

# In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



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Greetings from a cool and cloudy Cameroon! We are in our short semi-dry season which is also one of the coolest and most comfortable seasons of the year. It is also once of the nicest times to fly with limited thunderstorm activity and great visibility. The landscape is especially beautiful these days.

The last several months have been fairly intense within the aviation department as we welcomed a new aircraft, a new pilot family and entered into a time of analysis and planning regarding the changing needs within aviation. Certain routes have become less common as the distribution of missionary families changes. **Please pray for us as we evaluate the temporary and long-term changes in our reality and seek to adjust so that we can be effective ministers of the gospel.**

Last week we completed a routine inspection on the Cessna 206 which I supervised as the FAA-designated inspector for our Cessna 206. It went well and I'm pleased with the maintenance status of the airplane. Even though it was built in 1972, this airplane continues to serve very effectively! This week I will be working closely with Carman Frith, an avionics technician who is coming from the US, to recertify our altimeters, transponders and encoders that are required instruments for flying in the clouds.

Fiacre, one of my friends who is in Cameroon as a refugee from Rwanda, recently wrote his "GCE" or Graduate Certification Exam, the final comprehensive exam for the equivalent of his high school diploma. He will not get his results until the end of July but feels confident that he was successful. We are looking forward to celebrating with him! Lord willing, he will be accepted to enter a three-year professional training program for language translation later this year.

His brother, Ishewa, also came to Cameroon several years ago to study. Unfortunately, his difficult days as a child soldier in Rwanda during the genocide, along with his own choices, led him down a dark path. The last year has been extremely difficult for Fiacre as he tried to help his brother. As the situation did not improve, various attempts were made so that Ishewa could return to Rwanda. For nearly a year, he either refused to cooperate or was so unstable that it was impossible. Several weeks ago the Lord answered our prayers and Ishewa decided he was ready to travel. In just a few days all the necessary components for him to travel came through in an amazing way. I drove them to the airport and although it was hard to see Fiacre's only family leave, we both breathed a great sigh of relief when the airplane departed. **Please continue to pray for Ishewa. He is not doing well.**



*At the airport with Fiacre and Ishewa*

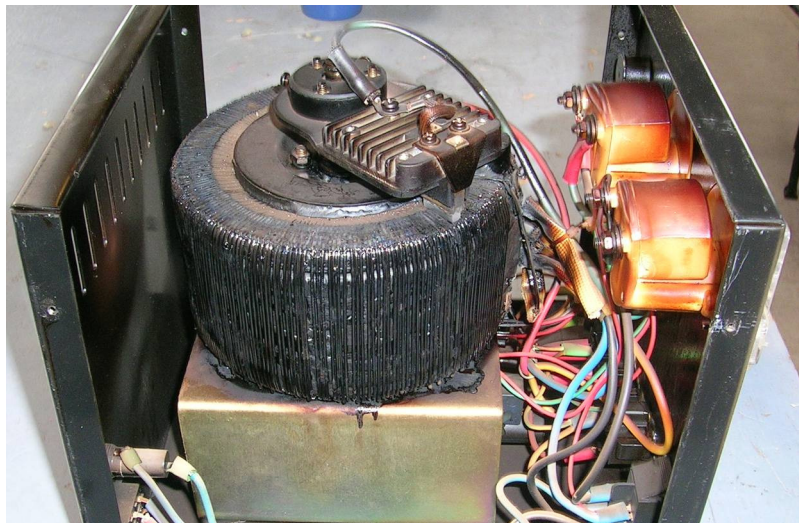


*Ismaila's birthday & Ilyasu's graduation*

Ismaila, my Fulani friend, continues to stay with me. I enjoy his friendship and sharing life in the house. I continue to learn lots about Cameroon through him. We recently celebrated his birthday together in good bachelor form - a meal and then a trip to the bakery afterwards to look for dessert. Ismaila is doing well in school. These final three months of school promise to be intense as he works to complete his Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. He is the first from his direct family to reach this level of education!

His half-brother, Ilyasu, recently graduated from gendarme training. He came for dinner and a small celebration and has now moved to the far north of Cameroon. I continue to enjoy and thank the Lord for the various opportunities to welcome new friends into my home and to share the love of Christ with them as I have opportunity. **Please continue to pray that I would make the most of every opportunity the Lord brings my way.**

Sometimes life in Cameroon is challenging, sometimes it is amazing, and sometimes it is just rather amusing. I don't think I would have ever had the chance to see a toasted voltage regulator in the US. Several years ago while living in Banso, I shipped this regulator from the US to Cameroon to boost the voltage in the evenings so that the fluorescent lights would work. This is a common challenge in villages at the end of the electrical grid system where the voltage is low.



For three years the lights in the house worked great! Unfortunately, an overcompensation in the grid led to 300+ volts in the house and the regulator sacrificed its life for the rest of the system. It smelled so bad it had to be moved out of the house!

**Praises:**

- 1) Thank God for renewed strength after a week of not feeling well.
- 2) Thank God for opportunities to encourage others through what the Lord is doing in my own life.
- 3) Thank God for safe flying and service to missionaries serving around western central Africa.

**Prayer:**

- 1) Pray for strength and safety in aviation. Pray for wisdom as aviation looks as some possible adjustments to meet changing needs.
- 2) Pray that I can speak very personally and humbly to others out of my own life experience with the Lord for their encouragement and perseverance.
- 3) Pray for social peace, stability and justice. People here face many harsh situations for social, economic and justice reasons. They are heart-breaking.

In Him,

Robert Peterson

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