

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2007 5:09 AM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: racing in the harmattan

The harmattan has blown into town with a fury. The haze is almost edible and with the added pollution from the trucks and motorbikes, visibility on the roads especially at night is reduced considerably. The dust in the atmosphere also makes the days a bit cooler and the nights much colder. Everything in the house gets a coat of fine dust that creates havoc on computers and electronic devices so we keep a small towel over everything vulnerable. As diligently as our house helper dusts the furniture in the morning by the afternoon it looks untouched and shows graffiti clearly. The top and side edges of books on our shelves turn brown from the accumulated dirt particles and any flat surface like a desks or dresser doesn't stand a chance of staying clean. Dorothy put up cloth covers for her bookshelves and hopes the rest of her classroom supplies don't suffer too badly so she can use them next near. Welcome to the harmattan season when it never rains and you learn to cope with brown dust that is pervasive and unrelenting.

On Friday and Saturday the girls had another track meet at Hillcrest. Two other schools were invited and after waiting over an hour, they began to straggle in. Half an hour later it seemed the entire student body of one school with bright purple school uniforms marched down the street and onto the Hillcrest campus. With the competition all present, the games began. Most of the Nigerian students from the guest school wore no shoes. Hillcrest did very well as a team and has some real stars including our girls, of course. Marie and Heather ran the 800 meters and 1500 meters and both had good times. Heather did very well keeping up with her big sister and has aspirations of beating her (Marie 6:19 and Heather 6:20 in the 1500 meter). On Saturday morning the other schools did not show up for over an hour past the starting time so the Hillcrest coach started the events anyway. They eventually showed up but with a smaller crowd. Anna ran the hurdles on Saturday morning and showed us her good form again. It was a lot of fun cheering not only our kids but the whole Hillcrest team. Dorothy helped take care of little 3 month old Julie Tolar so her mom could run the stat bench for the events. Dorothy had a great time doing her "part" to help the team. There is another track meet this week Thursday and Friday afternoons and Saturday morning so we will again resume our roles as chief cheerleaders without the pom-poms and mini-skirts!

Dorothy's class started a unit on the planets. She feels a little out of her league but knows a little more than the kids. She has a student who has been in trouble at playground time and now is pulling a "passive aggressive" thing in the class. He gets angry and sulks, hides under the hood of his sweatshirt and completed his work sloppily, She has been having him stay in at recess time to re-do his work and has been keeping on top of it. Pray this boy will settle down in his attitude and that Dorothy has wisdom each day. She really likes her own recess breaks!!

On Saturday morning I also organized the operating room staff to make some major changes in the operating room. I have been frustrated that the dressing changes, cast changes and recovery room are all in the same area of the operating suite. I dreamed up a major change that required moving the women's lockers and men's lockers to a new location and opening up the recovery area to allow for a separate area for the dressing changes to be done. About 20 staff showed up bright and early Saturday and worked hard throughout the morning to move all the lockers and cabinets. We made space for a staff lounge and now have a more efficient use of the space and hopefully the new arrangement will reduce wound infections and contamination. The staff so far like the change and I hope will be a help to overall morale as well.

We are continuing to assess our security situation. After I was shot, we asked for a gate to be placed before entering the housing area of the hospital compound. The gate that was built is not secure and so for a while we have been working on a better design and safer gate for cars and pedestrians. Drawing from the experience gained from several attacks on other compounds and the advice of other missionaries, we have finally come up with a good design that we believe will enhance our security. We are working out the price details but will let you know if you are interested in helping toward this needed security improvement.

A little boy from the southern part of Nigeria that had a cleft lip went home after I fixed his cleft. A woman with breast cancer had a mastectomy but will need additional radiation because of spread of the cancer. A man with

typhoid psychosis who had surgery for a perforation continues to be disoriented and is not eating. A woman with a VVF also has a leak in her intestines with stool coming out her abdominal wound (fistula). Another man who had surgery at another hospital also has a fistula so we are trying to improve his nutrition to avoid surgery. We don't have very sophisticated nutritional supplements so make a "kwasch pap" used for starving children who has kwashiorkor to improve their nutritional state. Lots of sick people needing healing physically and spiritually. Thanks for your prayers for them and wisdom for us as we care for them in Jesus' name. Thanks.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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