

April 1, 2010

Greetings from Cameroon. These last two months here in Cameroon have been my busiest and most challenging since arriving. I just arrived in Yaoundé yesterday for our annual spiritual retreat and branch conference, and I'm thankful for this opportunity to stop, take a deep breath, rejoice and reflect this Easter.

The beginning of March I helped with the annual inspection on the Robinson R44 helicopter that is based here in Bango. This was my first time to work on a helicopter, so I learned a lot in the process.



In the middle of March, we hosted a team of aviation safety inspectors from MSI (Missionary Safety International) and Wycliffe/JAARS. This tri-annual review looks at every aspect of operating a mission aviation program and provides an outside look at our operations. It was good to have them here. The review was very positive, but there are still areas that need to be addressed. **Please pray for our aviation team as we meet next week.**



Myself, Jon Egeler, Eric Wolf, Daryl Bussert & Stan Schmoe

I flew this team for the Banso visit along with a visit to another local missionary pastor who operates his own airplane. It was a fun challenge to evaluate and operate at this new airstrip.



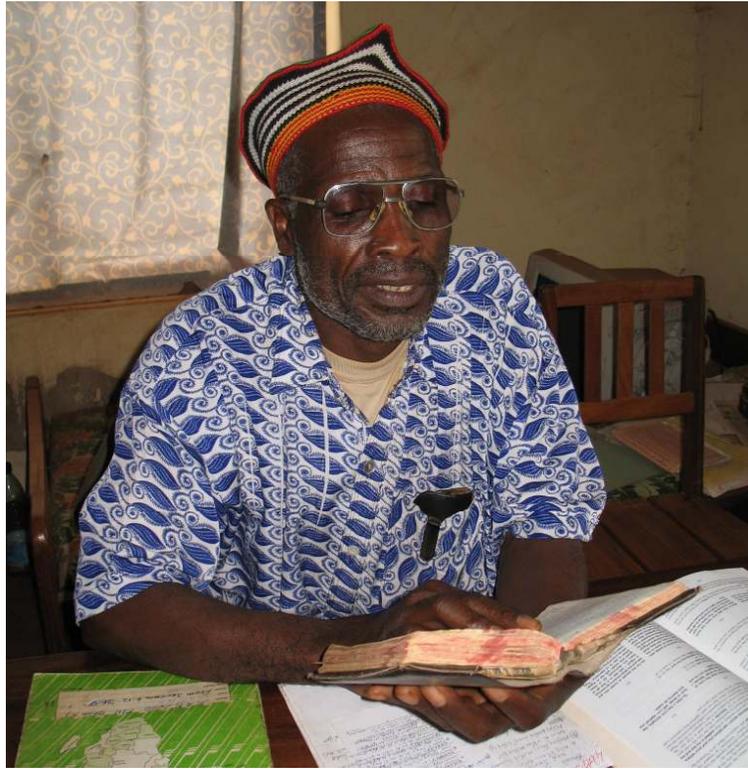
Landing at Sabga

(for a complete sequence of pictures see www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2)

The highlight of the last two months was visiting the Lamnsso Bible translation center here in Banso. CABTAL (Cameroonian Association for Bible Translation and Literary) is the Cameroonian version of Wycliffe. The team in Banso consists of about 15 translators who are working hard to finish the translation of the Old Testament and a revision of the New Testament to be dedicated in 2012, Lord willing.

I especially enjoyed talking to Fai Limbuuy. Being a “Fai” or traditional ruler also brings significant responsibility to perform various rites and rituals required by the African traditional religious system. However, Fai Limbuuy rejected all these when he dedicated his life to the Lord. He was nearly killed for this refusal, but,

through the integrity of his leadership, the Lord rescued him and his title was even affirmed! During our visit, he was translating Jeremiah 44 and shared how much he could see God's mercy to his own people, who have behaved just like the Israelites of Jeremiah's day. I was deeply moved and blessed by our time together. **Please pray for Fai Limbuuy and the Lamnso Bible translation team! About 85% of the Old Testament has been drafted!**



Fai Limbuuy reading from his 1991 Lamnso New Testament. "Beautifully" well used!

One of the reasons this month has been so busy is that I covered several flights for the Yaoundé-base airplane, which had an electrical problem. Not only did this add quite a bit of extra flying, but the weather during this time was not ideal either. One of these flights was to take students schooling at Rain Forest International School in Yaoundé to spend spring break with their parents in their various villages. It's always great to see the kids reunited with the families after months apart!



Precious cargo...school kids returning home for Easter break

However, about two weeks ago there was a major dust storm in the far north of Cameroon that scattered Harmattan dust from the Sahara all across Cameroon, Nigeria and Central African Republic. This dust reduced visibility to less than a ¼ mile in places. As a result I had to spend several extra nights in Yaoundé while waiting for the dust to clear enough to fly. I still ended up flying most of one week in 1 – 2 mile visibility.



*If you can't see anything, that's because there's nothing to see except dust, dust and more dust!
It gets old quick!*

It rained twice, the 13th and 15th of March, in perfect accordance with the “official” end of dry season. The rain really helped reduce the dust but turned it into extremely slippery mud. Had I not had four-wheel drive, I would have been in trouble trying to get from the hangar back down to the house! It hasn't rained since mid-March, so we are ready for more. The water supply is getting scarce.



More pictures at www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2

As I mentioned in my last update, I am preparing to **return to the US in July for 7 – 9 months of furlough**. I am currently working on tickets but have been too busy to make any additional plans. I'm also setting up a schedule for handing off various responsibilities here along with the preservation of the aircraft and engine while the aircraft is shut down. **Please pray for me as I prepare to leave and as I make plans for furlough.**

Thank you for your continued prayers and notes of encouragement. The Bible studies continue to go well though my time to prepare has been limited. **Please pray that I have adequate time to prepare and that I would be a witness in every word and deed here in Cameroon.**

In Him,
Robert Peterson

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