

November 8, 2008

Dear friends and family,

Chinese? Yes, as I walked up the stairs into the terminal in Atlanta, the smell of “Mandarin Express” coming down the walkway was the first thing that really said “You’re in the U.S” and just had to laugh. I left Switzerland for the U.S. on Oct 17th for aviation recurrency, arrived back in Cameroon on the 31st and back “home” in Banso today.

My time in the Switzerland was really great and it was such a blessing to be able to spend time with the Staehlis, my host family during language school, along with a lot of other friends. After 2 years away, I really didn’t expect to know a lot of people so I was really surprised and blessed to see so many of my friends again. One of my goals and joys during my time in Switzerland was to specifically thank people that helped me learn French. Being able to communicate in French has been such a blessing in Cameroon.



Hiking with friends. More pics at www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2



Thanks Lionel & Diana for your organization and everyone who came! It was awesome!

I've often heard missionaries who return to their home country talk about the flood of emotions that come with attending one's first church service. Attending church at La Rochette, my home church while I was in Switzerland, was also a wonderful blessing and I understand very well what they were talking about. One of the other highlights of my time in Switzerland was spending some time with a new believer from La Rochette who was struggling. We talked for quite a while one night during a college-age activity and I was really excited to see him come to a men's morning prayer time at the church several days later. Please continue to pray for Xavier's spiritual growth and healing.

Even though my schedule in the England and Switzerland was full, I arrived back in the U.S. significantly refreshed and encouraged – ready to start my recurrency flying. We got back into the air very quickly and flew a bit every day. It was good to get back in the air again after nearly 2 months away. During my time at JAARS I worked with Evan Smith and I appreciate so much his insight, advice and encouragement and it was very helpful to me as I prepare to re-start the program here in Banso.



Back in the air again!

I had a good trip back to Cameroon, even though it is a long one! It's great to be back. I spent my first week in Yaoundé preparing to go back to Bango. The replacement stabilator finally arrived in Bango about 2 weeks ago and has now been installed. The biggest remaining unknown is the timetable for Cameroon Civil Aviation officials who want to inspect the aircraft before it returns to service. Unfortunately, the trip to Bango by road is not very inviting and they are rather hesitant to make the trip. We are proposing (and praying) that we be allowed to **bring the airplane to Yaoundé to complete the required inspection next week. Please pray that the CCAA would grant this request.**

Although I was able to see some friends and families while I was in the U.S., my time was so full that there were a lot of people I missed. Apologies! However, one of my U.S. highlights was spending a bit of time with good friends Ken & Sue and their 7 kids. What a great time!



We also went boating & barbequing one afternoon. Pics at www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2

In other big news, **the long-awaited replacement helicopter arrived at our center in Yaoundé this morning!** It took 2 months for the container to be released from the port in Douala! Eric Wolf, the helicopter pilot, is now in Yaoundé working with the mechanic from JAARS to assemble the helicopter and then will be doing some recurrency training in Yaoundé with Dan Miller, a JAARS helicopter instructor, before bringing the helicopter up to Bango to begin service.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Our final inspection with the CCAA to be able to be done in Yaoundé.
2. Strength & wisdom for me as I get the airplane program going again
3. The helicopter assembly and initial training to go well so that it can come to Bango soon.
4. Wisdom and insight as I help orient Eric to flying in northwest Cameroon.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and generosity.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

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