

Update Paul Kwofie; the Tides of Life

Withstanding the Tides of Life

I have pushed, and pushed against the strong tides that blew into my life. Yet, more seem to blow into my path, but I have learned to stand firm and strong. At age three, I lost my father. A year later, my mother also passed away, from an unknown disease. So, I moved to live with my disabled grandmother, Asokumah—who loved me but had a difficult time taking care of me. She lived by the kind giving of the people of Egyam Community. However, because of our unstable financial condition, I moved to my aunt and reunite with my brother and her other six children.

Life was good with my aunt. Profit from farm produce was enough to put food on the table, but it was not enough to pay my fees. Again, I was moved but this time to the Egyam Children's Home, in December 2007. This was the turning point in my life, where I learned to hold ground and to utilize resources around me to make change in my life. I had time to study, so I did. I had books available, so I read them. I had people who believed in me, so I connected with them and grew in confidence. These opportunities allowed me to excel at school, where I successfully passed the B.E.C.E and was offered admissions to Aggrey Memorial School. There, I worked harder and found other means of financial support, through scholarships (multimedia examination), since the number of children at the orphanage had increased and payment of my fees became difficult. In addition, my love for science grew and was reinforced by my performance in my courses. I became one of the best students and was elected to represent my school at the National Math and Science Quiz; my team qualified to the quarter finals stage. I finished SHS with my mind set on medicine. Aside from the fact that I enjoy learning about human body which is an intriguing and well equipped machine, I also believe that healthcare should be accessible to all, especially to mothers and children.

Life has given me opportunities and I plan to pay it forward. I have chosen to use the knowledge and skills I acquire to help others, through medicine. This is a difficult path that requires commitment, dedication, hard work and support. But I will not be deterred. I want to use my medical degree from KNUST to help families so children do not lose their parents to health issues, like I lost mine.