



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

PAACS GRADUATE TESTIMONY



I was born the third eldest to Orthodox parents in in 1976 in Asebeterferi, located in the eastern part of Ethiopia, where I lived until I was five years old. My parents, an elementary school teacher and housewife, moved to Sire, located in the central part of the country. Here, our family grew with the addition of four more siblings.

My parents remain in good health, praise be the Lord, and have retained their Orthodox faith as has one of my younger brothers. Five other siblings and I all share the faith of born again Pentecostal Christians.

I was able to complete my elementary and high school education in my hometown. Immediately following high school, my best friend, a Christian and now pastor and theologian, witnessed Christ for me. It was then, in 1995, I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. In 1996, I entered medical school. As a new Christian, university life was quite challenging, but with continued help and guidance from the hands of God, I achieved my goal of becoming a

doctor in 2003. For four years, I worked in an unequipped government hospital of Bale Goba to complete my obligation. Because it is located in a very remote area, I was also responsible for many emergency surgical, gynecological and obstetric cases. An interest in surgery resulted from this experience. It was also in 2007 that I married by beloved wife, Addis, and met a first-year PAACS-Soddo Surgical resident and I learned about the PAACS program that changed my life forever.

PAACS has been God's way of fulfilling my dreams of becoming a Christian surgeon. I completed my PAACS surgical residency in 2012. For two years following my graduation, I provided surgical care in the same hospital where I was once a general practitioner. The only surgeon for a population of approximately 800,000, I decided to share the blessings I received from God and to help the many people in need of medical and surgical care by also teaching medical students at the nearby university—to help train future doctors to care for the poor.

I eventually moved with my family to join the PAACS-Soddo team as a member of its faculty. Praise be to the Lord that we have come to Soddo at the right time, when the program was lacking permanent faculty. Dr. Andrew Chew, the PAACS Program Director in Soddo and I now mentor six surgical residents.

I thank God every day that he opened the door for me to join the PAACS program. The impact of the visiting Christian consultant surgeons from US in my life has been magnificent. They prepared me well both spiritually and academically. I feel their presence—along with that of God, in both my surgical career and spiritual life that will remain with me throughout my lifetime. It is my wish to have the opportunity to meet each one of them again in order to show them how much gratitude I have in my heart.

My family and I are very thankful to God and PAACS for everything in our lives. We believe He will continue to be our provider and show us abundant mercy and grace.

May God bless you for your generosity and kindness,

Dr. Tewodros Tamiru



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