

In His Hands



(Isaiah 49:16)

June 2015

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Our trip to the US was amazing, but it was also exhausting. On the way back from the US, we stopped in Switzerland where we met up with Rob's brother, Todd, and his family. I was pretty worn out from our trip to the US and I was, honestly, not feeling ready for more time on the road. I prayed for God to sustain me through the end of our long trip and to renew my strength. And I tell you: He is faithful!



Our first picture together!

I loved our time in Switzerland! Not only did I meet Todd's wife, Damaris, and their kids for the first time but we also stayed with Damaris' family. They were all so sweet to us! Ernest and Neli were missionaries in Africa, so we had a lot to share together. The meals around the table were joyful, noisy and great!



Rob playing on the trampoline. Damaris carrying her nephew the African way.



Admiring the birds on the lake with Ernst

We also visited the Staehlis, Rob's Swiss parents during his 15 months of French language school. And they treated him like a son. I saw it with my own eyes, how excited and happy they were to see Rob. When we left Switzerland, it was like saying goodbye to close family.



Fondue dinner with the Staehlis.

The day after returning to Cameroon, I started a three-day spiritual retreat with the leaders of the Semeurs Juniors while Rob started working on getting the airplane ready to return to Gabon. The goal of the Semeurs Juniors is to use art and music to disciple the members as well as to preach the Gospel publicly. God's presence during the retreat was evident. Many people were touched through the study of Daniel 1-4. One young man even recorded the retreat and personally transcribed it so he could share the lessons with other people from his church!.



Semeur Junior open discussion time at the retreat

On the heels of the retreat, my family and I surprised Rob with a birthday party at my brother's farm! Even though a heavy rain fell all around the area, the Lord allowed the farm to stay dry and my lovely boy was surprised and happy! And when we got back to Bongolo, there were two more parties! In total, Rob got three birthday cakes this year! We are blessed to have family everywhere we go, at home and abroad, making us feel loved and celebrated!



My lovely boy in the light of the lantern.

Thank you for praying for my permanent resident visa! We want you to know that we got it!!! YEAH!!! We have six months to activate the visa which means we will need to make a short trip to the US by the end of this year.

I will close this letter by expressing a heart full of gratitude! It has been two years since the Lord called us to serve here in Bongolo. I still remember all the fears and discouragements I had while battling with the Lord over coming here. But now as I look back, it was the best decision, at just the right moment, and I can testify: God's ways can be difficult to understand but they are wonderful! Thank you for all of your prayers – God has used them to bless and encourage us on this journey!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Opportunity to see family in Switzerland.
- Bintou's permanent US visa.
- Our safe return to Bongolo and re-entry to life and ministry here.
- The Lord's love and grace to us each day.

Prayer:

- Rob and I as we learn to lay down our schedules and challenges.

- Health, strength, insight and understanding for me in ophthalmology training.
- Rob work on widening the runway in preparation for the annual visit of government inspectors in a week.

By His Strength,
Rob & Bintou

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