

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2007 10:35 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: family time

This week was Hillcrest School October break so the children have been off school. Heather and David came to the hospital with me a few days and watched surgery. David watched a hernia repair and Heather learned to scrub and assisted me on a thyroidectomy, a pediatric intestinal case and a few other cases. She has watched a lot of surgery in the past and seemed ready for the next step. She enjoyed it and was hoping I was doing surgery tomorrow before she has to go back to school on Tuesday. We got a small set of blue scrubs complete with hat and mask for David when we were in the U.S. so he really looked the part as well. I enjoyed being able to watch some surgery as a boy here in Jos at the mission hospital and thought if my children were interested they might remember it to.

We were busy during the first part of the week with a team visiting from Dallas, Texas. The sending church has sent teams every year but this was the first time they sent a medical team of nurses. They were very keen on helping the nurses, visiting the female patients and teaching women safe childbirth practices. I know they were a big encouragement to the nursing staff and the VVF women especially were encouraged by their visits and prayer. Several of the women also had an interest in the crisis pregnancy ministry so enjoyed meeting our staff, volunteers and the women staying in the house for women in crisis. They also gave a generous donation toward the autoclave and were promising to send more medical teams in the future to further encourage our staff. They were a blessing to many including us.

Thursday and Friday were declared federal holidays as the end of the Moslem Ramadan month of fasting. We drove to Abuja on Thursday with another family and are thankful for a safe 3 ½ hour road trip without stops by the police or road tax boys or worse. The van ran well and we had a relaxing and fun long weekend with three other missionary families. We enjoyed going to some neat restaurants, the Abuja zoo and a few stores. The pool at the hotel was terrific so spent most of our time there. The kids entertained themselves most of the time and the adults had a fun evening at a nice restaurant. We especially enjoyed getting to know a new missionary intern-pediatrician Don Sampson and his wife Kim and their four children. Their oldest son is in 9th grade, they have a set of twin girls in 6th grade and a son who is four. They are a wonderful family, eager to learn about Nigeria and the ministries here and are well grounded in their family and spiritual values. Don will be a great addition to the Evangel staff and his family is a great addition to the community and school. On the trip back today we got a flat tire but otherwise it was a good trip.

Before going to our house, we stopped briefly to welcome the Tolar family. Jay and Heidi left about 6 months ago for the U.S. Heidi was having some problems with her pregnancy and Jay also had some medical problems. Heidi had a safe delivery of a girl about 3 months ago and Jay got treatment for his medical problems as well. They seemed well rested and glad to be back. Jay is the main physical education teacher at Hillcrest and Heidi teaches Health and a number of other important classes. They have a huge impact in the school on the kids and we are all glad to see them back in Nigeria.

I also wanted to give you an update on the autoclave situation. Thankfully through the gifts of a number of friends, we have enough to purchase the large autoclave, ship it to Nigeria by air freight and install it in the operating room. I am so encouraged and amazed at the generosity of God's people in many places and their interest and concern for the ministry at Evangel. The company is customizing the unit for our power situation and we are hoping they will compete that soon so we can begin making arrangements for the crating and shipping. The hospital staff, medical director and many others are amazed at this wonderful provision, so thank you for praying and giving.

Well, that's all for this week. Thank you for your faithful prayers and emails.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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