

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:16 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: progress

Unlike last week we have seen progress on a few fronts on the compound. The new security gate and wall we asked for several years ago is finally being built. The former gate was in respond to the robbery on the compound but was not a very secure gate as far we were concerned. So the missionaries got together and designed what we consider a secure gate and wall and have provided the funds to the hospital to make a new gate. It will allow better screening of vehicles without putting the guards in harm's way and will be a deterrent to unwelcome folk (as long as the guards do their part of things in manning it properly.) We are pleased with this progress and it will make us feel a lot better about the security situation on our end of the compound. Hopefully it will be completed in the next week or so.

On the home front we are finally getting our rock strewn sidewalk fixed. Last year when were on furlough, SIM organized a work crew to dig up our floors in the house to find the queen termite who had been harassing us for years. Three excavated room floors later, they found her. The floors were then replastered and to lessen the risk of Mrs. Queen coming back, the workers dug a trench around the entire house and poured poison in the ground. This meant digging up the sidewalk in the front and back of the house. So since we have been back the sidewalk is now stacks of rocks you negotiate and hope you don't twist an ankle. It is especially tough on some of our handicapped visitors who use crutches or one man who walks on his hands, and, oh, there is the blind man or two who visit us. The work crew showed up this week and has dug up all the old concrete and rocks and has set up the forms for the new concrete sidewalk. So soon we will be walking carefree to our house, concentrating on worries other than where we will trip or fall.

Then there is the internet wireless antenna tower we have wanted for a few weeks. On our compound there is a satellite receiver dish for the internet. This is located a long way from our house so the signal is beamed by a wireless network to one house, then relayed to another house and finally to our house. So if there is a problem in any of the "bridge" connections we are at the end of the line and so have regular problems with the connection to do our email. I have gotten so frustrated with all of this I asked if it would be feasible to put up a tower in our yard to get the satellite server signal directly from the main wireless point instead of several hops later. We finally saw the tower in pieces in our yard one day and they have promised to put the concrete base in this week and put the tower up on the weekend. We will see. Not only is email an important part of our lives for communication with you and for medical consultations and so on, the girls are increasingly using the internet for their homework, research and reports. We hope this idea works as well as we are dreaming it will.

The newborn baby girl I operated with a complete stomach obstruction died the next day. I was so disappointed but know she was very sick and we did the best we could under the circumstances. This morning I operated on a man who was a tax collector for the motorbike taxi guys. He is supposed to collect a tax from them but like most tax collectors, he is not well liked, to put it mildly. He must have been quite difficult because last night about 50 motorbike guys attacked him with machetes. They cut both his hands quite badly. I spent about 3 hours this morning putting six tendons in his hands back together and two finger tendons. They had also broken four bones in one hand with the machete blow. On top of all this, we found out when we ordered the lab work for his surgery that he is HIV+. We pray he has an encounter with the Lord during his stay at Evangel.

Dorothy's class still is serving her a few curve balls. Just when she feels like she has been able to help one student, another jumps up to be the new challenge. One day she had all 3 "challenges" making her work hard. She ended the day smiling, so they must not have rattled her too much. A friend reminded her that most teachers leave teaching because of not being able to get a hold on the classroom management issues. Teaching is the easy part...managing 12 little bodies and personalities is the tough job. This week they are starting their "Indian village" project. The four groups will make a village with tepees, one with longhouses, another with plank houses and last mud houses. Dorothy still remembers the Indian village she made in 3rd grade. It should be fun seeing the kids get creative. She even has a few plastic Indians for the kids to use in their villages.

Marie is enjoying basketball and Heather is now learning and helping with the statistics bench responsibilities for

each game. I am managing to get a few tennis games in each weekend on our court and now just need to find a place to get more tennis balls.

Heather and Anna's class did a great job putting on the "8th Grade Pancake Breakfast" on Saturday. This is an annual fundraiser for the 8th grade class. The parents basically prepare the food and the kids decorate a room at school according to whatever theme they choose and then dress up and serve pancakes, fruit and drinks to whoever comes from the Hillcrest community. They chose a Disco theme and had the place decorated with old LP records and album covers with music from the 60's and 70's. The kids dressed up in fun outfits fitting with their theme and had a great time. We especially liked the Nigerian girls in their Afro wigs. Heather was a sort of slicker 70's girl and Anna was a 60's hippie. They brought in quite a lot from the donations and had a great time. So did we, jiving to the "old" tunes which we actually remembered and knew. I was glad Dorothy didn't get up and start dancing or her family would have disowned her!

I am enjoying teaching the life of Joseph to the high school Sunday school class and the book of Acts at the Bible institute. The Bible students are very eager to learn and it has been wonderful to help them learn both how to study the Bible and the amazing story of the birth of the Church and the marvelous unfolding of God's strategy to reach the world with the Good news. One student has been taking trips to a part of Nigeria where the people are still walking around naked and don't practice any sanitation, which means they know nothing of toilets, washing and basic hygiene even for their children. They have virtually no contact with the outside world and are living in great darkness. I marvel at the courage and commitment of these Nigerian missionaries to go to these risky and remote places with the Gospel. I feel so privileged to have a small part in their training and preparation for these tough assignments.

Now the hard part of the letter. When I began to look into getting another autoclave for the hospital, I got quotations from the company with shipping estimates and so on. I had a number in mind and was amazed at the generous giving of many toward this goal. I was sure we would have enough with some to spare for the minor renovations needed at the hospital to make room for the autoclave. Well, the bills have now come in and the air freight bill is a lot higher than I expected and the customs and storage fees are significantly higher than I anticipated. So we need another \$10,000 to pay the rest of the customs bill, the now major renovation of the operating room and the balance of the shipping charges. I am embarrassed and frustrated it has amounted to so much but am asking for your help to meet this need. Most of the customs charges are because the shipment came a month earlier than we expected and we were not told until a large storage fee had accrued. Let us know if you like to help and we will let you what to do. Thanks.

Till next week.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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