

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



April 2013

Rob & Bintou Peterson
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Praise the Lord Bintou and I have our visas for Gabon and we are moving at the end of this month! We are very grateful to Pastor Sangoye in Gabon who worked hard get their final approval! And we are grateful for you, our team, for joining us in prayer! We have been "on hold" pending these visas so it is great to be able to move forward. We have prayerfully made the decision to move to Gabon despite still waiting for Bintou's employee number. We are pressing forward with His revealed will for us - Gabon and trusting that her file will continue to move forward in our absence. We appreciate your continued prayers that she will receive her number soon

Thank you also for all the warm responses to Bintou's letter of introduction. Although we have not been able to reply personally to most of you, I, Rob, am particularly grateful and blessed by the encouraging and welcoming responses that she received! You are preparing the way for a future visit to the US, Lord willing, in late 2014.



I have not written much about flying lately but I continue to fly and had the privilege of bringing Steve Straw's children to Gabon several weeks ago. It is always a highlight for me to see children and their parents reunited after being separated.

Normally, Steve would have flown to pick up the children himself but his aircraft had an electrical problem. While in Libreville, I assisted Steve with troubleshooting the issue and we concluded that the alternator control unit (ACU) had failed. One week later, Steve received a replacement ACU from the US and replacing the unit solved the problem!



The Straw family with N207FD, the C207 in Gabon that I'll be flying

Another privilege over the last several weeks was accompanying Fiacre, my Rwandan brother, to meet his sister and her family at the airport. When they said goodbye 14 years ago, his sister was a teenager; now she is a wife and mother of three! It was quite a moving experience to witness their reunion!



After 14 years, Fiacre and his sister and family.

While there have been many highlights and joys over the last several weeks, we are grieving the loss of Karen Jackson, a Wycliffe missionary, dear friend, and adopted mother to many of us. Our aviation team evacuated her from the northwest region to Yaoundé to meet an air ambulance flight to South Africa. Unfortunately, shortly after arriving in South Africa, she died due to complications caused by septic shock from a bacterial infection.

Please pray for her family during this time of grieving. We are thankful that Karissa, her daughter, who is a student at Biola, was able to get a visa on short notice to come for this service. Last Monday there was a memorial service here in Yaoundé on Monday and Bintou led a portion of the worship time. **Please pray for her husband, Chris, and daughters, Karissa and Katelyn!**



The last several weeks also marked the end of an era both in Cameroon and in mission aviation. **SIL-Cameroon's aviation department officially retired the N44344, the last operational Helio Courier on the field.** It is currently in a container returning to the US for resale. It was "born" in 1963, and served in Ecuador, Columbia and Cameroon. Until recently, Helio Couriers were the foundation of the Wycliffe fleet but the aging fleet and changing nature of mission aviation has resulted in them gradually being phased out.



Goodbye N44344

This was a poignant event for me personally. This was the airplane that I flew for two years while based in Bango and I simply loved flying it! It was such a good servant! I will always treasure my days of flying Helio Couriers!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We are excited to be moving forward with our plans to move to Gabon. **I plan to leave Yaoundé on Tuesday, April 30th for the 2-day road trip and Bintou will fly down commercially on May 1st!**

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- 1) For our visas being granted. Strength to move houses at the end of March due to limited housing available during our branch meetings. We are enjoying our new place.
- 2) For safety in flying and service. Disassembling and crating the Helio was well managed by Dennis & Dan and we are happy to have finished that project.
- 3) Positive and encouraging responses to Bintou's letter of introduction.
- 4) Continued opportunities to encourage and share God's Word with people. I will be preaching on Sunday.

Prayer:

- 1) That Bintou and I would trust the Lord in all things and continue to grow spiritually amidst the transition.
- 2) Peace for Bintou regarding her government paperwork. It has not yet been finalized and will need additional follow-up on our next visit to Yaoundé.
- 3) Pray for the Lord's grace and strength for Bintou and me as we transition to Gabon. We plan to spend 1 week in Libreville for orientation before moving 8 hours south to the Bongolo hospital.

In Him,

Rob & Bintou

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