

EISENHUT EARLY EDITION

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All the News from Debbie in Cameroon that's Fit to Print



Some of the Mbingo Baptist Hospital PAACs residents and faculty
Photo by Dr. Chris Moir, visiting Mayo Clinic pediatric surgeon



Dear Deborah,

New Resident Selection Time!—Each year we have the opportunity to select new residents. We are now reading 29 applications for the incoming class of three residents who will begin their training in January 2018. Africa desperately needs well-trained

surgeons so it is very hard to see so many qualified applicants knowing that we can only accept three. Other PAACS training programs can accept some but there are not enough slots for all. Most come from impoverished backgrounds. Some have been refugees. Almost all have seen loved ones suffer or die when surgical expertise might have saved them.

Not only are we looking for residents who are academically qualified to complete a rigorous five-year training program but also we are seeking those who have a heart to serve the poor in their countries and reach them with the Gospel. We have received applications from Nigeria, South Sudan, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania and Niger. The poor in all of these nations lack access to qualified surgical care. It is often only the wealthy who can afford surgery or who can go abroad for care. This is why PAACS exists. Pray that we would select academically qualified applicants with missionary hearts.





Country Troubles—Concerns regarding unrest continue in our area. There have been some large demonstrations in support of a separatist movement. After one such event there was violence and, allegedly, four people were killed. Our hospital received 3 patients with gunshot wounds. At least weekly, all merchants are required to close their shops in a ‘ghost town’ strike in support of this movement. This strike is enforced by the threat to burn down any business that does not comply. However, government officials have threatened to permanently close any shops that close! So business owners are in a difficult position. Local schools were also closed most of last year as a required strike against the government. Schools that did not comply were burned and some attacked. Some of the schools have finally opened though most parents are not yet sending their children.

A major event associated with the separatist movement is expected October 1. We are all just waiting to see what happens. Our lives here in rural Mbingo have not been affected much except by closed shops. So far, short term workers have successfully gotten through on the roads to and from the



airport in Douala. Some have cancelled their trips but, fortunately, most have not. We have been told to keep a month's supply of food in our homes in case the situation worsens. We are preparing and praying and continuing to work. Your prayers are appreciated. I should mention that we do not feel that our safety is threatened here at Mbingo. It is a rural and isolated area far from the troubles in the big city.

Al Andrews visits with Mbingo Baptist Hospital administrator, Richard Nji

SIM Visit—A fellow SIM missionary, Al Andrews, recently came to Cameroon to help with some conferences in Yaoundé. He made the long and arduous trip by road to visit Mbingo one weekend. He was able to observe some of the ministry and asked many questions. At least two more SIM missionary families are scheduled to come to Mbingo to work.





AI Andrews visits with Pastor Hyacinth, the chaplain assigned to the surgical ward

My hope is that AI's trip might raise interest at SIM headquarters to seek more ways that SIM can partner with ministries in-country such as the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). The CBC has multiple hospitals and health centers plus many schools, several Bible colleges and two seminaries. There are multiple people groups and regions in Cameroon that are unreached with the Gospel and the CBC is at the forefront of efforts to reach them. There are many opportunities for service.

CT Scanner!—At long last, our new CT scanner has arrived. There have been some difficulties with the electrical system but the machine is now up and running. Having CT scans for our patients has already made a huge difference in patient care. The scanner is a new machine specially made for Mbingo and comes with (an expensive) manufacturer's service contract. This is necessary as these machines are very sensitive and need constant care. We are very grateful for this new addition to Mbingo.



Prayer Requests—

That I would be in the Word and in prayer daily

Wisdom in selecting our three new residents who will begin in January 2018

For peace in Cameroon and for a solution to the political crisis; that all the schools will open

That patient care at Mbingo will not be affected by any unrest; safety for all of our workers

Praise for the CT scanner!! That it will function well without breakdowns

For long-term specialists in OB/GYN, anesthesia, primary care and others

For perseverance, spiritual growth and dependence on Jesus for me and for all of our residents

For stamina, energy, clear-thinking and health in a job with lots of night work

A Christ-like attitude, learning spirit, humility and grace during stressful situations

That I would recognize and use opportunities to share Christ with patients

Wisdom in teaching and discipling residents; that we would all be the hands and voice of Jesus

Blessings in Jesus,

Debbie Eisenhut

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