

Furlough

Two months from tomorrow (on December 22) we'll be leaving Cameroon for a 7-month furlough. We are SO looking forward to spending Christmas with family, seeing our friends, and personally thanking our supporters.

The kids are also looking forward to seeing their beloved Grandparents and enjoying some of the niceties of North America, but they're a bit apprehensive about starting a new school.



The ocean is only three hours away, so once in a while we make a quick trip to enjoy the tropical beaches.

Financial Matters

Last time we were home on furlough, some people asked if we still need financial support while we're home. We explained that yes, Wycliffe still considers our home service as part of our work, and we're thankful if our supporters are willing to continue supporting us while we're home. In fact, the amount of support we'll need each month while we're home is 50% higher than the amount we need to live here in Africa. There are two reasons for this: higher rent in the States and Ray's flight instructor's and instrument flight instructor's license during this furlough. JAARS is able to help pay for part of this, but we have to raise money for the rest. Another financial challenge we face regarding furlough is the cost of round-trip tickets for the whole family.



An abandoned car makes a good play place for Andre and his friend Humble.



Ray and Ann Kapteyn
c/o SIL • BP 1299 • Yaounde, Cameroon
Email: ray-ann_kapteyn@sil.org
Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200 • Orlando, FL 32862-8200
*Please do not post this letter on the web
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Kapteyn Chronicle

A Newsletter from Ray and Ann Kapteyn serving Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon

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Recently during a rainstorm, the wall around our house fell down because the swamp behind our wall rose so high. It was chaotic for a week or two, trying to truck in enough gravel to build up the level of our backyard so the swamp won't burst through again. Now our wall is rebuilt and we even have a new German Shepherd to help guard our compound.

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the rain is falling—again! Our yard is a sea of mud, and we have to give our dog a bath every time she comes inside. But we certainly enjoy the cool nights, the riot of greenery everywhere, even in crowded Yaounde. Soon dry season will arrive, and along with it the sunshine and dust.

Ray is recovering from a nasty bout of pneumonia that has allowed him to fly only once in the last three weeks. Even three weeks after he first became sick he still hasn't recovered his full strength.

We have much to be thankful for. First of all, we are thankful for your generous support month after month, year after year. We are also thankful for the way that God settled us here in Yaounde. We were hoping that by the time our first year was finished, we would have found a permanent house, the kids would be in school, and we would both be working for Wycliffe. God has answered all these prayers by providing a wonderful house, teachers for the school, and interesting work for both of us to do.

The irony is that now that we're finally settled in a permanent house, it's time to move again, this time for furlough! Our furlough is just two months away, and we can't wait to spend some time in our lovely home countries again.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the near future.

In Christ,
Ray and Ann Kapteyn



About 25% of Ray's time is spent maintaining the plane. In August they put a brand new engine in the plane, which they do after the plane has flown 1,700 hours.



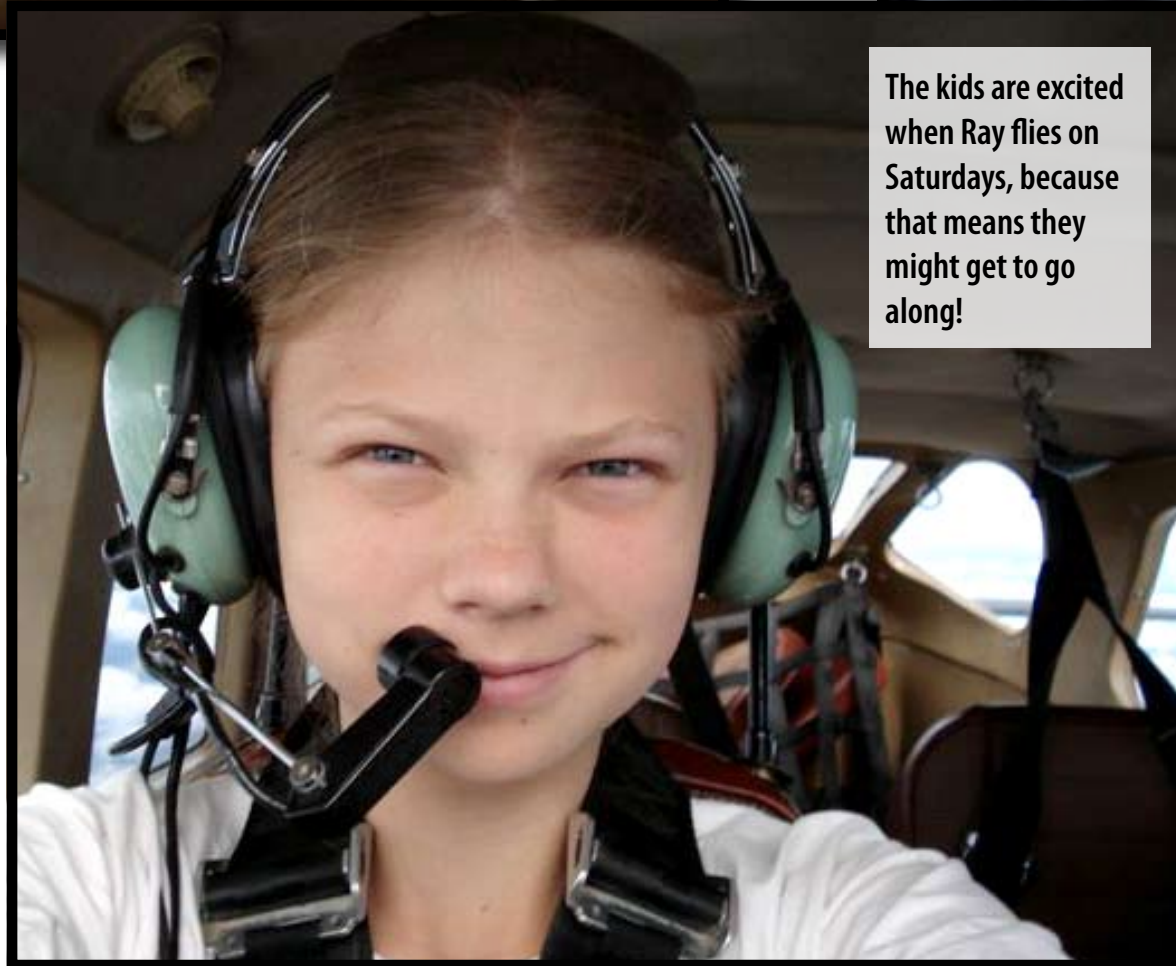
The students in my ATP class come from Chad, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, France, Switzerland, England, and the States. Here we're having a party at our house, in the thatched-roof gazebo.

Aviation

A Seven Day Journey

The other day my friend Antje told me the story of how she traveled from Chad to Cameroon. Antje works in Eastern Chad, near the Darfur region of Sudan. She had to travel to Yaounde to teach a class. The hardest part of the trip was getting from Eastern Chad to the Capital of Chad in the West. Since JAARS doesn't fly in Chad, she tried to drive. After a day and a half on the road, it was clear they weren't going to make it because the dry river beds were all filled with water since it was rainy season. After three days on the road and three nights sleeping on the ground, they were back where they started.

The next day Antje caught a U.N. flight to the capital of Chad, but her commercial flight from there to Cameroon was delayed for 48 hours. So she spent two more nights waiting. Finally the next day she flew to Douala, Cameroon, and caught a bus



The kids are excited when Ray flies on Saturdays, because that means they might get to go along!

for Yaounde. They were traveling after dark, and the bus got into an accident. Antje spent another night by the side of the road waiting for the bus to be repaired. She arrived in Yaounde the following day completely exhausted, 7 days after she initially left her town.

When missionary flights are available and affordable, imagine the time, energy and money missionaries save! They spend a few hours in the plane instead of several days under stressful and dangerous conditions, like Antje had to do.

Translation

I(Ann) have been working hard for the past two months taking a graduate-level linguistics class called ATP—Africa Training Program. This course prepares Africans (and a few non-Africans) to work in the areas of Bible translation and literacy. This class has been a big challenge—classes all day in French, homework at night. But I enjoy the subject matter and getting to know the other students and the teachers.

After the class is over, I will work as an exegetical assistant to 6 translation teams. The Bible translators are Cameroonians translating into their mother-tongues, and I will help them by going over the Bible passages with them before they translate. Two prerequisites for this job are good ability in French and Greek, so I'm working hard on my French and will be pulling out the old Greek vocabulary cards soon!

*Ray & Ann Kapteyn
Anneke, Peter & Andre*