

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



April 2014

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Dear Friends and Partners,

Praise God - we are going to Greece! Last week, Bintou received her visa and, through your financial generosity, I am going too! We are really looking forward to our trip! Our flight leaves around midnight on April 26th and returns to Libreville on May 11th. Bintou is especially excited as it will be her first time outside of Africa. Although Bintou and the other [PAACS](#) residents from Bongolo were granted their visas, we continue to pray for a PAACS program in Cameroon, whose members are re-applying after their visas were refused. Will you join us in praying for them?

Sometimes the road is rough...

On a recent flight from Libreville there were more cargo and passengers than my airplane could hold so Louis, a visitor, and Anatole, a PAACS resident, volunteered to travel to Bongolo by road. Although the road trip is often long but uneventful, this trip was an exception. Louis and Anatole set out at 6 a.m. in the rain to meet a taxi. Two hours later, they were finally on their way. After just an hour of traveling, their taxi crested a blind hill and collided with another car parked on the road. Thankfully, the vehicles took most of the beating and no one was seriously injured. After a period of waiting, another taxi arrived, and after driving through thigh-deep water due to the heavy rains the previous night, they finally stumbled into Bongolo at 9 p.m. tired and sore.

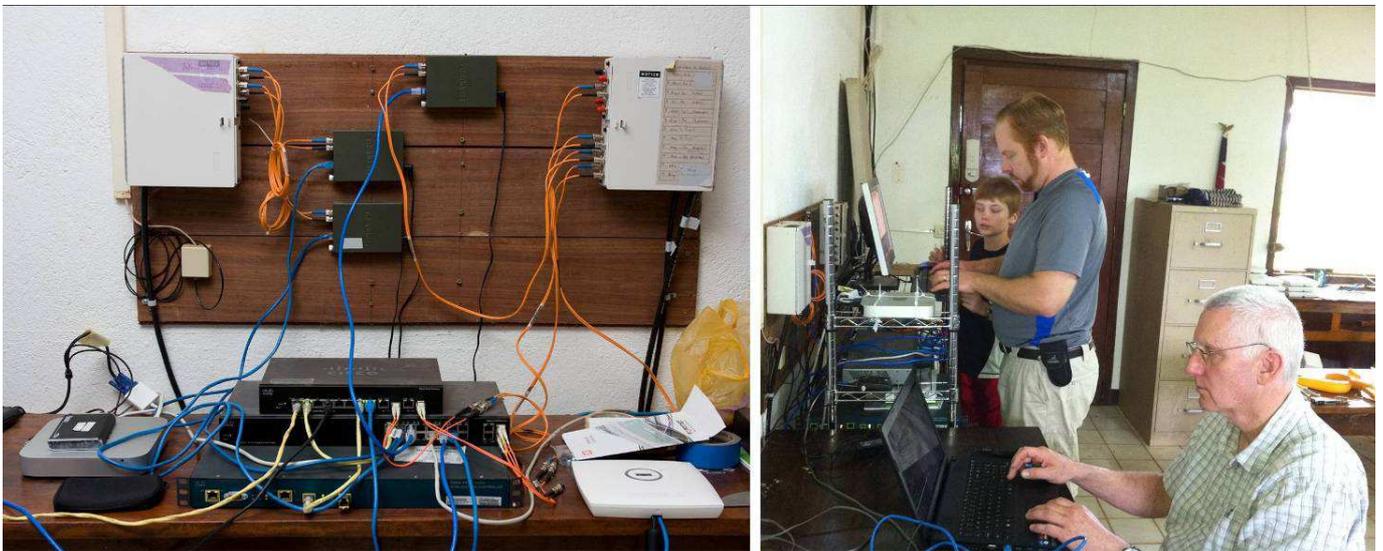


Assessing the damage. More pictures [here](#)

In contrast to their trip, the rest of us left the guest house around 10 a.m. and landed in Bongolo around 2 p.m. after a 1 hour and 45 minute flight! After debriefing with Anatole, we all rejoiced that his wife and newborn child were on the flight and not in the taxi! This story, one of many, helps convey the remoteness of Bongolo, the difficulty and potential danger of traveling by car and the necessity and blessing of airlift.

Sometimes the internet is rough....

Another constant challenge of living in a remote location is maintaining adequate communications. The only internet connectivity to the Bongolo Hospital is a very limited and expensive satellite connection. Until recently, the network was open to public use and our connection was nearly unusable. Louis and Jerry, a team from two Christian and Missionary Alliance churches, recently arrived from the U.S. to install a secure wireless network system. Keir, a Bongolo surgeon, his son and myself assisted the team and were thrilled with the improvement. Among other things, Dr. Renee and the other doctors at the hospital are now able to order medicines and reference medical databases. I am able to research and order critical parts that I need for the airplane. There is also new hope that a radiologist who is willing to assist the hospital will be able to log into our network and read X-Rays from his house in the US.



Before and after. Thank you to Louis for these [pictures](#).

Making new friends...

Over the last several months, I have made a new friend from the Bongolo community named Massala. He is a student at the local high school and often comes to the runway when he hears the airplane returning to Bongolo. There are very few opportunities to learn practical technical skills so I have been challenging him with apprenticeship projects. This week we changed the brakes on the Suzuki. After watching and helping me with the first disk brake, he did the second with limited intervention. After we finished, we had to test the brakes and I think he really enjoyed his first driving lesson! I really enjoy these opportunities and pray that I would make the most of them.



Thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- The reminder of our Lord's death and resurrection as we celebrated Easter.
- The provision of visas and finances enabling Bintou and I to travel to Greece.
- Safety and good operation of the airplane during a busy month of flying.

Prayer:

- Bintou and I would learn to abide in God's presence and that His joy would be our strength.
- The trip to Greece would be both educational and restful; the granting of visas for the PAACS program in Cameroon.
- The Lord's ministry through Bintou and me at the hospital and in our community.
- Wisdom and clarity amidst many maintenance, flight standards and shop equipment projects.

Rob & Bintou

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