

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:29 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] patience

If you don't have patience before coming to Africa, you sure learn to appreciate those who do. This week has been a test of our patience. We did not have water for about two weeks and went into the super-saver mode. That means every drop of water gets used at least twice. Two minute showers into a bucket and that water is used to flush toilets. (the girls do not have the two minute showers down quite yet!) The rinse water from the washing machine is put back into the wash cycle and so on. No watering the garden or flowers and no car washing or other water sports! Being from California should also help us appreciate low water resource measures. We are also running the well pump every day and managing to get out just enough for each day. Finally on Saturday morning the city water board workers ended their strike and blessed us all by opening the taps so we got water for an hour or so. It was enough to fill our ground tank and give us a bit of a buffer for the next period of draught. But no water since then!

Then our internet has been down for a week. The satellite signal is transmitter around the compound by wireless radios and at least one of the radios keeps failing so we have to walk around looking for a signal or go to Hillcrest to do email - hence the late letter this week. I am finally so fed up with the setup that we are trying to put up our own antennae tower to get the signal straight from the satellite server. The problem was I got a bid and gave the money to the contractor several weeks ago with not a whole lot of progress yet. Then the contractor showed up with another bill for the installation of the tower - the first bill was just for the construction and, oh by the way, that does not include the actual antenna receiver which he did not have available in Nigeria! So we wait.. and wait... Stay tuned...

Then you remember the autoclave I wrote so fervently about a few months ago. Well as you know we got the autoclave intact and I went over the plans for installation with the maintenance supervisor but so far all we have is a hole in the ground in the back of the operating room where the extension is supposed to be built to house the autoclave. So we wait...

When we first got back in July we decided to give our swing set in our back yard to the hospital to use for a children's playground for the pediatric patients. That happened in August and we are yet to see the playground or the swing set in operation. So we wait...

On a brighter note the new security gate we have requested and provided the funding for is finally being built. It will be a much more secure gate to the senior staff housing area of the hospital compound and we believe will be a much safer security barrier than the current gate. Hopefully it will be completed this month. Stay tuned...

On a sports note Marie has enjoyed playing on the varsity girl's basketball team and they won their first game last week. She plays point and subs in for the senior when she tires. They play again tomorrow so we hope they can keep up their winning streak. We finished the renovation of the Evangel compound tennis court and have enjoyed playing a few times already. The uneven surface makes for an interesting game chasing the hopping ball but it is all good fun.

I have started teaching at NEMI again and am enjoying this class. They are a bit slow in responding to my questions but seem to be a good group when they are awake. I have also helped Dr. Lemanski with a few more laparoscopy cases and we are slowly working out the bugs and problems in the system.

Dorothy is happy I did not go to the Kenya meeting because of the ongoing political unrest but it was a big disappointment to me and the others who had planned to go. I am still thinking of how she can repay me, not that it was her fault in any way(I wonder how hard she prayed it would be cancelled). Maybe a weekend away alone will help relieve the pain.

Dorothy is doing better with her difficult kids and seems to have crossed a threshold in her classroom

management learning curve. Stay tuned...

That's all for this week. I know we are suppose to wait on the Lord, but all this other waiting does get old. :)

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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

* SIM by Prayer *
