

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 10:53 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: Off to Miango

We wanted to send a last note for the year. Dorothy finally stopped working on Tuesday because Wednesday morning the workers came and removed the roof of her classroom building. I was able to get pictures to show the students when we return. Dorothy tried to cover as many desks and shelves to reduce the dust when she returns. She has actually been doing a bit of fun reading. She runs a contest with her kids to see if they can read more than she can over break. So far, she is at about 1,000 pages. Not sure how many kids will beat her but she gives prizes for the best effort. She and three girls checked out about a dozen books for the next two weeks so we will see how well they do.

The kids have been enjoying going on our home-made go-kart every day and so far there have been no major accidents or injuries. Now David is driving alone on the go-kart and gets a lot of attention from the people he passes on the hospital compound road. I have also been taking them to the pool in the afternoons. The water has been freezing cold but we still brave it for an invigorating brief swim. Except for a few others who are equally desperate for a swim, we are the only ones brave enough to go in. Yesterday I took my hammer and drill and fixed the broken wooden suntan benches. The Nigerian manager was dumbfounded I would do such a thing but I hope it encouraged him a bit to keep trying to keep the place in order.

Wednesday and Thursday were Moslem holidays so I did not do any surgery. We have had a fair number of emergency patients from road traffic accidents so that always keeps us busy. We heard that the autoclave we ordered is to arrive January 28 so the operating room (theatre) staff are all excited. We will need to make some renovations to fit it in the right spot but we want to wait until it arrives to get better measurements. I am thrilled that three of our burn patients that have been in the hospital for weeks were discharged today. It was a real testimony to their determination, the hard work of the staff and God's amazing healing in their bodies.

On Monday afternoon the staff in the operating room had their Christmas party and then last night the doctors had a party. I was very encouraged to hear the testimonies of the operating room staff. Most gave thanksgiving to God that in spite of the poor wages at Evangel Hospital, God was providing for their needs and they were content. Dr. Ushie shared how the aunt who raised him died this month and he went to her burial in his village. His family were all idol worshippers and when his father the chief died, living slaves were buried with him to accompany him to the afterlife. Dr. Ushie was rejoicing that after he came to Christ as a young man, most of his family now believe in Christ and they do not worship idols in his village. When the new chief became a Christian, he threw his kingly gowns and adornments in the pit latrine as a symbol of his decision to follow Christ completely. He is now looking to serve the Lord in some way rather than continue in his role as chief of the village.

Tomorrow we are going to Miango Conference Center for two weeks. There will be a lot of other families with children so the kids will have lots of friends to play with while we read, rest and chat. We also hope to do some hiking and walking. I do not think we can get email there so will need to come in to Jos every few days to get email. The road to Miango used to take about 30 minutes but now there are so many potholes, it takes an hour. We will stay through the New Year and then the SIM annual conference the first week of January. School starts the second week so we will be back in time for Dorothy to get ready for her classes and to dust off the house a bit. The weather is getting much colder and the dust is everywhere. We work hard trying to cover all the computers and electronic stuff but dust still seems to get into everything.

We are looking forward to a team from Biola University in California coming for the SIM conference to help with the children's program. They do not have their visas yet so please pray with us that they get their visas in time for their departure December 30.

We hope you have a great Christmas and wonderful New Year. Thank you so much for reading our emails, for praying for us and for supporting us with gifts, care packages, and other acts of kindness. We are indebted to you for your faithfulness and look forward to moving into the New Year with a host of prayer warriors behind us as we serve Him here.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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