

## “To the end of the world and back”

May 2, 2007

Hi all,

Well, actually, it wasn't quite the end of the world, but it was the other side of the equator – a first for me. And what is amazing is that for years I've seen map after map showing a black line at the equator (remember I'm a pilot). However, I can say definitively that there is NO black line at the equator! It's clearly and unmistakably blue! Take a look at the picture. :-)



Although I've been a number of places in Cameroon and the Central African Republic, I had the chance last week to do my first flight to Gabon in service of the Bongolo Hospital. Last week three US doctors visited Christian hospitals both here in Cameroon and in Gabon as part of a certification process for PAACS (Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons). It is a program started by Dave & Becky Thompson who serve at Bongolo to train and mentor African Christian surgeons through a certified residency program.

This program has now spread to hospitals in Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Kenya as well as in Bongolo. There are now ten general surgeons who have completed the program in Bongolo. In addition, Becky Thompson also operates a nursing school and discipleship program with over 200 graduates that are serving all over Africa. I was deeply moved by my visit, and it was an honor to spend an evening as guests of the Thompsons.

I do continue to fly quite a bit these days as I continue my checkout as a pilot here in Cameroon. I am enjoying the opportunity to serve my brothers and sisters and to see first-hand the ministry of many missionaries here. I think this is one of the special privileges of pilots. There are challenges and frustrations here – that's for sure. Simple things in the US are sometimes very complicated and time-consuming here. I continue to have to adjust my expectations of “efficiency”. However, visits like this make it all worthwhile.

In addition to my pilot orientation to all the different runways, routes and procedures related to international flying, I am also the primary flight scheduler. This means a lot of time checking email related to flight requests and a fair amount of time on the phone. In addition, I will soon be designated as supervisor for our Cessna 206 inspection program because I will soon be the only person in Yaoundé with the required maintenance license to do this.

I continue to enjoy and adjust to life and work here in Cameroon. I am especially thankful for good health and strength, that my flight checkout continues to progress well, and that I have found a local Cameroonian church as my home church. In my last letter, I did mention having a stomach bug. I'm thankful that has passed.

Thank you so much for your prayers. **Please join me in praying for:**

1. Times of spiritual growth & renewal amongst a busy schedule.
2. Wisdom and judgment at work: as I fly, schedule flights, and oversee the maintenance program on our airplane.
3. Effective ministry opportunities among friends

Thanks so much for your continued prayers, notes of encouragement and faithful support.

May the Lord bless you!

In Him, Robert

Website: [www.petersonfamily.info/robert](http://www.petersonfamily.info/robert)

Personal Address:

SIL, B.P. 1299, Yaoundé, CAMEROON

Wycliffe Address (for financial gifts):

Wycliffe, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200 (attach note: For Robert Peterson)



Valentines party this year with some of my friends hosted by the local missionary school here in Yaoundé.