

October 14, 2008

Dear friends and family,

Greetings again from Switzerland. I returned from England last Friday and now I'm preparing to head to the US on Friday. With so much happening I wanted to share a few pictures and thoughts from my time in England with Bernard and Rachael.

I traveled to Liverpool on Thursday, Oct 2nd. Friday the civil ceremony was held at the local courthouse. I was actually quite impressed and refreshed as the officiator of the ceremony affirmed that the "laws of England recognize marriage as the union of one man and one woman." Afterward we went to a local park for pictures.

The wedding itself on Saturday was really a wonderful time and it went really smoothly even though there were three different languages (English, French & Korean) and cultures present. I was particularly honored to be the best man and as is traditional with weddings here, I was the only standing with Bernard and Rachael. This reality of being the only one really struck me in a variety of ways. Obviously, I felt extremely honored beyond words. However, as I stood there, a number of thoughts from John 3 also came to mind. John the Baptist speaks of Jesus saying "He must become greater. I must become less" and in some sense I felt embarrassed to be the only one standing with them, almost as a distraction. I have been in other weddings where I was one of many others up front. This however was my first standing alone with the couple and it was really a different feeling for me. I was reminded of how we are to seek that all glory and honor be directed to God alone.

As I stood there, I also thought of the singularity of John the Baptist as one who "prepared the way for the bridegroom" and realized that John had worked hard - even to the point of giving his own life - to prepare the way for Jesus, the bridegroom.

As I stood next to Bernard and realized that I hadn't really "prepared the way" for Bernard, I was struck with a certain disappointment. Given my presence in Cameroon, it would have been hard to help Bernard and Rachael more than I did. However, the Lord really used this experience to deeply renew my desire to be His preparer of the way. One day He will return and I don't want to be standing there wishing I had somehow prepared the way for His coming.



The reception afterward was a lot of fun and included a number of speeches translated from English to French to Korean or from Korean to English to French or from French to English and then to Korean. Quite a riot! I loved the diversity.

We were also introduced to a number of traditional English square dances which were a lot of fun. It was great to see the Koreans enjoying the experience as well.

Following the wedding, I traveled with the two families of Bernard and Rachael to North Wales and Paris. North Wales was truly amazing...amazingly cold! It was really gorgeous, rugged country. The people have my respect. Thankfully Paris was sunny and comfortable.

I am enjoying my week here in Switzerland of much needed rest. I'm realizing that I'm more tired than I realized. Although I still have to work a bit while I'm here, the change of pace has been helpful. It's been two years since I lived in Switzerland but I've been so blessed to connect with so many friends again...many more than I expected. I leave Zurich on Friday to return to the US for aviation recurrency.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Health and strength for my ongoing travels to/from and within the US.
2. Good recurrency training at JAARS.
3. The helicopter and final piece need for the Helio are still stuck in customs.
4. The Lord's leading regarding personal ministry/church involvement in Banso.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and generosity.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

Website: 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)



Underneath the Eiffel Tower