginning to understand what God was doing. There is so much we have gained by following the path He set before us—not only professionally, but as people, believers, a family, surgeons, and surgical educators. At the time, I sometimes wondered how my journey would look from the perspective of PAACS. I had moved to the capital city, where more than 90% of the country’s surgeons practice, after serving only one year in Soddo. From a conventional perspective, it was not an easy story to explain. But God knows the end from the beginning, and today I can see part of what He had planned for me.

I have become a surgical educator with a particular focus on minimally invasive surgery and have had the privilege of contributing to the training of surgeons in laparoscopic surgery and helping advance minimally invasive surgery in Ethiopia.

DR. EFESON THOMAS REFLECTS ON LIFE AFTER PAACS: WHAT LOOKED LIKE SACRIFICE WAS AN INVESTMENT (CONT'D)

One of the moments that blesses me most is when PAACS senior residents come to MCM and I have the opportunity to teach them advanced laparoscopic skills.

What looked like a sacrifice was an investment. What looked like a downgrade was a divine redirection. I am grateful for every step of the journey, even the steps I did not understand at the time. I am grateful for my wife, who encouraged me to remain open to God's leading, and for PAACS and everyone God used to invest in my life and training. Today, I feel privileged to pay forward what God invested in me through PAACS.

My testimony is not that I always understood God's plan. It is that God knew His plan for me even when I did not. When we trust Him, what seems like a wrong turn today may become the very road that leads us to the purpose He prepared from the beginning. Trust God with the journey. He knows where He is taking you.











PAACS

Global Day of Fasting & Prayer

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

Join the global PAACS family for our third and final Day of Fasting and Prayer of 2026 as we conclude our 30th anniversary year.

Together, we will thank God for His faithfulness over the past three decades and pray for our residents, faculty, and graduates as they continue providing compassionate, Christ-centered surgical care across Africa.

As we look toward 2027, let us seek God's wisdom, provision, and guidance for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Fast as the Lord leads, and join us in prayer on November 9.

Email peggy.ndlovu@paacs.net for more information.

PRAYER GATHERING #1

US & CANADA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
1:00 PM ET / 12:00 PM CT
11:00 AM MT / 10:00 AM PT

AFRICA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
9:00 PM EAT / 8:00 PM CAT
7:00 PM WAT / 6:00 PM GMT

PRAYER GATHERING #2

US & CANADA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
8:00 PM ET / 7:00 PM CT
6:00 PM MT / 5:00 PM PT

AFRICA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
4:00 AM EAT / 3:00 AM CAT
2:00 AM WAT / 1:00 AM GMT

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



DR. RICH DAVIS RECOGNIZED FOR SURGICAL EDUCATION

Congratulations to Dr. Rich Davis, former PAACS Program Director and Assistant Program Director at AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, on his induction as an Associate Member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators in 2026.



DR. J. MATTHEW KYNES RECEIVES 2026 NICHOLAS M. GREENE HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) congratulates Dr. Matthew Kynes of Vanderbilt University Medical Center and AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kenya on being selected by the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Committee on Global Health as the recipient of the 2026 Nicholas M. Greene, MD Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Contribution.

Click here to easily shop our store for PAACS-branded items.



DR. STEVE KELLEY RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Kelley, former PAACS Program Director at Malumghat Hospital in Bangladesh, on receiving the 2026 American College of Surgeons (ACS)/Pfizer Surgical Humanitarian Award. Dr. Kelley remains supportive of PAACS, with discussions underway about possible senior resident rotations at Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh. We thank God for his faithful service and celebrate this well-deserved honor.



CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF DR. LENSA HABTAMU AND DR. NAOL JIGI

Congratulations to Dr. Lensa Habtamu and PAACS Orthopaedic Surgery resident Dr. Naol Jigi on their marriage on July 18 at Gullelle Mekane Yesus Church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia! Dr. Lensa, a pediatrician, will soon join the team at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. Please join us in praying for Dr. Naol as he continues his studies, for Dr. Lensa as she begins her new role, and for God's blessings upon their marriage.

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray for God's favor over all PAACS training programs, that they will glorify God and be used to impact Africa for His Kingdom.

- Please pray for the new PAACS programs at HEAL Africa Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Al-Germaniyya Hospital in Egypt, and Tenwek Hospital's Endoscopy program in Kenya. Pray for God's guidance, provision, and blessing as these programs begin.

- Pray for PAACS trainees sitting for the COSECSA MCS exams in November.

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

- Francis Mungai
- Elsie Njoroge Kamau
- Naum Jepkogei
- Emmanuel Sikuku Sundwa
- Brenda Mukunya
- Joshua Muhondwa
- Lynette Kimani
- Teresa Nyamora
- Mbabazi Pitman
- Ndaro Daniel Bulenga
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