

# In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



April 2012

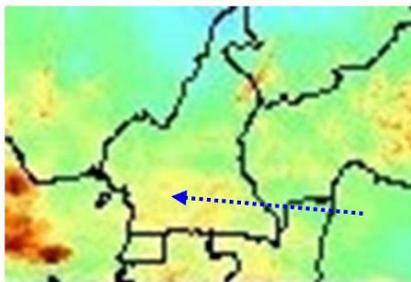
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Greetings from Cameroon where we are thankful that the rains have finally begun to win the battle against the dust and we can see clearly again! Certainly the rain, and in particular thunderstorms, present a challenge. However after several months of flying in limited visibility due to dust and always feeling the need to wash your hands after touching anything, the rains are refreshing!

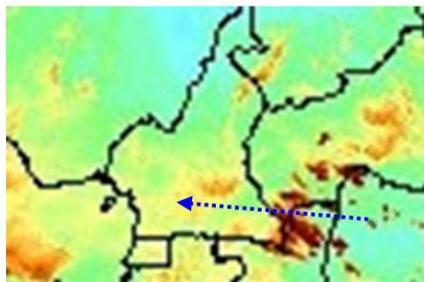
Some of the most challenging weather we deal with in flying is during the transition from rainy season to dry season or vice versa. The atmosphere is very unstable which results in rapidly changing weather patterns and conditions. On a recent flight in March, I was amazed by the incredible rate at which the weather around me changed. On my first leg from Bangui, Central African Republic to Gemena, Democratic Republic of Congo with a team of Wycliffe members traveling to visit several translation projects, I was flying in clear skies with no sign of thunderstorms in the area. Knowing I had another 4.5 hours of non-stop flying from Gemena back to our home base in Yaounde, I unloaded the passengers, paid the landing fees and filed the flight plan briskly and launched for Yaounde.

Shortly after leveling off at 10,000', the Stormscope, a device to detect static discharges associated with lightning, started coming alive with activity. Depending on the conditions, the system can detect activity several hundred miles away. However I could clearly see that the clouds around me were also rapidly building. Within 20 minutes, my direct route home was blocked. I turned to the north and continued monitoring the weather. Left, right and behind me quickly filled with thunderstorms over the next 30 minutes. However, north of me remained open and my diversion about 60 miles to the north resulted in a smooth return flight to Yaounde. After landing I looked at the satellite picture and I was again impressed that this system had build up in about 4 hours. **Thank you for your prayers for safety, good weather and good judgment when the weather isn't good!**

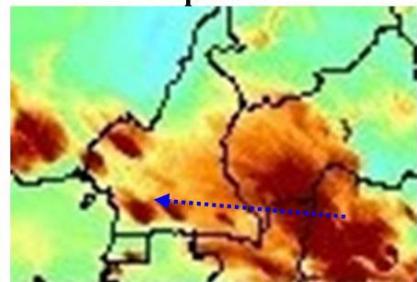
9 a.m.



11 a.m.



1 p.m.



*Direct route from Gemena, DRC to Yaounde, Cameroon*

**Monday, the aviation department in Cameroon opened a new chapter as N207SR, a Cessna 207 modified with a Soloy turbine engine completed its ferry flight from JAARS, in Waxhaw NC, to Yaounde Cameroon!** Pilots Tom Beekman & Bruce Powell flew about 50 hours in one week. Tom Beekman will stay for 4 weeks to help us implement this aircraft before returning to his responsibilities at JAARS.

The Soloy is slightly larger than our current aircraft. However most significantly, it burns JetA turbine fuel which is available within Cameroon. Our other aircraft use AvGas which is not available locally but is shipped from JAARS in drums. **Please pray for our aviation department as we implement this new aircraft while maintaining our day-to-day operations.** I am focusing on flying and maintaining our Cessna 206 so that other pilots can learn as much as possible from Tom Beekman the next 4 weeks he is here.



Arriving at YaoundeVillé, Cameroon. More pictures at [www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2/](http://www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2/)



*The storm that rolled through while waiting for the Soloy to arrive.*

**Praises:**

- 1) Two weeks of branch conference and spiritual retreat. We were blessed by the ministry of Sherwood Lingenfelter from Fuller Theological Seminary.
- 2) The privilege we have as God's children, loved and accepted by Him, to share that love with others.
- 3) Safe arrival of the Soloy from the US and for the hard work of those at JAARS that prepared it to come. It is excellent condition and ready to enter service!

**Prayer:**

- 1) Continued spiritual growth, humility and daily dependence on the Lord.
- 2) Wisdom and safety within aviation - prioritization, effectiveness and alertness as we now have 2 aircraft in our hangar with both flight and maintenance occurring simultaneously.
- 3) The Spirit of God to speak and reveal the things of God to several men that I minister to.

In Him,

Robert Peterson

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