

SUMMER
2025

FROM THE GC LOMA LINDA OFFICE



MISSION MESSAGES

WELCOME TO OUR

DMA & GSA Newsletter



In this newsletter:

Latest stories, announcements,
and photos from our DMAs and
GSAs around the globe!

Welcome

This time of year is often filled with transition. Graduation season is finished, and professionals are settling into residency/fellowship training programs or attending physician roles. People are moving, a new academic year is beginning, new church leadership has been elected, and there seem to be a lot of moving parts in flux. There are opportunities for growth and so much possibility. It's easy to become overwhelmed or feel uncertain and a little lost in the changes.

It's at this time that a strong anchor keeps us steady – anchors in God's promises, in called purpose, in community. His Word empowers us to move through fear and ambiguity. Our unique callings give meaning and motivation. Deep social connections can offer counsel and support.

Whatever transition you may be facing, I wish you the "perfect peace" that is promised in **Isaiah 26:3**. Keep moving forward in faith not because you know the future but because you know who holds it.

–Angeli Yutuc



MALAWI

DID YOU KNOW?

Malamulo Adventist Hospital is one of Loma Linda University's global campuses. These are signature international partners that represent a select group of sites with which Loma Linda University Health has sustained collaborations, including rotation sites, exchanges, consultation, and other academic, clinical and research activity.

Pus and Purpose

**DRS. TYLER & MELISSA PENDER,
DMAS AT MALAMULO ADVENTIST
HOSPITAL, MALAWI**

Pus dripped from a gaping chest wound, saturating the pitiful piece of gauze attempting to soak it up. The patient's ragged breathing caused the wound to rise and fall. She stared at me with wide, pleading eyes. I closed mine with a sigh.

"How long ago did this happen?" I asked, resigned. As the surgery residents dutifully relayed the details, my mind raced ahead to the prognosis: not good.

"Four weeks ago... chicken bone... went to multiple hospitals... nobody would help... from Mozambique."

Though we work in Malawi at Malamulo Adventist Hospital, we are located in the far south of the country, surrounded on three sides by Mozambique. Patients who dare to cross the border for care are often even more desperately poor than our local population—difficult as that is to imagine.



The operative team poses with the young lady from Mozambique. (L to R) Dr. Matthew Kolleh, Ivy the anesthetist, Dr. Joseph Mkandawire, the patient, Dr. Tyler Pender



Malamulo Missionary Family
(L to R) Deborah and Stephen deSouza, Tyler and Melissa Pender, Becky and Austin Dice, Brent and Laura Sherwin.

What makes a typical missionary? What medical specialties are needed in the mission field? What is the ultimate goal of medical mission work?

These are great questions—ones my wife and I wrestled with from college through medical school and into residency. Many people shared strong opinions with us, though those opinions varied widely.

After graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 2017, my wife and I couple-matched at the University of Utah. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine, followed by a fellowship in Infectious Diseases. While I finished training, she joined the University of Utah faculty, treating patients with HIV and tropical diseases, and conducting research on diarrheal illnesses.

I completed a General Surgery residency and a Surgical Critical Care fellowship (aka “Trauma/Critical Care”). During that fellowship, I cared for some of the sickest patients imaginable—including months in the cardiothoracic ICU, managing patients on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation).

Some of the narratives we heard during medical school implied that only certain types of people—those who looked or acted a particular way—could become missionaries. Others suggested only a narrow range of specialties were “fit” for mission service. Still others glorified a lack of training: “I’d never done this before, but I prayed and did it anyway.”

So where did specialists like us fit in?

Through prayerful consideration, conversations with Loma Linda University advisors, and site visits funded by the Deferred Mission Appointee (DMA) program, we found clarity. The old legends were just that—legends. Specialists have a vital role in global health.

We chose a site with clearly defined clinical roles for each of us and the infrastructure to support our work.

Back in the treatment room with the young woman from Mozambique, we got to work. Alongside the residents, we planned an initial intervention: assess the esophagus and place a feeding tube, along with temporary chest drainage.

The endoscopy revealed a surprise—the esophageal perforation had healed. A victory. No feeding tube required. We could now focus fully on her infected chest.

We cleaned up the mess around her poorly managed prior chest tube sites. Initial drainage helped stabilize her and allowed us to gather culture data. I immediately involved my wife.

Malamulo Adventist Hospital has a robust lab that supports our clinical care. Melissa's expertise in infectious diseases is critical—not just for this patient, but for many others. Together, we used the culture results to choose the best antibiotics.

Contrary to some perceptions, working in a resource-limited setting doesn't mean cutting corners. It requires smarter, more deliberate medicine. Sloppiness kills anywhere—but in our setting, the margin for error is razor-thin.

Chest radiographs showed that our drainage wasn't adequate. We debated our next move.

A full thoracotomy, chest washout, and decortication at Malamulo was daunting. In the U.S., the mortality rate for this kind of procedure in such a patient is 30–40%. Here, the risk would be even higher.

The decision hinged on two things: anesthesia during surgery, and nursing care after. Could we safely get her through?

Thankfully, Malamulo—supported by Adventist Health International (AHI)—has prioritized education. Ivy, one of our most outstanding nurses, had received anesthetist training at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya. Since returning, she had proven time and again her ability to manage critically ill patients.

We developed a detailed plan for intubation, including single-lung ventilation and a backup plan using bronchoscopy. We also coordinated with our High Dependency Unit (HDU) to ensure post-op care, supplies, and staffing were ready. The chaplaincy team offered spiritual support. Prayers were said. We were ready.

The surgery felt like performing a well-rehearsed symphony. Ivy couldn't place the bronchial blocker, so I stepped in and guided the endotracheal tube using bronchoscopy—drawing on tricks I'd learned during fellowship.

As we worked side by side—managing intubation, pressors, and resuscitation—I felt deeply grateful for my critical care training and the voices of my mentors echoing in my head.

But more than that, I saw the power of teamwork.

I performed the case with two of our senior residents. One major factor in choosing Malamulo was its PAACS General Surgery Residency, built by Dr. Ryan Hayton and Dr. Moses Kasumba. PAACS accepts African medical students, trains them in a rigorous five-year program, and sends them back to their home countries as skilled, compassionate Christian surgeons.

As much as I love tackling complex cases, I knew that if I left Africa without training others, I'd leave behind only memories and photos. I wanted to multiply impact. Thanks to Loma Linda's global campus partnership with Malamulo, we teach and mentor a wide range of learners—from PAACS residents to Malamulo College nursing and clinical officer students, to visiting U.S. trainees from Loma Linda and beyond. We value every one of them.



PAACS residents (Dr. Estifanos Babulo, left, and Dr. Joseph Mkandawire, right) work together on a surgical procedure as Dr. Brent Sherwin supervises.

The surgery was brutal, but it went well. I smiled as I showed the residents how to remove part of a rib to open the chest with a smaller incision. They were skeptical—until it worked.

I took the scrub nurse's hand and placed it on the beating heart. He had never scrubbed for an open thoracic case before. His eyes widened in awe. We washed out the pus, removed the infected rind, and re-inflated the left lung. After weeks of entrapment, it expanded with a bubbling breath. The patient was extubated and transferred to HDU.

The nurses did excellent work—maintaining suction, sounding the alarm when she worsened, and helping us respond when her condition became critical two days later. With prayer and careful intervention, she pulled through.

After a long hospitalization, she walked out of the hospital—healthy.

As we near the end of our first full year at Malamulo, this case offered a moment to reflect. After years of dreaming and preparing, we finally made it to the mission field. There were discouraging voices—both within and outside the church—but we were also surrounded by people who supported us, prayed for us, and gave us wise counsel.

We are deeply grateful to be part of the missionary family at Malamulo. Our connection with Loma Linda University has already brought immense blessings, and we look forward to deepening that partnership.

To future DMAs: pursue your passion in medicine. Whatever your specialty, God can use it. We've found fulfillment by staying true to our training and committing to both education and excellent care.

If you love caring for patients and believe medicine is the best job in the world, don't be afraid to serve overseas.

And if you want to nerd out about antibiotics, trauma, or pus under pressure—whether you're in the U.S. or halfway across the globe—we'd love to talk.

Tyler Pender

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Melissa Pender

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER
2025



NUBI & CASSIE ARCHER

2025 LLUSM
GRADUATES

Family Medicine residency program at
Advent Health – Winter Park

JOHN HARTMAN

2025 LLUSM
GRADUATE

Family Medicine residency program at
Kettering



LANCE & CINDY HOFER-DRAPER

RECENTLY MARRIED

MAY 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER
2025



JUDAH DESOUZA

BORN TO DEBORAH
AND STEPHEN



EZRIE YAMAGATA

BORN TO MONICA & HIROSHI



LEILA STUTZMAN

BORN TO REECE & JADE

Recent Events



MIG Vespers with Dr. Jeff Cho, Belize
– January 2025



DMA & GSA Reception
LLUH Homecoming – March 2025



Pender Presentation at Medical Auxiliary Vespers, LLUH Homecoming – March 2025



MIG Vespers with Drs. Jason & Grace Kim, Togo – June 2025



MIG Vespers with Drs. Jason & Grace Kim, Togo – June 2025



GC Session in St. Louis
– July 2025

MIG VESPER



RSVP



SPEAKERS

Shion Shironishi, NP
Amber Shironishi, DDS
SDA Guam Clinic

September 5
6:00 pm
3111 Amphitheater,
Centennial Complex

ZoomLink:
<https://llu.zoom.us/j/97200289729>

***Refreshments will be provided.**



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Global Health Institute