

June Update: First Solo Flights!

Dear family and friends,

It's official! **I am now an operational pilot in Cameroon!** Several weeks ago I did my first solo flight, a local flight, to move the airplane to the nearby international airport for an international flight leaving early the next morning to the Central African Republic. My roommate also happened to be leaving for Switzerland the same night so I was able to take him and several friends to the airport so that he could catch his commercial flight. Pictured are my first brave passengers.



Several weeks later, I made my first true "missionary aviation" flight out to a village. First, I helped the Stutsman family move to Banso where Carl will be helping to maintain the Wycliffe helicopter. From there I picked up two missionaries from the village of Nyamboya. Both are involved in Bible translation and literacy work here in Cameroon. While there, I visited briefly with some other missionaries who are working in this area. They came to collect mail and other things that had come in on the plane. It was a great privilege to serve them. This last week has been very busy as I have flown an additional 30 hours! I have posted a few additional pictures from these flights on my website at

www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2.



Three weeks ago I joined four other friends for a final end-of-the-year hiking trip to Mt. Cameroon. At over 13,000' it's the highest mountain in Cameroon! We spent a total of three days hiking. We started at 3,600' and slept the first night at 11,000'. The next morning we reached the summit and then spent the rest of the next two days descending down the back side of the mountain, which is covered in volcanic gravel. The last eruption was in 1999 and the combination of the black lava, green grass, blue sky and white clouds was absolutely amazing! I also have about 60 pictures from this trip on my website. Our only option was to do this hike in the rainy season and we didn't even get rained on. Thank you, Lord! Sadly, of these friends, only one will be coming back to Yaoundé after this summer.



For all the excitement, the last several weeks have also been difficult. May 27th, my Grandma Cypert went to be with the Lord. She was the third and last of my grandparents to die since leaving for language school in Switzerland the summer of 2005. Thank you for your prayers as I miss not being present at any of their memorial services. Over the last few weeks, it has also been hard to say goodbye to a number of friends who are leaving Cameroon. Many of them came as short-term teachers at RFIS (Rain Forest International School – missionary school in Yaoundé) who are now returning home. They will all be missed.

Praise the Lord for:

1. Being able to talk to my family shortly after receiving the news of my grandma's home-going.
2. His grace, mercy and comfort that meets us in our time of need.
3. Completion of my pilot checkout in Cameroon.

Please continue to pray:

1. That I would seek first God's kingdom in all things.
2. For wisdom as I desire to be more intentional and focused regarding discipleship, prayer and/or sharing God's Word this next year.
3. Safety and wisdom in flying – June is expected to be our heaviest month of flying ever.
4. My brother as he is deployed for 2 months in Qatar and for Damaris as she cares for Alyssa & Jeremiah alone. (They have just received their next assignment – Alaska!)

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support. I am deeply grateful for your partnership with me in bringing God's Word to the people of Cameroon. May the Lord bless you richly!

In Him, Robert

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