

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, November 18, 2007 8:17 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: end of the track (season)

On Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning Hillcrest School hosted a track meet for 6 other Nigerian schools. We went to most of the events and enjoyed cheering the Hillcrest students. In spite of the heat, inexperience of many of the athletes on track courtesy and stiff competition in several events, Hillcrest students did very well and outscored all their opponents. Marie ran the 800 meter, 1500 meter and 3000 meter. She improved her personal best in the 3000 and did well in the other events as well. The Hillcrest athletes also showed good sportsmanship and were a good testimony to their guests. Although there were a few mishaps, we are grateful there were not major injuries.

On Wednesday I operated on a 13 year old boy who had fallen on a bicycle a few years ago and damaged his urethra so he was incontinent of urine. His mother had taken him to hospitals all over the north of Nigeria and no one was willing to help him by doing the necessary surgery. I knew his problem and offered to help. So we fixed his urethral stricture in about an hour and now he is recovering for a few weeks "on the bed." We are praying he has a good result and can urinate normally. He is like many who come to us after going all over the place in frustration looking for help. In many of the government hospitals they are promised help but then they are postponed and there are all sorts of delays for years.

The staff are very pleased with the renovations we have done in the operating room. They now have a better staff lounge, improved locker rooms and a much larger patient recovery room and wound care area. We hope to get the finishing touches completed this week with the last painting, carpentry and electrical work. We are also pleased the hospital has moved forward with the new mortuary. There was \$10,000 in the SIM project for this but the total was \$24,000. The hospital believed strongly it was a priority so has moved ahead trusting the Lord for the balance. If you are interested in helping with this important project, you can send a gift to the SIM project #96404. The foundation is laid, the cement block walls are up and on Saturday they began making the timbers for the rafters and roof. It is being built right beside the chapel so the senior chaplain has taken a keen interest in making sure it is built well and there are no shortcuts in the building process.

We are also waiting to hear from the Hospital and SIM regarding the new proposed gate for the housing area of the compound. We have been quite unhappy with the current gate since it is not very secure and would do little to keep armed men from entering the compound. The new gate will have a high wall with a chute to allow inspection of the vehicle before allowing it to enter and then a tall solid steel door with a separate pedestrian gate to the side. We will also hope to complete the wall from the gate and replace an area of chicken wire fence that is not too secure either.

The grandson of a Nigerian house helper was kidnapped this week in Abuja. Their son was taken while he was at school and after several days not knowing where he was, this weekend they heard from the kidnappers who demanded a ransom. Kidnapping has been going on for a while in southern Nigeria, but this is new for the north. I am sure it will not be long before we hear of the same in our area. Thanks for your prayers for our safety and the safety of the staff who work with us.

Yesterday was the biannual food fair at Hillcrest. Since it is an international school, the PTA sponsors a food extravaganza and people from each country host a table or both with food from their country. The funds raised are used the various school oriented projects and scholarships. The kids had a lot of fun trying out lots of different foods and it was a good time to see all sorts of our friends from all over the area. Next weekend the 11th grade class is sponsoring the Craft Fair. They have been spending a lot of time making various crafts to sell to raise funds for their class activities. Marie has been very involved in this and Anna is making Christmas cards she has designed and drawn herself. David and his friends made some bead snakes that they hope to sell as well so it is becoming a family affair. I think we will be helping sell food and wrapping presents to help out as well.

Next weekend we are also expecting a surgery resident to arrive for two weeks. He is from Texas and was recommended by a good friend of ours in El Paso. We pray he has a good trip and meaningful experience here. A

team from Camp of the Woods is also arriving next weekend so we are looking forward to seeing friends and showing them the various ministries in which we are involved.

Thanks again for your faithfulness in praying for us and supporting us.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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