

## In His Hands



(Isaiah 49:16)

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Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for your prayers! Bintou and I have spent a productive 10 days in Libreville getting to know the Straw family and learning our way around town. You may recall, Steve Straw is the pilot whose place I'm taking.

While in Libreville, I was able to fly to Bongolo and back with Steve one day and also help with a 50-hour inspection on the airplane. We were thankful for an overcast that helped moderate the tropical temperatures! For the last 3+ years while based in Libreville, there hasn't been a hangar available so Steve has done all his work out under the tropical sun. I admire his perseverance! We are both happy to have a hangar waiting for the airplane in Bongolo.



<http://petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery/50-hour>

After a late night packing, our journey to Bongolo began at 5:45 on Saturday morning. Bintou and I went to the immigration office with a representative from the mission and by 10 a.m. we left with our residence cards for Gabon in hand. Praise the Lord!

After a two day journey which included a 3 ½ day delay waiting for a ferry, we arrived in Bongolo the evening of May 12th, my birthday, to a warm reception! Barry and Terry invited us for dinner and had even baked a cake for my birthday!



*Welcome to Bongolo!*

*<http://petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery/Drive-to-Bongolo>*

Since arriving, we have been busy unpacking, settling into our new home and learning our way around town.



*<http://petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery/Settling-in-Bongolo>*

Several days later we were officially welcomed by the larger Bongolo staff including a second birthday party!



And I have begun the process of opening the hangar with some much appreciated help from Bintou! The hangar was built 10+ years ago so there is quite a bit of work needed to get it operational.



Thank you! <http://petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery/Hangar-work>



*Re-starting the solar charging system. Unfortunately neither inverter is functional.*

The next several weeks will be very full. Steve will be coming to Bongolo this weekend. At the end of the week, I will fly him back to Libreville and then return to Bongolo with the airplane.

Thank you so much for your prayers, support and notes of encouragement! They have lifted us, carried us and spurred us on!

### **Praise and Prayer Summary**

#### **Praises:**

- 1) Our residence cards are in hand and which facilitated a safe trip to Bongolo by road.
- 2) We are enjoying our new house.
- 3) A warm welcome for Bintou and I to Bongolo by the staff and missionaries and we are unpacked (certain projects still remain).
- 4) Bringing us through this significant time of transition and the opportunity to settle down and lend a hand.

#### **Prayer:**

- 1) That Bintou and I would trust the Lord in all things and continue to grow spiritually amidst the transition. There is probably more culture shock for Bintou than for me since it is her first time out of Cameroon.
- 2) Bintou's government paperwork process. It has not yet been finalized and will need additional follow-up on our next visit to Yaoundé.
- 3) For Bintou to find a good fit working at the Bongolo mission hospital. She will start next week.

- 4) Pray for wisdom and strength for me as we prepare to base the airplane in Bongolo. One of the first projects is to replace a rotted board for the hangar door guides so that we can park the airplane in the hangar.

In Him,

Rob & Bintou

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