

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2007 7:33 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: first case

The situation in southern California has improved a great deal this week. The main fires have been put out and people are being allowed to move back into their neighborhoods; some to heartache and some to relief. My parents moved back into their house over the weekend and my sister moved back on Saturday after cleaning out her fridge because of the lack of electricity for a few days. They all have a lot of cleaning to do because of the ash and dirt in the air which covered everything. We are all thankful there was no fire damage in their houses or property. In our church there were about 17 who lost their homes. We were glad to hear the church is doing all it can to help provide both material help and emotional and spiritual comfort for those affected by the fires. Thanks for your prayers and concern. Many wrote to us to assure us of their prayers.

After the Ramadan Moslem holiday two weeks ago, things have been quieter at the hospital. Our patient census has dropped significantly and it seems everyone has an explanation. Most think that because it is the end of the rains and is harvest time in the rural areas, a lot of people have gone back to their villages or farms to harvest the crops. Whatever the reason, it has been a good break for us to get caught up on a few things. We are making some renovations in the operating room so the lighter load has helped. The masons who had to break new holes in the walls for doors were amazed how strong the cement blocks were. They made a better block 'in those days.' We are still waiting for the autoclave company to finish making the steam generator for the autoclave and then crate it to air freight it here.

Friday was a landmark day in the operating room. Dr. Stacy Lemanski is an obstetrician gynecologist working at Evangel who has a lot of experience in laparoscopic surgery. She was caring for a woman that needed surgery so Stacy prepared her for a laparoscopic procedure. She asked me to help so together we did our first laparoscopic case with the new equipment that we brought back this year. After working through a few glitches with the equipment in the beginning, the equipment worked well and we were able to complete the surgery and help the patient. Stacy and I were excited that we finally got all the equipment organized and working and are now ready to being doing more cases. Thanks to Greg Piersol, Dr. Yu and his wonderful team of concerned "servants of Jesus Christ" and my brother Jim for their help in getting the equipment to Nigeria so we can offer this valuable surgical option.

The women involved in the armed robbery two weeks ago are doing better. One has gone back to her home in Europe and the other two are staying with missionary families in Jos and doing better. Thanks for your prayers for them and our ongoing safety.

Our girls have started track and field as the after-school sport at Hillcrest. Marie is doing the 1 and 2 mile run, Heather is a middle distance runner and Anna is having a go at the hurdles. They come home quite tired after their practices so at least it is helping them sleep better, eat better and stay in shape. The weather is getting warmer so the afternoons can be quite hot in the field. Their first meet is this weekend so we're back to our cheerleading roles.

Dorothy is still having a great time teaching her third grade class. She is having a bit of a discipline problem with one certain child. Please pray for wisdom for her this week. They are learning about Joseph and she has added a bit of history about Egypt. They are planning on "mummifying" some stuffed animals this week! Yup, they will pull the stuffing out of the brain through the nose if it is possible. She got this crazy from another graduate student this last year.

With the change of season from the rains to the dry season with its dust and heat, there is also a new wave of bugs and viruses. I got a sinus cold and David had a stomach bug this week. Staying healthy is more difficult here but we do our best by taking necessary precautions. Thanks for your part in praying for us.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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