

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



November 2004

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Dear family & friends,

It is definitely time for me to update you as I prepare to join the Bible translation team in Cameroon, West Africa. Over the last three months, I've traveled 4,000 miles—seeing many of you. Thank you for the opportunities you gave me to share the needs of Cameroon and West Africa and the Lord's leading in my life!

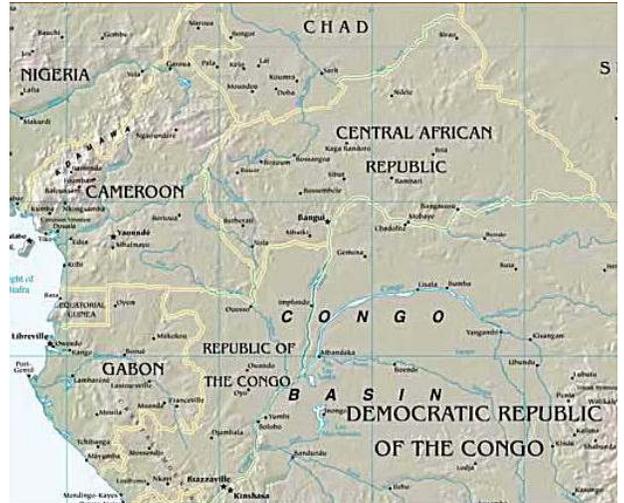
Cameroon in November?

In early November, the possibility arose of going to Cameroon to help for about six weeks. Two pilots are on furlough, leaving only one pilot for the next few months (for 2 airplanes). When all three pilots are there, they are able to fly about 75 hours a month. But with only one pilot, he will be limited to about 30 hours a month because of all his other responsibilities including maintaining the airplane. After a lot of evaluation this week, leadership decided not to send me. However, the fact that they even considered it reflects Cameroon's significant need. Please pray for Daryl Young, currently Cameroon's only pilot/mechanic.

Aviation Program in Cameroon

The aviation program in Cameroon is relatively small, yet serves an enormous number of missionaries and large land area. Wycliffe currently has two aircraft in Cameroon: a Cessna 206 and a Helio Courier. The Helio serves in the mountainous area in the northwest portion of Cameroon and is part of the outreach ministry of a local Baptist hospital. The Cessna 206 is located in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, and carries the bulk of the service to the missionaries.

This program is relatively unique—it serves not only Cameroon but also the countries of Chad, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo and Equatorial Guinea. In fact, the two Wycliffe aircraft based in Cameroon are the *only* mission aircraft in all of central, western Africa. They serve teams scattered over a 500-mile radius, providing vital service to missionaries that would otherwise spend weeks traveling by land, exposed to many threats to their health and safety.



One of the challenges of land transportation



One of our pilots at an airstrip in Cameroon

Cut along this line

Robert Peterson



Serving Bibleless Peoples
through Aviation with
Wycliffe Bible Translators

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Prayer Reminder

Tentative Timeline & Goals:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 11/04 to 3/05 | — Partnership Development (100% Support Required) |
| 3/05 to 4/05 | — Preparing to leave for Switzerland |
| 4/05 to 8/06 | — French Language School |
| Fall 2006 | — Africa Orientation Course (Cameroon, West Africa) |
| Winter 2006 | — Begin Field Checkout as Pilot/Mechanic |

My Progress toward Cameroon

I continue to focus my energy toward getting ready for Cameroon. In my last letter I mentioned three major areas. As an update:

- **Partnership development for prayer and financial support.** My financial support has grown from 22% in July to 42%. Praise the Lord! Thank you for the many one-time gifts that enabled me to travel these last few months while my support builds.
- **French language training.** A computer program, *The Rosetta Stone*, and a video series, *French in Action*, are helping with my language study. (Where did my two years of high school French go?)
- **Logistical details.** Yesterday I received 4 of the 7 immunizations I need (left shoulder's a bit sore). This is one of the many details for language school in Switzerland that currently absorbs a significant amount of time. Last night I spent part of the evening reading about malaria and other tropical diseases warranting special consideration and preparation.

Even as I focus the bulk of my energy on the future and starting language school, I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved in Waxhaw, both through a local Bible study and at the Wycliffe/JAARS center. Over the last few months I've been able to serve as a pilot, giving rides along with working on other specific projects when I am not on the road. I hope eventually to help out in the hangar part-time.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Lord willing, I will purchase tickets and establish a start date for language school in the spring. I look forward to joining the Bible translation team in Cameroon as soon as possible and am grateful for your investment in the people of Cameroon through your partnership with me.

Sincerely,

Mailing Address:

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Financial Gifts:

Wycliffe, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200 "For Robert Peterson"

Praises:

1. 4,000 miles of safe, productive travel the last three months.
2. Opportunities to share with individuals and churches about work of Bible translation in Africa.
3. Todd's successful completion of the P.O.W and water survival courses and move to Colorado Springs, CO.

Prayer Requests:

1. Continued spiritual growth, maturity and wisdom as I prepare to leave.
2. Opportunities to share with people and churches about the Lord, His Word and the many Bibleless people.
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 process in Cameroon and the remaining 100+ languages needing God's Word, along with many others in the surrounding countries.



Runway at Mbingo, Cameroon



Preparing to give airplane rides for JAARS Day

How you can help

Prayer:

One challenge for missionaries preparing to go overseas is balancing daily involvement in ministry with preparation for the future. Too much daily involvement saps the time and energy available to get ready, but pure preparation for the future can leave one feeling unproductive in the present. Please pray for direction and balance as I seek to fill my time in North Carolina with productive involvement day-to-day.

Networking:

The introductions friends have provided for me to individuals and churches have made a significant impact on my support. Further help in this area would be greatly appreciated.