

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2007 7:58 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] infection control

I was becoming concerned at the beginning of the week when we noticed on ward rounds that there were an unusual number of patients getting wound infections. Then on Tuesday I was told when I went to work that the autoclave was not working. When I asked about the "backup" autoclave that was to help in these situations, I was told, "It has been spoiled for months now." So we only did a few of the cases on the list. By Wednesday the autoclave had still not been fixed so again we cancelled cases. I suggested the management begin looking at other autoclave options in town to see if there was another hospital that could help us until ours was fixed. Apparently there were no other options. Then on rounds on Thursday we noticed that every case we had operated on in the past week got infected, probably because we had been using instrument and linen packs that had not been properly sterilized. It was pretty discouraging to go from bed to bed and inspect wounds that now were all draining and falling apart. Finally Thursday morning it was fixed but the medical director said to me, "I think we need to begin looking for another big autoclave to replace the one we have." So I have started looking into what might be available, costs and so on. There are a few organizations in the U.S. that focus on equipment for mission hospitals so we will begin with them. I have learned long ago to leave the results to God when there are variable over which I have no control but it is still difficult for our patients, the reputation of the hospital and frustrating for me as well.

This week in the senior Bible Ethics class at Hillcrest we talked about reproductive technology – assisted insemination, in vitro fertilization, therapeutic and reproductive cloning from a biblical perspective. It is always an interesting week of discussions for me and I hope shed a bit of light for the students on these challenging ethical areas. I am also teaching the senior high school Sunday school class and am not happy with the curriculum options. It seems because these kids have been in a Christian school their whole lives that they seem to have heard most Bible teaching before and it is difficult to come up with material that is interesting and relevant. I keep looking...

Dorothy had a tough week with her sinus cold. She came home a few days right after school to rest instead of staying to prepare her lessons for the next day. She is learning a lot about class discipline and especially how to handle difficult children. She was delighted when the elementary school principal offered to take her class on Friday afternoon. Dorothy has really missed going to the women's fellowship meetings so was glad to be able to go and see her friends and worship with them. She was especially pleased they were still collecting grains with the buckets and even took an offering for Gidan Bege.

Heather and Anna continue to practice their instruments but it has been difficult when we have not been able to find teachers for them. We have wanted them to also continue playing piano but again cannot find a teacher. Please pray with us that we will find someone willing to help them with their instruments (trumpet and flute) and piano.

This morning in church chaplain Jason Pointer had the young children come forward for the children's lesson. He asked the kids what some of the commandments were. Several answered and then David yelled out "Do not commit adultery!" Of course the whole church erupted in laughter and Jason tried to recover by saying "That is one that doesn't usually come up with kids." Then David answered back, "But I know what it means too!" and again more laughter. So after church when we had a few quiet moments we asked David about church. I asked him what he thought adultery meant. He said, "It is when someone stops adulting – you know, separating adults." Dorothy asked if he meant separating people who were married and he said "Yes, separating two adults who were married." We thought that was a pretty good definition for a 7 year old and left it at that.

Thanks again for your prayers and emails.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

10-Sep-07

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

* SIM by Prayer *

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