



## Jim and Carolyn Brown in Cameroon



Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)  
at Mbingo Baptist Hospital

June 2012

We wanted to write a brief update to tell you that we're back at Mbingo, this time to stay. And we're so pleased to be here.

Jim was in the OR from the day we arrived as there were many emergencies and 4 of our senior Residents in surgery were traveling or on rotations at other locations. So there he was stuck in the OR teaching residents. No, he wasn't complaining, after being away from surgery for 4 months!

We knew Mbingo was getting busier, and told many of you it has become much more of a referral center. Maybe a part of what we're seeing right now is temporary, but when we returned we found the volume at a whole new, much busier, level.

Even the Ulcer Ward (where Carolyn spends most of her clinical hours) is full and busier than usual. The head of Physical Therapy and also one of our Surgery Residents have both recently had some intensive training in Wound Care. The three of us have more ideas than time to implement them, and are excited about working together to put into practice some of our plans to make a difference in the treatment of chronic wounds at Mbingo and in Cameroon.

Since the patient load now far exceeds the capacity of the hospital in almost every area, the medical staff and administration are meeting to establish priorities for new building projects. Patients often wait months for elective surgery, surgery wards are full, and our emergency cases continuously increase.

Jim's greatest difficulty is setting priorities, establishing boundaries, and saying no to too many good things in order to do the most important. Many of the patients are very complicated and sick. He must teach and mentor as well as fulfill the academic curriculum of the surgery program,

and interact with the administration on many levels.

There are adjustments and frustrations and we're still figuring out lots of specifics. For Jim especially, knowing when to speak up vs. let something go, and which issues need to be addressed immediately, is a challenge requiring wisdom and sensitivity. We appreciate your prayers on our behalf as we strive to do this job well and in a way that brings glory to God. We're thankful to be back on this continent and in the process of being stretched while learning and working.



This is our new home, which is still being organized and set up. We're thankful to have such a comfortable place to live, and the view of the mountains across the valley is one we never tire of.

Thanks to all of you who helped make our time in the US memorable, and those who continue to support us in many ways so that we can be here.

With gratitude,

Jim and Carolyn Brown,

from Mbingo

