



February 2013

Rob & Bintou Peterson
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As I write, an enormous storm full of thunder, lightning and a LOT of dust is rolling through Yaoundé. The storms at the end of dry season are filled with more dust than rain and have the most powerful winds of the year! Very impressive!

In February, I, Rob, had the privilege of participating in an intense two-week Leadership Matters Course. It was a particularly unique and challenging experience for me because the course was in French and it involved a lot of public speaking projects. 26 of the 28 participants were from Africa, including 8 church leaders from the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Gabon where Bintou and I are preparing to serve!



LMC 2013 Yaoundé - Leaders and Participants

were the ones to encourage the brothers before continuing their journey! Wow! **Please pray that we would be encouragers!**

The course was very creative and emphasized the importance of encouragement and building one another up. Although daily preparation to speak in French was tiring, it was a very encouraging two weeks for me! The course leaders certainly led by example and were tremendous encouragers! During my personal Bible reading, I have seen how central encouragement was to the ministry of Paul and Barnabas to the newly established churches. Even after being beaten and imprisoned, after being released, they



A decision-making process group exercise

The course was very timely for me as Bintou and I are in need of encouragement these days. The process with her paperwork and applying to be released to go to Gabon has been very challenging, even discouraging. The reality is quite complicated due to government processes which are difficult to understand and even more difficult to explain. One challenge is that she has not yet received her employee number which is necessary in order to submit certain paperwork and also to receive her back-pay for 15 months of work. **Please pray that she would be granted her employee number right away, and if it is not granted in a timely manner, we would have wisdom how to proceed.** We are thankful for many people

who are checking on options for us. We are expecting our Gabon visas any day.

As a result, Bintou is having to work in Ngaoundere, a 14-hour train ride to the north and we visit each other whenever possible. She continues to work in the children's department and ministers to many children in great need. One of the most heart-breaking situations she deals with regularly is malnourished children. We have included a picture but at the very end because it is painful. **Please pray for strength and grace for Bintou as she is far away and works in a difficult context.**

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. They are holding us in this challenging time. We are reminded to "give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I, Rob, am learning, slowly.

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- 1) For the opportunity to participate in a Leadership Matters Course in French with 26 other Africans. It was an excellent course and the interaction and relationships were a great blessing.
- 2) For safety in flying and service. We have a buyer for one of our airplanes that is being phased out and replaced with newer aircraft.
- 3) For the opportunity to encourage and exhort others and to be encouraged and exhorted by others. This weekend a group of young men came to the house to watch the film "Courageous".

Prayer:

- 1) Pray that our visa for Gabon will be ready soon as well as for strength and wisdom as we prepare to move to Gabon in March, Lord willing.
- 2) Pray for Bintou's government paperwork to move quickly through the system so that she can get her employee number and complete her paperwork for moving to Gabon.
- 3) Pray for the Lord's grace and strength for Bintou and me as we transition to Gabon. We expect to initially spend 2 weeks in Libreville for orientation before moving 8 hours south to the Bongolo hospital.

In Him,

Rob & Bintou

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32862-8200 (attach note: For Robert

Peterson)



*8-year-old severely malnourished boy
that Bintou received.
He gained 9 lbs. in the first week of treatment and yet the
family left the hospital and took the boy to a traditional
medicine man!*