

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



December 2014

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Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas! Although it is a bit humid and sometimes hot, our Christmas tree is up and beautifully decorated - all the credit to Bintou! We hope and pray that this will be a significant and special season for each of you as we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us!

As we approach the beginning of a new year, we are excited to share with you how the Lord is leading us.

Since arriving in Bongolo in May 2013 for an 18-month pilot exchange between Wycliffe/SIL and AMB (Aviation Medicale de Bongolo), there have been two significant developments. First, Steve Straw, the founder of AMB and the pilot whom I replaced, will **not** be returning Gabon as originally planned but will remain in Cameroon for an additional year as his son completes his final year of high school. As a result, there is an on-going need for a pilot here at Bongolo. We are praising God for His provision of extra time in Bongolo which leads to my next point...



Carolyn arrived in Gabon in 1977. It was my honor to be her pilot for her last trip from Bongolo to Libreville for her return to the U.S

Second, Bintou was accepted into Bongolo's three-year ophthalmology medical specialization program **and began training in October**. The program includes intensive surgical training and requires tremendous attention to detail, a delicate touch and extensive reading and research in both English and French! **It is estimated that there is only 1 ophthalmologist per 1,000,000 people in Africa!** The Bongolo Eye Clinic completes roughly 70% of all the eye surgeries in Gabon. Check out the [Bongolo Hospital Ophthalmology program](#) online for more details.



White Coat Ceremony - Prayer Time.



Bintou completing her first retrobulbar anesthesia injection

Many of you (and especially my parents) have been asking, "When are you coming to the US??" **Lord willing, we will make our first visit to the US in early 2015!** We have been invited to participate in two missions conferences. I am also scheduled to participate in a four-week JAARS' Supervisor Pilot training course.

We began applying for Bintou's special visa/Green Card in January 2014 but with the normal delays of international mail and the various government offices involved, that process is not yet complete. As a backup, we are applying for a visitor visa. **Please join us in praying for Bintou's visa(s) - that her file would be processed quickly and her visa granted.**

Yesterday, a container of supplies from the US arrived in Bongolo. In addition to many medical supplies and equipment, I received a number of needed parts and equipment for the airplane as well as 16 drums of aviation fuel. When I took the boxes to the hangar, Jantir who maintains the runway, was cutting the grass. Two of his children were also with him. As I unpacked one box, I found two little teddy bears that my parents had squeezed in the corners - one blue and one pink - just in time for Christmas!



Merry Christmas!

Thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Bintou's acceptance to the ophthalmology program and a good start of her training.
- Five language groups that have requested help with getting the Jesus film in their language.
- Possibility to visit the US and participate in two mission conferences in 2015.
- The Lord's love and grace to us each day.

Prayer:

- Bintou and I would abide in God's presence and that His joy would be our strength.
- Health, strength, insight and understanding for Bintou's ophthalmology training.
- Rob management of AMB including prioritization of time and resources.

By His Strength,
Rob & Bintou

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Wycliffe, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200

Attach a separate note: "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Robert Peterson,
Ministry Account #231923"