



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

PAACS GRADUATE TESTIMONY



Dr. Aiah Lebbie decided to become a surgeon because of the great need for surgeons in his home country of Sierra Leone and his “admiration for the rapid response of patients to certain surgical operations”. He graduated from the PAACS surgical residency program at Mbingo Hospital in 2010 and completed his fellowship in pediatric surgery at Bethany Kids in 2013. Dr Lebbie was introduced to PAACS by the late, Martin Salia, MD, who recently died after contracting the Ebola virus in Liberia. At the time he shared PAACS with Dr Lebbie, Dr Salia was at a PAACS training program in Cameroon. “He told me pleasant things about the training program and encouraged me to apply.” Dr Lebbie is currently the only pediatric surgeon in Sierra Leone. Prior to the Ebola outbreak, he would run a pediatric surgical clinic at Holy Spirit Hospital four days a week with elective surgeries on Wednesdays. He was chief of surgery at the hospital and would visit hospitals across the country coordinating surgical care throughout Sierra Leone.

The Ebola epidemic has led to a significant reduction in pediatric surgical patients coming to his hospital and led to the closure of the OR. He now spends most of his time coordinating infection control for his hospital and seeing pediatric medical cases. Dr Lebbie reports that the Ebola crisis has greatly affected the children of Sierra Leone resulting in many deaths both from the virus as well as from non-Ebola disease because many parents are afraid to take their children to the hospital, resulting in unnecessary illness and deaths at home. Moreover, many children in Sierra Leone have been orphaned due to the epidemic and the educational system in the country has stagnated. Dr Lebbie’s own family has been confined to their home for fear of contracting the deadly disease. His children are unable to attend school. He has had one cousin and her husband die from the disease leaving behind 4 children whom his wife and he are considering adopting. Despite these terrors, Dr Lebbie reports that God has been faithful in answering their prayers, “God has kept my family safe and I have had the privilege of ministering Christ to sick children and their families and some have accepted him as their Lord and Savior, which has been my greatest achievement.”

Dr Lebbie’s long-range goals are to establish a pediatric surgical service in his country, training future pediatric surgeons and sharing Christ with them. The spiritual and surgical training he received through PAACS has led Dr Lebbie to provide more compassionate care for his patients. His PAACS training has also strengthened his walk with Christ both in his prayer life and spending more time in God’s Word. Most of all, being mentored by PAACS leaders has made him look at life with a different eye. “I see life as one that is intended to serve the needy, the poor and the sick. I now derive greater satisfaction in life than I could have ever imagined before joining PAACS.” Most of all, Dr Lebbie insisted that the readership understand that “PAACS is the answer to the acute shortage of surgeons on the African continent.” Dr Lebbie asked that we continue to pray for the safety of his family during the Ebola outbreak and he would also like to thank those that have provided him with pediatric surgical instruments, which has helped facilitate his dream of setting up his pediatric surgical practice in Sierra Leone.

Please continue to lift all the PAACS graduates who are serving in Ebola stricken areas up to the Lord in prayer: Jerry Brown, MD (Liberia), Ruffin Loua, MD (Guinea Conakry), Jean Faya Yaradouno, MD (Guinea Conakry).



PAN-AFRICAN
ACADEMY
OF CHRISTIAN
SURGEONS

PO BOX 9906 FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28311 | E: SUSAN.KOSHY@PAACS.NET

WWW.PAACS.NET