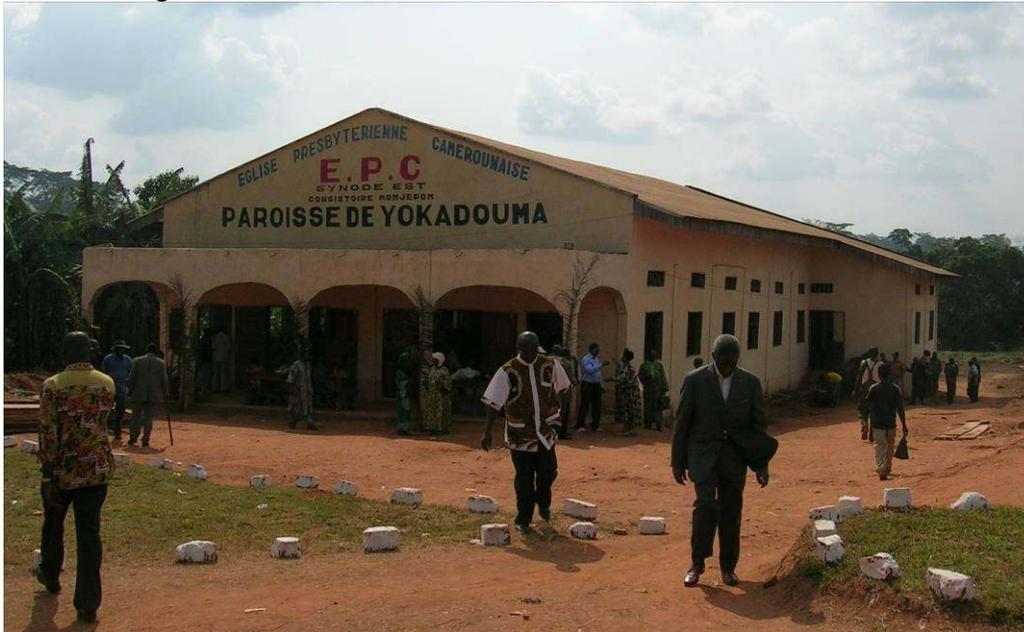


January 12, 2009

Dear friends and family,

Greetings for Yokadouma, Cameroon. This is a small town located in the far southeast portion of Cameroon. I am here with the director of Wycliffe's work in Cameroon and another Cameroon involved in church relations for the 51st convention of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. They are seeking ways to encourage Cameroonian involvement in Bible translation and literacy efforts here in Cameroon. We will be spending the night here and then returning to Yaoundé tomorrow.



I apologize for the lack of Christmas or New Year's greetings. December started out busy with CCAA (Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority) runway inspections and traveling with the new helicopter and pilot to help get this new program started. **We praise the Lord that the helicopter program is now up and running and has been able to serve a number of missionary families along with completing several medical evacuations.** Since Banso is located on the main ring road in northwest Cameroon and is Wycliffe's aviation base, I also have a lot of visitors – especially during the busy Christmas travel season.

One of the challenges of this Christmas season was changing the propeller on the Helio Courier. Normally this would take about 4 hours to complete. Unfortunately, due to complications with the overhaul, I worked for about 3 days attempting to determine and repair the problem so that the prop would not have to be returned to the US. Unfortunately, the propeller will need to be returned to the US for repair and then re-shipped back to us.



Torquing the propeller to 450 ft. #

I spent Christmas in Yaoundé with the Youngs. Daryl is fellow pilot and our program manager here in Cameroon. I had a great Christmas with lots of wonderful food and fellowship. Thanks to a good internet connection, I was also able to talk to both my parents and brother and family on Christmas day which was a great privilege.



My Christmas season hair-do thanks to Abby (pictured: Hanna, Abby, Caleb Young)

On December 27th, 5 friends and I traveled by bus and bush taxi to Banso for New Years. It was great to have a number of my Yaoundé friends be able to visit my new home and enjoy the cool weather. One of the highlights was a 2 – 3 hour bare-back horseback ride in the mountains near Banso. The horses belong to local Fulani

people. They are primarily Muslim and are basically an unreached people group. We were all extremely sore for at least 3 days after. However, it was well worth it!

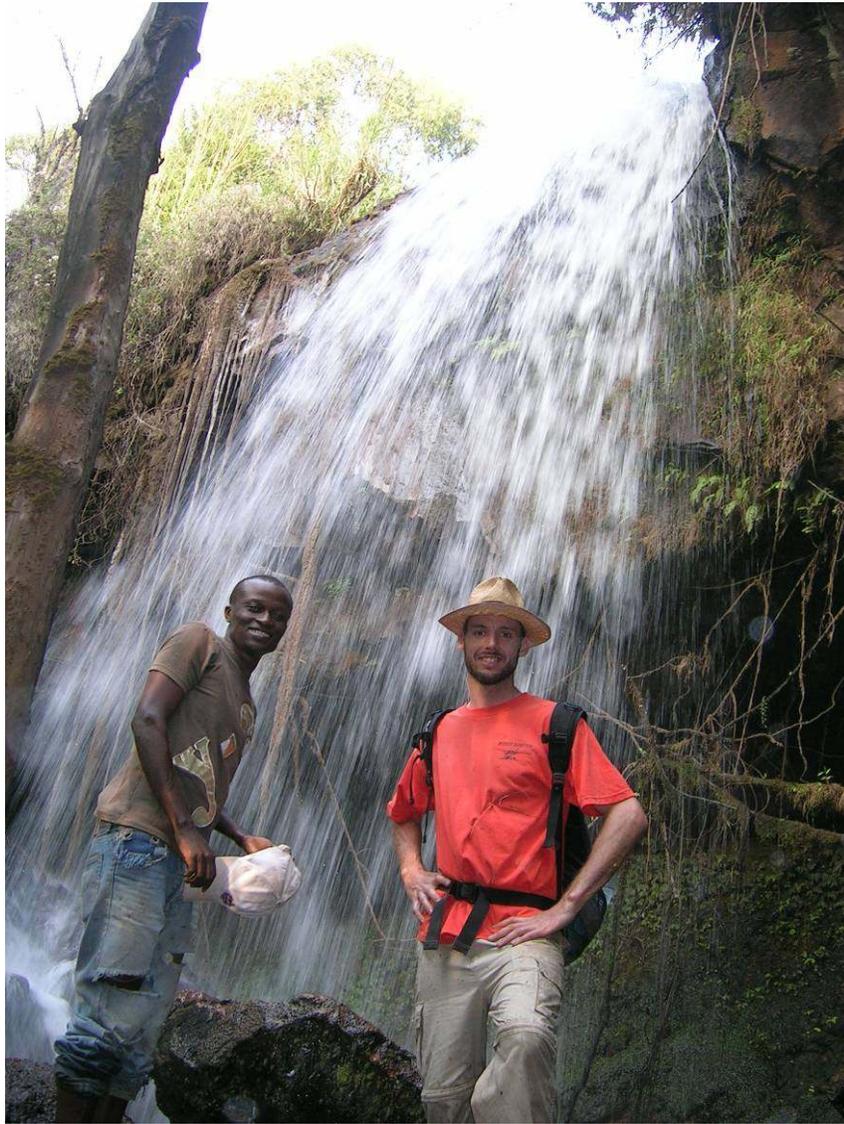


*Yes, my feet are almost touching the ground!
(more at www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2)*



Playing the “shoe” game with Fulani kids in Takwi.

It was a special privilege to have Fiacre among the group that came to Banso. Since moving to Banso, Fiacre and I haven't been able to meet together regularly. However, it's great to see how he continues to grow in his faith. During this last year, he completed a series of 24 self-study Bible classes through Emmaus and then started formal Bible training this fall at the evangelical seminary in Yaoundé. (See my Easter 2008 email update at www.petersonfamily.info/robert for the beginning of the story)



Fiacre & I hiking out to a local waterfall in Banso

Thank you for your continued prayers and notes of encouragements. December was a busy but productive month and January is looking to be the same. I am very thankful for several days of rest and relaxation that I had with friends around New Years. Please continue to pray for:

1. Continued safety and wisdom in flying. It continues to be very windy!
2. Wisdom for me as I tackle a number of unfinished organizational and financial details related to the new helicopter.
3. Strength, grace and wisdom regarding community involvement in Banso.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and generosity.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

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