

# In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)

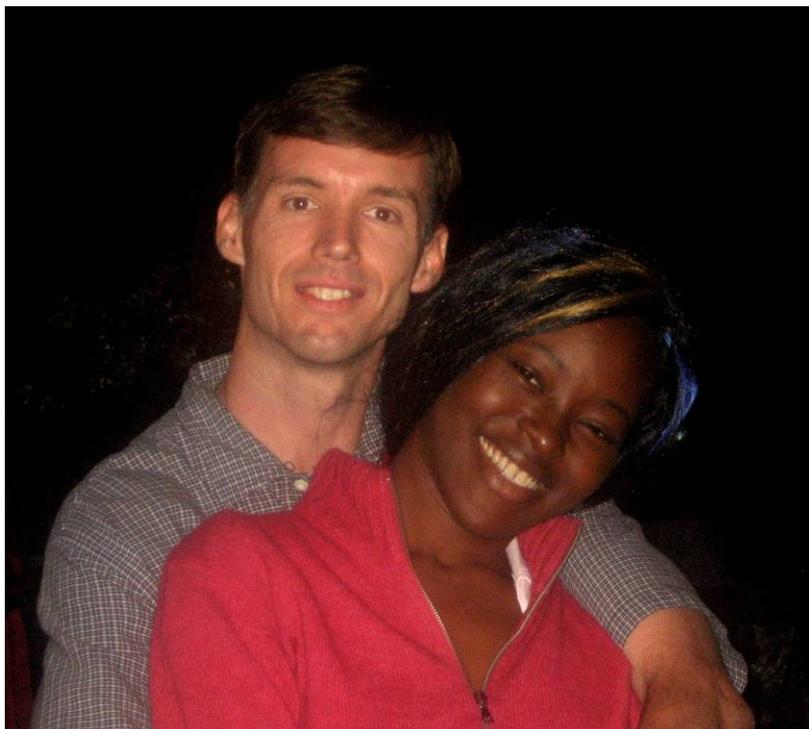


July 2012

robert\_peterson@sil.org

Greetings from Cameroon!

**After many years of praying**, the Lord is answering a prayer request that I know many of you have prayed for - especially my parents even before my birth. In October 2011, on a flight from Yaoundé to Banzo, **I met a Cameroon lady named Bintou** who had just graduated from medical school in Yaoundé and was traveling to Banzo to work at the Banzo Baptist Hospital. I was immediately impressed knowing that although she had a job waiting with the government health system, she instead moved to a remote part of Cameroon to investigate working in a Christian hospital.



**Although the flight was my first introduction to Bintou, I've known her family for some time.** Back in 2008 I discipled her younger brother while attending RFIS in Yaoundé. Her mom works with Wycliffe in Cameroon in an important and challenging role as our employee coordinator in the personnel department. Her father worked in the Ministry of Public Works and as a pastor. Although they could have lived in the rich corner of Yaoundé, their family settled in the neighborhood of the prison in order to plant a church there. They continue to live a very humble, ministry-focused life.

Bintou's and my friendship was immediate, and continued to grow that autumn as we exchanged emails and phone calls – and also kept our parents in the loop. **In December I spent Christmas in Banzo, and our friendship turned to courtship** with the blessing and prayers of our parents and immediate family. Given the cross-cultural nature of the relationship, Bintou's dad asked us to remain low-key for at least 6 months.

As our relationship continued to grow, we invited a number of people to join us in prayer regarding the future. At the end of June, Bintou and I began meeting with her family as well as my pastor here in Cameroon. I also was introduced to several key members of the extended family. **Last week I meet with Bintou's dad for several hours and he gave his approval and blessing on our marriage set for December 1 in Yaoundé, Cameroon!**

Certainly some challenges and uncertainties came up as we got to know each other. **We asked ourselves and each other if our two separate worlds could merge. The process has not only unified us but also encouraged us to press on.** We have discovered that our identity as children of God and citizens of heaven is indeed more fundamental to our lives than our home culture or language. Although there are some unknowns, one thing is clear: We desire to be involved together in God's kingdom work and we are praying for the Lord to direct in exactly how best to combine the mission aviation and mission hospitals together as the Lord opens the door.

**A little more about Bintou:** She loves the Lord and is walking with Him and growing daily. I have particularly appreciated our shared love for reading, reflecting and praying through God's Word together. I can see the fruit of her family's consistent practice of reading and praying together, and I look forward to continuing in our new branch of that family.



*Bintou with her parents celebrating her graduation from medical school*

**We would greatly appreciate your prayers as we prepare for the wedding and for life together.** Life has become extra busy these days! We are looking at several possibilities for the future, including remaining in Yaounde, returning to Bango where I was based from 2008 – 2010, or possibly another mission hospital with a mission aviation program. We are also praying about the possibility of Bintou pursuing a specialization. One strong possibility is PAACS (Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons) which is an Africa-based Christian residency program to train African surgeons. I have flown doctors from the PAACS program on a number of occasions and I'm very impressed with both the staff and program.

**We are so grateful my parents received a generous gift to come to Cameroon** for the wedding. My brother, Todd, hopes to come as well. **Pray** that he will be able to get the time off and God's provision for him to come.

In Him,  
Rob