

Christmas Greetings from Cameroon!

December 20, 2009

When you think of Christmas, maybe this is the landscape you expect or at least dream about.



Here in Cameroon, it's dry season. Although there's definitely no snow falling, there is dust falling every day – both outside and inside the house! **This is our Christmas landscape and it's beautiful too!**



The first picture was taken by my parents who are in Alaska, the second in Bango. As I look at the complete contrast of the pictures, it's almost hard to imagine that they were taken on the same planet! **This Christmas our family is living in two different worlds, and yet we are joined (connected?) by a common joy through our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ.**

As I sit in the small village of Lassini with a team of doctors and hear the cries of a lady in labor in this small clinic, I think of Mary & Joseph alone in a stable. I'm also thankful that there is room in this little clinic for a lady having her first child!

November was a busy month with over twice as much flying as normal. One of the major events in November was the opening of the **first and only cardiac surgical unit in western central Africa** at a Catholic hospital. I flew several representatives of the sponsors from Milan, Italy, along with the Italian ambassador to Cameroon and the Cameroonian Minister of Health. The minister's entourage included over 15 vehicles and 100 people, many of them military or government officials, who were all present at the runway. The visit of a minister is always an enormous event here.

Another interesting experience while working at the hangar was a surprise visit of 2 groups of students from a local school. After an introduction to aviation and the work of Wycliffe in Cameroon, each of the kids had the opportunity to have their picture taken in the airplane. Each group had about 60 – 70 students.



The most entertaining part happened just as the second group prepared to leave. Rain moved in, and, although most of the students had walked to the runway, they all wanted to ride back to school in the little van that had come. I stood in absolute amazement as the kids packed themselves into this little van. Although I would love to have made an official count, I am sure that it was close to 40 kids!



We continue to struggle to gain approval to use our two new runways that I've been working on since arriving in Banzo. Understanding the capabilities of high-performance short-field aircraft such as we operate seems to be a factor along with changing regulations. Once the Christmas season has passed, we will try to make an appointment to discuss these questions. **Please continue to pray for favor and approval.** The long delay is discouraging both to the missionaries and pilots.

Thank you for your continued prayers and notes of encouragement. Please continue to pray for the opportunities I have to be a witness here in Cameroon. I am hoping and praying that I can re-start meeting with a new non-Christian friend of mine in January.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

Website: www.petersonfamily.info/robert

Personal Address:

SIL, B.P. 1299, Yaoundé, CAMEROON

Wycliffe Address (for financial gifts):

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