

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 9:03 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: cold

Last Monday morning when I was out for my morning walk at 6:00 it was so cold I thought I was back in Annapolis in January. There has definitely been a change in the weather and we are wearing sweaters almost all day with our blankets and long pajamas on at night. It turns out the temperature was in the low 40's on Monday – the coldest I remember it in Jos since we have been here. The resident doctors come to morning report with heavy parka winter coats and the teachers at Hillcrest have thrown fashion to the wind and come wearing socks, jeans, a skirt wrapper, sweater, a head scarf and a wool cap! What a sight! Dorothy has not stooped that low in her fashion sense but has complained “I have nothing to wear” in this weather. We will not be too surprised to see snow if this continues! Wouldn't that be shocker!

In the operating room the staff are now heating water for us to scrub our hands before cases and we are all wearing patient gowns over our scrubs to stay warm between cases. The two government hospitals in the city have been on strike for a few weeks now so we are staying busy. I had a difficult day on Wednesday when a woman who had a very large goiter and was having trouble breathing died after she was given the anesthetic for surgery even before we had begun the surgery. Then another patient who had a prostatectomy last week died on the day he was to go home. Both were unexpected deaths and caused a somber mood in the operating room this week. We continue to recognize our daily dependence on God for wisdom in every case and for His working in the lives of our patients and their families in every situation. Our driver's son Francis went home also after making a good recovery from being hit by a motorcycle and sustaining fractures of his left arm and leg. He will be in casts for several weeks but so far is doing well. We also had another case of Lassa fever who presented with an unusual rash and died several days later. We are becoming a leading center for the care of patients with Lassa fever. Some survive but many do not after getting this deadly virus.

We also found out this week that the medical meeting in Kenya in February has been cancelled because of the ongoing political unrest and violence in the country. There were 11 doctors and nurses from Nigeria with our team going to this meeting and we are all very disappointed. We understand the valid reason for the cancellation but will miss the great fellowship and encouragement this meeting provides each year. We continue to pray for God's protection of the Christians and missionaries in Kenya and for a speedy settlement to this crisis.

On our compound we have “rehabilitated” the tennis court. Every few years we get it functional and then it falls into disrepair if not used. So we had a few men repair the damaged fencing and had a mason put up a practice wall on one end and we are back in business. On Saturday it was used almost all day with various games including a few sessions for the kids. It is great to have the court working again and I look forward to playing regularly now that we have a court so close. David asked me this afternoon if he could get tennis lessons so we may have a Wimbledon champion in the making.

I also helped David this weekend with his science fair project which is testing various water filters. We also repaired his treehouse ladder and built a birdhouse. Marie is enjoying basketball and found out at today's practice that she made the varsity team. Their first game is this Wednesday. Heather and Anna are preparing for the 8th Grade Pancake Breakfast this Saturday. It is a class fund raising event where the parents do the cooking and the kids do the eating!

In the next two years Hillcrest School has a number of openings for teachers and staff. Since it is not too early to let you know about these needs, I will send as an attached file a list of the needed positions for the school. If you or a friend is interested in any of these openings, please let us know and we will get you in touch with the school administration. Thanks for praying along with us about these needs.

That's all for this week. Thanks for praying.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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