

# Jim and Carolyn Brown

Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon, West Africa

Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)

May 2012

*Evangelical Free Church in America*



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Carolyn and I have been in the US since late January. The past 3 1/2 months have been an intense time of travel, training, giving presentations, meeting with groups and individuals, gathering supplies, raising financial support, and recruiting physicians to come to Cameroon to assist with the clinical work and training residents. We have spoken in 10 churches from eight different denominations, sometimes during worship services, but also in adult Sunday School classes, small groups, mission conferences, children and youth groups, potlucks, and men's breakfasts. We spoke to medical students from three medical schools. We've driven almost 10,000 miles, crisscrossed 21 states, and slept in dozens of different beds. We completed two intense on-line courses required by our mission, ReachGlobal, followed by two more courses given at their national office in Minneapolis. We both completed online Continuing Medical Education courses to renew our licenses. We visited a medical warehouse where a generous donor paid for a pallet of very valuable supplies to be shipped to a container for Mbingo Baptist Hospital, and many others have donated equipment and supplies. I have met with literally dozens of physicians, mostly surgeons, and assisted many in plans to come to Cameroon to work and teach. We've also been able to see our children and their families, including our grandchildren, and our siblings and Carolyn's parents. In spite of the pace, we've been tremendously encouraged and energized by people's responses to our presentations of the work that God is doing in Africa through training African surgeons. We've enjoyed meeting many new friends and having the opportunity to visit many of you through this process.

ReachGlobal requires that we have 100% of our monthly support pledged before we can return to Cameroon. Our support has come in very quickly, and is currently at slightly over 95%, thanks to many of you who have given. As of today, we have permission to buy a return ticket to Cameroon, with the expectation that the remainder of our support will be pledged before we leave. We'd like to return the week of May 14-21. We have all the start up funds needed to return, but still need about \$300 in monthly pledges to meet our financial requirements. . No missionary relishes raising support, but the process has taught us a dependence on God that we could not have otherwise learned. We feel humbled and privileged to be entrusted with the resources of others to do this work.

We ache to get back and resume work. Our chief resident will graduate in June, and two, maybe three, new residents will join the program in August. The hospital and surgical program are undergoing much growth and many changes. Far more patients come than there is capacity and staff to care for. Our academic curriculum is continuously being upgraded and revised. Our accrediting organizations are rightfully demanding better resident supervision, major improvements in the hospital's level of care, and more accountability. In addition to the demanding clinical workload, there are ongoing administrative, academic, and resource requirements necessary to sustain the training program. God has given us a passion for this work, and the grace and means that only He can provide to do it.

Please pray for us as we return. There are many difficulties and challenges, and as wonderful as the work is, it is never a smooth process. And as always, we promise to keep you informed.

Most Gratefully Yours,

Jim and Carolyn

**Ways to give towards our support:** At [www.goreachglobal.org](http://www.goreachglobal.org) , go to "Give" to see the options. Checks should be mailed to: EFCA, 901 East 78th ST., Minneapolis, MN 55420 In the memo line, write:"Brown IMA #1542" For more info, you may call 1-800-745-2202