

July 3, 2008

Dear friends and family,

Thanks for your prayers and notes regarding my upcoming transition to Banzo and all the traveling that is ahead. Dave Carman (the current pilot), myself and Greg McLean traveled this week to Lus to survey the progress of work on their new runway. It is only about 50 miles from Banzo to their village but the trip takes about 4 ½ hours when the roads are “good” and is extremely dangerous in the rainy season. Once the runway is completed, the trip from Yaoundé will take 1.5 hours by airplane instead of 14+ hours by vehicle.



*Traveling to Lus (50 miles, 4 ½ hours, no rain)*  
More at: [www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2](http://www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2)



*Unloading metal doors to secure the McLean's house*

The McLeans are translators assigned to the Mfunte people group near the Nigeria border. They have already spent about 6 months in the village learning the language, but due to the road situation they are in desperate need of reliable transportation throughout the year so that they can press forward with language learning and begin Bible translation. The McLeans hope to move out to the village in the next several weeks since the runway should be completed very soon.

Once we arrived we hiked to the runway to survey the progress, establish the minimum width and gather data for our airstrip charts. Total length is about 1200' which is good. However in certain areas the edges need to be filled so that the runway is actually straight. There is also still too much lateral slope at the far end.



At 6 a.m. the next morning we were welcomed by this group singing and dancing outside our door. This was a traditional war dance that is only done in June of each year. In fact, I began to hear this dance about 2 a.m. in the morning and listened to it draw closer most of the night. However, it was still a bit of a surprise when we realized that they were coming to our place and we needed to go welcome them. Interestingly enough, it reminded me of the all-night wakes that I used to hear years ago in the Philippines.



I returned to Yaoundé tomorrow morning and time is quickly drawing near for my trip to the Philippines. Lord willing I'll be leaving on the 7<sup>th</sup> and arriving in Nasuli on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Over the next couple days I will be finishing a few final projects in the office along with packing

up my apartment in preparation for my move to Banso. Thanks so much for your prayers for this trip since I will have a minimal amount of time in the Philippines to complete all the training goals. It is also typhoon season there so please pray for good weather as well.

I am doing well but it has been very busy and I am tired at the end of each day. Thank you again for your faithful prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you.

In Him,  
Robert Peterson

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