

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 9:52 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: small incident, good news from California

Dear Family,

This week seems to be a “normal” week at school and in surgery, except for Friday. There was an incident on the compound on Friday night as we returned about 9:30 pm from an SIM pot-luck on another compound. We got a call from another missionary on the compound that there was a suspicious person around their house who had run off. The guards were notified and began to chase him. Mowgli, our dog, was already out and patrolling the entire yard and he began barking at something. We were already in the house and locked in when we got the call. We did a lot of listening, heard a lot of barking from all the compound dogs, but not much else. The next day we got the story of what had happened. It seems a young man jumped the compound wall and was seen by a guard lurking in the bushes near one of the missionaries houses. He was chased and eventually caught and taken to the police. We had a debriefing 2 days later to determine what was done right and what needed to be improved. No one was hurt and the intruder did not steal anything or get into any of the houses but his story did not make sense why he was on the compound. In light of several other robberies on other compounds this month we were concerned this man was connected to the other incidents. He is still being held at the prison for questioning. Still it reminds us that we always need to be on the alert and careful. We really don't like going out at night and yet need the fellowship with other missionaries. There are also some school events at night although we are doing our best to have some of these rescheduled during the afternoon daylight hours.

I heard from a friend in California the names of kids who lost their homes in the fires that devastated our area of San Diego. There were at least 10 families that I had contact with either through David's First grade class or my 2nd and 3rd grade student teaching classes. Having lost everything once ourselves in the Liberian war, we can understand the pain and loss of everything you own. We heard that all of the families in our community we knew who had lost their homes had been able to find a rental house in the area. It was also good to hear that the insurance agencies were starting to reimburse them for hotel expenses and were helpful in beginning the process of rebuilding their lives and homes.

I just finished a unit on fish for science and finished a unit on Joseph for the Bible curriculum. I was so tired of talking about fish that for the last class we just sat together and watched the movie “Finding Nemo.” We studied ancient Egypt culture a little and the kids really enjoyed mummifying their stuffed animals. Our new science unit is on the planets and we are starting the life of Moses. The kids are doing well and seem to enjoy the fun subjects we have done.

The girls had their first track meet on Friday afternoon. The Hillcrest students were the only team competing but it was a good practice for those who had never been in a meet to learn the procedures, learn how to handle the anxiety and pressure and see among themselves how well they did before competing with another Nigerian school. Hillcrest usually does well in the long distance events and hurdles. Marie did very well in the 800 and 1500 m races and Heather also kept up a good pace in both of those races as well. Anna tried the hurdles for the first time and managed to keep up with a girl twice her size and didn't either fall down or knock any hurdles down – a successful race! Friday and Saturday they will have their first real competition against another school.

Bill is helping give oral exams at the medical school tomorrow to the medical students and has been asked to give a lecture at a trauma course next month. The number of patients has decreased this month so that is a nice break. Bill is still waiting for the company to finish building the autoclave and then ship it. He is busy working on some renovations in the operating room that he hopes will improve the place a bit. He hasn't asked me to make curtains so I guess he is managing!

On Wednesday Joe Anthis, the ENT missionary surgeon who was at Evangel and is on furlough in Houston, is scheduled for colon surgery. Thanks for praying for Joel and Cindy this week. That's all for this week. Thanks for your prayers especially for our safety.

Dorothy

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