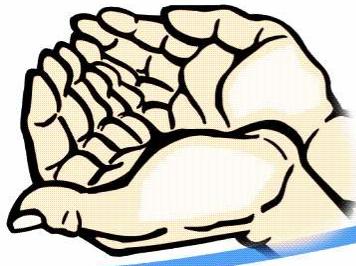


In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



July 2004

Robert Peterson
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Destination: Cameroon, West Africa

It is official! I have accepted an invitation to join the Wycliffe Bible Translator team in Cameroon, West Africa!

During Aviation Orientation at JAARS this spring, the assignment team shared the needs for aviation personnel in the various places around the world where Wycliffe depends on aviation services. Among the countries mentioned, I knew the least about Cameroon, but it was exciting to hear about the need for translation work there and the role aviation plays in that task.

While my interest in Cameroon was growing, the Wycliffe/JAARS staff and instructors were purposely getting to know the students, in order to make recommendations for our future service. They suggested I consider Cameroon. A few weeks later I received a formal invitation to Cameroon and prayerfully accepted the invitation.

JAARS Aviation Orientation

But a lot more has been happening besides invitations to French-speaking countries! The last three months I've focused on JAARS Aviation Orientation. This intense aviation training program is designed specifically to prepare pilots and mechanics (I am both, as are most) to serve safely and efficiently overseas.

Several things make flying in Cameroon different from what pilots experience here. A weather pattern system called the Intertropical Convergence Zone affects that region, as it does all other equatorial countries. Though orientation could not simulate this, I *did* get to train in exactly the same aircraft I will fly overseas. I also worked extensively on how to operate out of short, unimproved runways.

For Mountain Week, the final two weeks of training, we camped out at an airport in the mountains near Boone, North Carolina. This continued our preparation for short, sloped runways—but with the added dimension of mountainous terrain that can give a false sense of perspective and restrict the available landing paths to a runway. Truly a valuable experience! I appreciate the hard work and investment my instructors made to make the experience possible.

----- Cut along this line -----



Cargo drop training — packing a parachute



Practicing loading and securing cargo



Landing at Brown Int'l during Mountain Week

Robert Peterson



Serving Bibleless Peoples
through Aviation with
Wycliffe Bible Translators

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Prayer Reminder

Tentative Timeline & Goals:

- 7/04 to 12/04 — Partnership Development (100% Support Required)
- 1/05 to 3/05 — Preparing to leave for Switzerland
- 3/05 to 8/06 — French Language School
- Fall 2006 — Africa Orientation Course (Cameroon, West Africa)
- Winter 2006 — Begin Field Checkout as Pilot/Mechanic

The Road to Cameroon

How do you get from the U.S. to Cameroon? For me, most likely through Switzerland!

Cameroon's national trade language is French. In order to serve effectively and communicate with people on a deeper level, knowing French is a necessity. Consequently, I plan to complete my French language training at a school in Neushatel, Switzerland. Since I am starting from ground zero, language school will probably be 1½ years total. From there I will continue on to Cameroon and complete the Africa Orientation Course (AOC)—an introduction to Africa, the people and the culture.

What's Next?

Now that I am finished with Aviation Orientation, my focus is preparing to go overseas. For me that means my time will be spent:

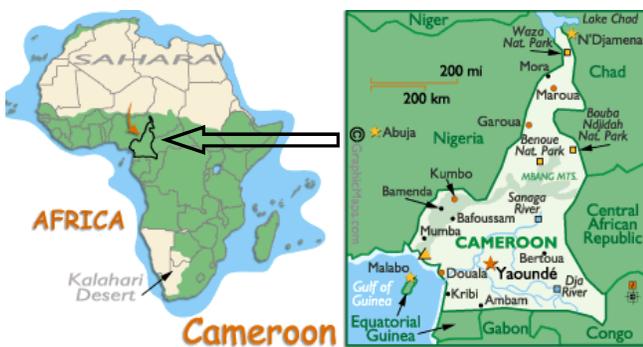
1. Building a partnership team of individuals and churches who will enable me to serve through regular prayer and financial support.
2. Completing pre-field requirements like physical exams, immunizations, visas, airline tickets and applying to language school.
3. Helping out as time permits at JAARS in the hangar as a mechanic or as a pilot with the MATA (Missions at the Airport) program.

Republic of Cameroon

Population: 15,803,000 (2001)
Average Income: \$1,185/year (1988)

(Taken from Operation World:)

"The spiritual poverty of the churches is the country's greatest tragedy. Nominal Christianity is a bigger problem in this land than in any other in Africa."



"Bible Translation for Cameroon's 279 languages is an overwhelming task. The lack of indigenous, heart-language Scriptures is one of the contributory causes of spiritual poverty in the churches. Only 47 languages have a Bible or NT."



Evan Smith & I at Brown Int'l



Readiness Check

Missionaries depend on a team of financial and prayer partners to minister full-time. We cannot go on our own. That is the focus of my energies now - connecting with those whom God has called to help send. Prior to leaving, I need to have a complete financial and prayer team in place. Some sending costs are one-time expenses (like shipping my tools, language school, visas and immunizations), others are monthly.

My monthly requirement is approximately \$1,700. I am so thankful for the many that have already joined to get me started. Currently I'm at 20% of my monthly requirement.

My one-time expenses are still being determined but an initial estimate is between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for all my moving and language training expenses.

Thanks for your prayers for wisdom and direction as I seek opportunities to share the Lord and his Word with others who might be interested in joining my team.

In Him, Robert

<p><u>Mailing Address:</u> 7920 Fawn Lane Waxhaw NC 28173 (704)843-5327 robert_peterson@sil.org</p>		<p><u>Financial Gifts:</u> Wycliffe PO Box 628200 Orlando, FL 32862-8200 "For Robert Peterson"</p>
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Praises:

1. Completion of Aviation Orientation and the excellent training opportunity.
2. Todd's successful completion of his final check ride for his Air Force "Wings".
3. Over 50% of my Aviation Orientation expenses being covered by the Bollinger family through gifts in memory of Mrs. Florence Bollinger.

Prayer Requests:

1. Continued spiritual growth, maturity and wisdom as I prepare to leave.
2. Opportunities to share with people about the Lord, His Word and the many people who are still waiting to hear.
3. Details (like physicals, immunizations, applications, financial preparations, etc).
4. Stability and righteousness throughout Cameroon.
5. Continued freedom — Cameroon continues to be a beachhead into many of the surrounding unstable countries.
6. For the approximately 50 translation projects currently in progress in Cameroon and the remaining 100+ languages needing God's Word, along with many others in the surrounding countries.