

Last week I heard there was a boy on admission at Evangel who had a flashlight bulb stuck in his lung. The ENT doctor had tried to remove it with a bronchoscope twice and was unsuccessful so I was asked to see if I could help. So on Tuesday I also tried to remove the small bulb through the bronchoscope and although we could see it beautifully with the bronchoscope attached to our new video equipment, it was glass bulb side up and kept slipping out of the forceps grasper. After 1 ½ hours of trying we decided it was stuck and wouldn't move. On Wednesday morning praying fervently I did a left thoracotomy (opened his chest) and removed the light bulb from his right bronchus in his lung. I had to break the glass to get a grip on it but finally wrestled it out and closed him up. He has developed some pneumonia (not unexpected) but otherwise is doing well. The chest tube is out, he is eating and he appears to be making a good recovery. So please don't let your kids suck on small objects that might get stuck in their windpipe. Getting them out can be a challenge and stress your prayer life! The same day I also released a bad burn contracture scar on a 2 year old girl and revised a renal dialysis shunt on an elderly patient in renal failure. On Friday, our friend's (Kingsford) son was hit by a motorcycle while crossing the road in front of the hospital. He was knocked unconscious and broke his leg and arm. Poor Francis was pretty banged up and had a bad gash on his head. Within the hour he was crying and alert. He will have a tough time getting around for a few weeks, but he is doing better.

There are a number of encouraging developments at the hospital as well. The administration decided to renovate the emergency room so for the past few days after a good painting, the workmen have upgraded the lights, put down nice ceramic tile and divided the room with new aluminum partitions. We are hoping they will finish soon so we can move the temporary emergency room from the out patient department to its new home. The new mortuary is also coming along. The workmen laying the tile messed up in a few places so have to redo a portion of the flooring but otherwise it only needs the electrical fittings and paint. The administration had a lead on a mortuary refrigerator provider in Benin Republic but that lead has fallen through. So if you know of anyone who has an inexpensive mortuary refrigerator for sale, please let us know! (I bet you were never asked that question before!) The addition to the operating room for the new autoclave is also under construction. We will need to add new plumbing and electrical fittings to set it all up but at least the work has begun. Stay tuned...

The new roof is now completed on Dorothy's classroom building at Hillcrest School. It looks great and we hope it won't leak when the rains come in April. Dorothy had a good week teaching and is discovering new things and ideas all the time. This week she learned she did not have to get everything done every day. She could actually not do social Studies one day and the kids would be OK and she could make it up whenever she felt like it. What a breakthrough for a new teacher! Marie is enjoying her automotive class and the twins continue to find algebra a challenge. David is doing better in class, got a used pair of "wheeler" shoes from his 4th grade friend CJ and is working on an experiment for the science fair to see which water filter works the best to clean dirty water. A pretty relevant topic for Nigeria!

I was supposed to start teaching at the Nigerian Evangelical Missionary Institute last week but was too busy in the operating room to get away on Tuesday afternoon. I have a busy schedule tomorrow as well so hope I can break away to teach the class on Acts. We are watching the news about the situation in Kenya closely and praying for an end to the violence and bloodshed. We have not heard from the Christian medical Association if the meeting in February has been cancelled but expect to hear a decision anytime. Around 300 physicians and nurses attend this meeting from all over Africa so it will be a big disappointment if it is cancelled. We have a group of 11 doctors from Nigeria going so we are praying things settle down so we can attend the meeting.

This afternoon I had a wonderful visit by two Canadian men who were MK's and had attended Kent Academy with me in the 1960's – Steve Wright and Brian Tucker. They were touring the country in public transport, visiting the places they remembered when they were kids and learning about the new Nigeria and all the changes. It was fun to catch up with them and remember the "good ole days."

That's all for this week. Thanks for your prayers and emails.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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