

## May 2009: A bag of cement, a box of Bibles, and a 7-year old boy?

Greetings from Kouhouat! I am here for the day with several doctors visiting patients at the Cameroon Baptist clinic. I'll answer my "bag of cement, a box of Bibles and a 7 year old boy" question shortly but, first, a brief update.

I spent most of April in Yaoundé for our tri-annual branch conference and spiritual retreat. The spiritual retreat was a big blessing, and it was fun to discover that the speaker was also a fellow student of my dad's at Moody Aviation. Our branch conference went very well, and a number of important decisions were made regarding our goals and priorities over the next several years.

During two of the weeks of branch conference, there is also a FES (Field Education Services) program. This is effectively school but focuses on social activities and practical skills that home-school children in the village don't normally have the chance to enjoy. I was asked to be a physical science "technical advisor" to the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Their project was to build something using a variety of simple machines. They decided to create a water balloon alarm clock. Although I wasn't able to be present for the official unveiling since I was flying, I was happy to hear that after a couple attempts it was successful.



*FES Physical Science project using simple machines to pop a balloon*

My biggest project in Yaoundé was removing the turbocharger on the Helio Courier. Due to a change in runway needs over the last several years, we made the decision to remove the turbocharger in order to save weight and reduce complexity. Although we didn't know exactly how much weight we would save, we knew we would save some. So what do "a bag of cement, a box of Bibles and a 7 year old boy" have in common? Well, about 50 pounds, which is how much weight was saved. This was a very pleasant surprise and definitely more than we were expecting. 50 more pounds of fuel or cargo on every flight is really very significant.

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*Collection of turbocharger parts removed from the Helio.*

I returned to Banso last weekend after what felt like a very long time away. I immediately unloaded the airplane and departed to pick up another missionary family. However, 3 miles from my destination, I ran into rain and had to divert to another nearby airport. It rained steadily for the next 4 hours, so eventually I called a taxi and spent the night at a rest house. This was my first flight in the northwest region since the end of dry season, and, although I'm glad that the dust is finally disappearing, let's just say, "rainy season is back!"



*Camping out in the plane waiting for the rain to stop*

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Thank you for your continued prayers, notes of encouragement and faithful support. I am happy to report that after several weeks of research, my photo gallery is working again. Now all I need to do is add some photos! Please continue to pray for:

1. Spiritual growth and freshness.
2. Continued safety and wisdom in flying.
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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