

May 5, 2008

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from a warm and muggy Cameroon. We are now well into the “short rainy season” which could also be called the “short hot season”...there’s a longer version from August to October. It’s been a while since I wrote an update about work so, in case you were wondering, yes I’m still flying, and flying quite a bit! In fact, I’ve spent 8 of the last 13 nights on the road.

**BREAKING NEWS: Thank you so much for your prayers and generosity regarding my vehicle project!** I just received my April statement, and I discovered that *the project is fully funded*. The title and insurance were transferred on May 1! Thank you so much for this outpouring of generosity!

Most recently, our aviation department spent last week in the north of Cameroon surveying several national parks in conjunction with the WWF. **This flying funds a translator subsidy program that covers nearly two-thirds of the cost of a flight for Wycliffe translators** and is also an opportunity to encourage conservation and tourism in Cameroon.



We had originally attempted this survey in late February, but, due to poor visibility, we had to abandon the project and re-schedule it for late-April. This survey went really well, and I believe there is a much clearer picture of the current wildlife situation in Cameroon. Between the two airplanes we flew about 65 hours in 6 days. We were airborne about 6 a.m. and averaged about 4.5 hours each morning and then an additional 2.5 hours each evening. Some days were particularly hot (85+ degrees at 5 a.m. in the morning). **We are very thankful for safety during this extended time of low-level flying** and enjoyed the chance to see hippos, elephants, giraffes, antelopes, monkeys, leopards and the like in the wild. I’ll be creating a photo album on my website ([www.petersonfamily.info/robert](http://www.petersonfamily.info/robert)) in the next week or two.

The week previous, I also spent 3 days in Maroua, in the far north of Cameroon, flying for a church team. It’s even hotter there: 107 degrees at 2 p.m! Even though I spent most of my time inside, it is still really oppressive. **You may use sheets and blankets to stay warm, but in Maroua sheets and blankets are used to stay cool!** Since the humidity is often quite low, the best way to keep cool and sleep is to cover yourself with a wet sheet. This may sound uncomfortable, but the heat is much worse.

In February I also had the special privilege to fly Ewen and Elizabeth Cummins (along with their five kids) back to Maroua. Elizabeth Cummins and I grew up together in the Philippines. Her parents were Wycliffe translators there, and my dad regularly flew the Grayden family in and out of the village. **Now 25 years later, I’m flying her family around Cameroon; amazing!**



The Cummins are Wycliffe translators working in eastern Chad among a refuge people group from the Darfur region of Sudan. Their family was forced to evacuate for about a month during the civil unrest in Chad so they came to Yaoundé. It was so much fun to reconnect with Elizabeth and meet her family. Their kids were such a joy. **Please pray for them.** They face enormous physical and spiritual challenges. Eastern Chad is even hotter and more hostile than Maroua, and **it has proven very difficult to “make a home” among a people group that has no home.** There are additional pictures from the flight on my website.

Two other significant aviation events occurred in the last several months. Personally I surpassed 1500 hours of total flight time. Although this isn't extraordinary, **I praise the Lord for his provision and protection these 62+ “days” I've spent in the air.** Secondly, I had the honor of flying the 10,000<sup>th</sup> hour (416<sup>th</sup> “day”) in N123TM, the Cessna 206 that is based here in Yaoundé. N123TM has been in Cameroon since 1992 and has spent roughly the last 7000 hours of its life carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. It has covered roughly 1,000,000 miles since arriving in Cameroon. It continues to be a real workhorse for the kingdom, and we pray for many more years of faithful service.

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

In Him,  
Robert Peterson

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



*We had a full plane!*



*And a full taxi!*



*Passengers & family present for 10,000<sup>th</sup> hour*