

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2008 6:38 AM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: SIM annual conference

Well I did it again. We had been enjoying our holiday at Miango when two days before Christmas I came in to Jos to do an appendectomy on an SIM missionary from Kano. He is recovering but is still struggling with pain. We enjoyed the activities and Christmas programs, especially the music. There were a lot of children at Miango so our kids had a great time. Then for the New Year we stayed up till midnight around a bonfire and shared testimonies of God's goodness to us in 2007 and our prayers for 2008. While gazing at the fire I noticed a scorpion crawling along in front of the fire and was glad we got it before it found someone's foot! Dorothy enjoyed reading while I got in a few sets of tennis. Age is not a friend of tennis players but I managed to return the ball most of the time. In spite of loving the game, tennis is one game where "love" means nothing! I also finished editing a book on pediatric surgery and planned my high school Sunday school class for the semester.

On Wednesday January 2, SIM missionaries from all over Nigeria descended on the Miango compound for the annual spiritual life conference. A team from Camano Chapel in Seattle came to run the children's program and a team of BIOLA university students also came to help. We were glad they also brought several care packages for us and some things we had ordered. The speaker was Keith Walker, the SIM UK Director. He spoke well and connected with many missionaries. The music was also well done and a good blend of traditional and contemporary music.

Then on the morning of January 3rd the nurse asked me to see an 11 year old missionary child who was having stomach pain. Her father is a physician and he thought he might have appendicitis. So after examining him, I agreed and later in the morning we slowly drove the bumpy pot-holed road to Jos and did an appendectomy. Stuart Chen had made a great recovery and is doing well. So I will remember the 2007 Christmas and New Year as the year of the appendectomy. I told the rest of the SIM mission family I was offering a special on appendectomies but didn't get any other takers.

I also caught a cold with sinusitis and laryngitis this week so have not been sleeping so well. We are glad to be back home today and will take down the Christmas decorations tomorrow. Dorothy and the children don't start school till Wednesday so have a few days to rest. The maintenance department at Hillcrest decided the roof on the 1-3 grade building needed to be changed so the roof has been removed and the wood rafters changed as needed but so far the single span aluminum sheet roof is not up yet. Dorothy plans to go to school tomorrow to get ready for school but is a bit concerned about her roofless classroom. Should be an interesting start to the semester!

We are concerned about the political unrest in Kenya. We have heard from missionary friends in Nairobi, Kijabe and Tenwek and all are safe. Many have been killed and the turmoil is not over. We are still planning to go to Kenya in 3 weeks for the Christian Medical Society meeting for mission doctors and hope it is not cancelled because of the unrest. Please pray along with us for peace and stability in the country.

Thanks for your faithfulness and prayers as we enter our 16th year of service with SIM in Nigeria.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

Please reply to <bill.ardill@sim.org>.

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