

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



February 2012

robert_peterson@sil.org

Greetings from Maroua, in the far north of Cameroon! Maroua is situated in a very arid region and is hot, especially now in the middle of dry season. It was very nice to have air-conditioning last night. Otherwise I'm not sure I would have been able to sleep. I am on a three-day flight this week with a team from the Presbyterian Church food program.

I have enjoyed several special events the last several months. Recently another pilot and I attended a Search and Rescue (SAR) seminar hosted by the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Transportation and the various branches of the military. During the three-day seminar, we reviewed technical aspects of the international SAR infrastructure, on-the-ground equipment and recommended procedures.



Overview of an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)

For the final presentation of the seminar, we were invited to give an overview our current Search and Rescue equipment and procedures including our HF radio and satellite-based flight tracking systems. Afterwards, many people expressed their appreciation and said that it was very helpful to see a concrete present-day implementation. We were also able to make a number of significant connections with people in positions of responsibility within the CCAA and Ministry of Transport.



The largest one, the male, weighed 92# and was estimated to be 40 - 50 years old!

Although our standard load is passengers and their cargo, we sometimes receive special requests to help in unusual situations. Recently three large and fairly rare land tortoises were recovered from poachers on the coast of Cameroon roughly 400 miles away from their native habitat. Given the relatively poor condition of the tortoises after their long journey overland, we received a request to help return them inland. Although one managed to get partially out of his cage during the flight, he was too big to move very far.

The third unusual event was during a recent flight to Garoua for a SIM mission project. SIM has raised a significant amount of money to distribute a 34-volume set of reference theological works in French to pastors throughout central and western Africa. There is a general poverty of theological works in French so several organizations are working together to provide these resources in French. Several missionaries needed to travel around Cameroon to identify pastors and set up distribution conferences. Harmattan, the dust that blows across western central Africa from the Sahara desert every dry season, is a seasonal reality. The visibility when I arrived in Garoua was unique because although it was only 1/2 mile, I was still able to land since there is an instrument approach and lighting system at Garoua. The approach went very well and the runway became visible only about 20 seconds before we landed. I am thankful for a good, safe flight and approach as well that allowed the passengers to continue this project on schedule.



Landing at Garoua in heavy dust - Looks like evening but it's 10 a.m.

Praises:

- 1) Spiritual encouragement and growth. Reading "Hearing God" by Dallas Willard.
- 2) Good month of flying in Harmattan with reduced visibilities. Opportunities to meet new people and to serve various ministries of the church in Cameroon.
- 3) Two Cameroonian friends who are staying with me (1 long-term and 1 short-term). Opportunities to encourage and share with them and others.

Prayer:

- 1) Continued spiritual growth, humility and daily dependence on the Lord.
- 2) Wisdom and safety within aviation - prioritization, effectiveness and alertness as I supervise much of the aircraft maintenance work.
- 3) The Spirit of God to speak and reveal the things of God to several men that I minister to.

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)