



PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY  
OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS

## PAACS GRADUATE TESTIMONY



Dr. Jacques Ebhele is one of PAACS most recent graduates, having just finished his surgical residency at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon. He was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and currently lives in Bunia, a city of over 400,000 people with only 2 surgeons (a native Congolese surgeon and a Canadian surgeon) covering all the surgical needs of 2 hospitals in the city and 2 huge adjoining provinces. Jacques will be the third surgeon.

Jacques recently shared with us the challenges and joy a PAACS graduate faces in finding a job post graduation. “Almost all of the hospitals in my area wanted to hire me, but the decision about which one to pick was the hardest task I have ever faced. It required numerous site visits, much energy, time and financial resources and multiple discussions with various people to make the final decision.” The placement also must meet PAACS’s policy for PAACS residents who received financial support throughout their training.

For each year of support during the residency, the resident must give a year of service. Dr Ebhele stated that this was well explained to him before he began his residency. He also shared that it was a collective decision on his final practice location. “First, I made the decision to come back to my home country to serve the population most in need of surgery. The final decision between the various hospitals was the result of prayers, discussion with my PAACS program director, Dr Keir Thelander, and the local church, governmental health leaders and colleagues in the area. It was not an easy decision to make.” Dr Ebhele’s family was in prayer for him throughout this decision process. He feels at peace that God has answered his prayers and brought him to the place God had in mind.

Dr. Ebhele’s journey to PAACS began in 2008 when his father in-law heard about PAACS during his time in the United States receiving his education. Jacques had always wanted to become a surgeon but was not sure about when, where and how to do that. He felt that the news from his father in-law was a miracle from God. From there he searched the PAACS website, liked what he saw and applied for a residency position. PAACS has made a huge impact on his life not only training him to become a surgeon but also making him a disciple of Christ. Dr Ebhele’s patients are positively impacted because of this. “PAACS trains us to take care of their body and soul. I pray that it would be the same in my practice in the DRC.” Dr Ebhele also felt that one of the unique things about his PAACS training is that, “PAACS cares about our spiritual life. PAACS shaped me in such a way, that I practice surgery with the goal of glorifying the Lord. My personal life is a victory in Christ and for Christ. Christ made my dream come true through PAACS. I am thankful to the Lord, then to PAACS as a wonderful organization that produces special surgeons. Through PAACS, I became a surgeon who knows Christ.” Please keep the Ebhele family in your prayers as they continue their transition back to the DRC.



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PO BOX 9906 FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28311 | E: [SUSAN.KOSHY@PAACS.NET](mailto:SUSAN.KOSHY@PAACS.NET)

[WWW.PAACS.NET](http://WWW.PAACS.NET)