

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, September 02, 2007 9:21 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] long day

Greetings again from wet Nigeria. It seems this August has been a wetter than we remember so it has been cooler and everything is washed and green. The potholes are getting deeper and it seems the road on our compound is about the worst part of Dorothy and the children's ride to school every day. We are thankful for a dry house with no leaks in the roof, cars that work well in the rain and a clothes dryer that works when we have electricity! Along with the rain comes the cold and flu season and Dorothy got a bad cold this week so has been sniffing and trying to get a bit more sleep. The rest of the family is healthy and busy with school activities. Anna and Heather were disappointed they both lost their bids to serve as class officers but we were sort of relieved. Marie is helping with the snack center at the high school and so our driver is the beverage buyer and our cook is making meat pies. Marie is playing on the girls' varsity volleyball team and is enjoying playing again even though the teams they have played so far are men so it has been tough.

Dorothy has appreciated advice from a number of teachers "out there" on how to work with attention deficit children in the classroom. She had a better week overall and is growing through these challenges. She is putting in long hours preparing for each day and so far has no regrets about this big change in her ministry. She loves the kids and at the elementary school open house this week she received several compliments from parents who said their children were excited about having "Miss Dorothy" as a teacher. I enjoyed going to David's classroom and saw his artwork, journal and exercise books. He loves to draw and has a wonderful imagination but needs to work a bit on his penmanship.

On Thursday and Friday my surgical colleague was out of town so I expected to be a bit busier. On Friday my first case was a small child who had been born without an anus so had a colostomy done shortly after birth. I created a new anus and took down her colostomy to restore her normal bowel function. The surgery went well and she is doing well. Then I did about 4 cystoscopies and a few minor procedures on men with urinary obstruction finishing about 1 pm. The last case of the day was a big one so I called the school to let them know I would not make it for my afternoon Bible class. The patient was a 30 year old woman who had been born with her bladder basically sitting open on her lower abdomen. She dribbled urine constantly and so came asking us to help. The only procedure I knew to help her stay "dry" was to remove her nonfunctional bladder and re-implant her ureters from her kidneys into her lower large intestine. We do this procedure as a last resort for the VVF patients when other options have failed. So we began her procedure with prayer and 4 ½ hours later I had diverted her ureters to her colon and rebuilt her "private parts" and was able to close her abdominal muscles to restore her lower abdomen to a more normal appearance. I was so thankful it went well and she is also doing well on the ward. After coming home for supper with a visiting friend, I was called back at 8 pm to assist the family practice resident with an emergency case. The patient had twisted intestine and had surgery at another hospital a few days ago. The doctors had simply untwisted his intestine and so after the operation his intestine twisted again and he had a complete bowel obstruction. When he arrived at Evangel he was very ill looking, in shock and needing urgent surgery. As we were preparing him for surgery, the resident informed me he was a Jehovah's Witness so would not accept a blood transfusion. The resident wanted to send him away thinking it was unethical for us to embark on a surgical procedure with that limitation since he would probably need a blood transfusion. I disagreed and said we would help him, honor his wishes and NOT transfuse him. So from 8 – 10 pm we removed the section of intestine that was enormous and twisted and then gave him a colostomy. He survived the surgery and we pray he has a good recovery in the coming days. When I got home I was pretty tired having done some pediatric surgery, urology, urogynecology and general surgery since 8 in the morning.

Needles to say I was tired on Saturday as well and was glad for a quiet afternoon to catch up while finishing a Grisham book. I am also thoroughly enjoying reading a great book called "When Charity Destroys Dignity" by Glenn Schwartz. It is a biblical look at the problem of dependency in missions from an experience missionary to Africa. He has some great insights and challenges for both church and mission and has helped me as I have struggled with this issue in the many charity ministries in which we are involved.

Last but not least, tomorrow is Marie's 16th birthday. She really is a sweet 16 year old young lady. We are very

proud of her – her tender spirit, her love for God, her commitment to her schoolwork and keeping fit and the good decisions she is making in her relationships. She will take cupcakes to school for her classmates, we will have a small family party tomorrow evening and then on Friday she will have a birthday party sleepover with 8 of her girlfriends. David and I will find other places to sleep that night while the twins will also have a sleepover with their friends to give Marie special time with her friends.

Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for your prayers for Dorothy and the gang this week.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

Please reply to <bill.ardill@sim.org>.

* SIM by Prayer *

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