

February 8, 2008

Dear friends and family,

Although I intended to write this email during a 5-day road trip in the Central African Republic, I didn't succeed in doing so because of a number of extra flight requests. This flight was for ICDI, a Christian non-profit organization that drills and maintains wells in central Africa. In fact it is the only group currently drilling wells in all of central Africa...one enormous region.

One of the necessary habits in Africa is learning to filter all your drinking water (including water used for brushing your teeth) and to carry it with you *everywhere*. I keep extra bottles in the house, car, airplane and backpack. I even bring it to church sometimes. One of the exceptional experiences during this trip to CAR was stopping along the side of a super dusty road in the middle of Africa at the height of dry season and drinking clean water from the well. It was such a refreshing and unique experience. ICDI is distinctively Christian and their work and words speak of Jesus, *the* spring of living water! It was a privilege to serve them.



Drinking fresh unfiltered water in middle of Africa – Amazing!

I arrived home last Monday to the news that the two regional airlines in Cameroon had suddenly stopped all flights.

This meant 20+ international visitors that had scheduled to travel by airliner to the far north of Cameroon (450+ miles) for a Bible dedication in mid-February were suddenly stranded. The overland trip requires about 24 hours of travel by train and “bush taxi”. As the primary flight scheduler, I spent a lot of time organizing flights for the most critical of these people. The rest will have to travel by road or an alternate regional airline that is attempting to restart service.

Several days later, the evacuation of Chad began including all Wycliffe personnel. Although we have not been flying directly in to Chad at this point since we don't have an overflight permit, we have been actively “collecting” various people that have managed to make it into Cameroon at various places along the border and bring them back to Yaoundé. There are still several other

mission groups that are stranded in Chad and we are working on options to fly into Chad to get them. However, the lack of a functioning government to grant us an overflight permit is one of the major obstacles.

As you can guess, it's been a bit more than "full-time" here lately and thus apologies for the lack of news. However, I am enjoying the chance to lend a hand. Coordinating all these flights has been a bit like jigsaw puzzle; only a bit more interesting.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Those still attempting to leave Chad,
2. For those that are "out" but have left friends and most of their personal belongings behind.
3. Peace and stability to return to Chad
4. Safety as we continue to fly for Chad people and for the upcoming Bible dedication.
5. Those assisting evacuees (our mission housing is all full. It's likely a few guys may stay at my place).

Personally I am doing very well. Thank you so much for your prayers. My Bible studies continue to go well and be a big blessing to me. I am looking forward to attending the upcoming Bible dedication since I will be spending the weekend with my passengers.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support. May the Lord bless you.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

P.S. Cameroon will face Egypt in the African National Cup Finals (Soccer) this Sunday. Everyone here is pretty excited and maybe a bit nervous since Cameroon lost their first match of the tournament to Egypt.

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