

August 21, 2009

Greetings from Bamenda. This weekend I was a taxi-man for several people and visiting a few friends. Tomorrow I will be visiting Ismaila's family. Ismaila is a friend who just finished his first year of nursing school in Banzo. He is planning to come to Banzo tomorrow and will be staying with me for a couple weeks. **Please pray that our friendship would be strengthened and for freedom in our conversations.**



*Adamou's Graduation*

His roommate, Adamou, just graduated from medical training and I was invited to be his photographer since he is from the far north of Cameroon and his family wasn't able to come for graduation. Transportation for one person would have cost some the equivalent of 2-3 months salary. It was very exciting later to discover that I was present for the New Testament dedication in his language (Mofu) and was able to show him some pictures that included neighbors and friends. Adamou really thirsts to know more of the Lord. **Please pray for the Lord's leading regarding his potential return to the Banzo area to work.**

Over the last several months I have been working on a short article for the next JAARS publication "Rev. 7". I have attached a copy of the article titled, "*An Aviator in Africa. Flying for a mission offers variety, challenge, and joy.*" The full publication is available online at <http://www.jaars.org/multimedia/publications/rev7>.

Although my flight schedule has been relatively quiet the last few weeks I have stayed busy. Over the last two weeks, I've spent quite a bit of time with a young orphan boy named Boris. I was trying to help him with some school fees but began to realize that something was wrong. Two weeks ago, we visited the principle of his school and caretaker. Unfortunately I found out that most everything he had been telling me was a lie and that letters supposing to have come from the school were actually forgeries. We've spent a lot of time finding the truth and this weekend I had the opportunity to share with him the forgiveness of God in the context of his stealing from me. **Please pray that God would touch his heart through this experience and turn him away from stealing.**

I have quite a few kids that come and visit me each week and I have been praying about what God would have me do. As a result of this experience with Boris and other expressions of interest in God's Word, **I will be exploring the possibility of a small Bible study with these kids. Please pray for wisdom and direction with these children.** It seems that several of them have been abandoned by their fathers so they live with very little counsel or discipline.

The end of July I traveled to Lus to finalize the layout of the Lus runway. On the return, we came upon a taxi with a broken axle in a very isolated area and a very pregnant lady who was starting to have contractions. We were able to carry her to the nearest clinic (45 minute drive) avoiding a sure birth in the bush.



*Dropping off a pregnant lady at a clinic.*

Following finalization of the runway at Lus, I sent a letter requesting CCAA (Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority) inspectors to come and survey the runway in order to authorize us to use it. Unfortunately, the CCAA is in the middle of a major restructuring and does not want to send inspectors until the new standards are finalized. However, these standards are taken from international airport regulations and yet appear to be being proposed for our runways. Obviously, it is impossible for us to build large runways with firefighting equipment, weather stations and tower facilities. Our current yearly runway inspections with the CCAA cost exceeds \$1000. This adds a lot of overhead to our hourly operating costs. **Please pray for wisdom as I research and prepare to meet with the CCAA regarding this problem.**

One "exciting" event of the last couple weeks is that after three years in Africa (as of August 15th) without having seen a live snake...I've seen two. When a visiting doctor discovered this snake in a neighboring house, she asked me to come kill it. Initially I didn't know what type it was until I went to sweep it out of the house and it flared up revealing itself unmistakably as a Cobra. It wasn't able to move well on the waxed cement floor so I corralled it for a minute until we were able to get a picture. Thankfully this event was not dangerous since it was discovered out in the open. However, I am still reminded of God's protection and provision in every circumstance.



Thank you for your continued prayers and notes of encouragement. I am thankful for three good years here in Cameroon and see that I continue to adapt to various aspects of life and culture. Over the last few months I have been especially struck by the beauty of Cameroon. Although rainy season can be challenging it is really a beautiful time of year as well.

In Him,  
Robert Peterson

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