

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2008 9:16 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] hearts and hands

Belated Happy Valentines Day! We have had quite a week celebrating V-Day. With several boys nipping at the heels of the twins and Marie with a boyfriend, Valentines took on new meaning for our family this year. On Thursday at school the girls all received roses from their various admirers. Some were surprises and they all came home with broad smiles on their faces. Marie was walking on air having received a big bouquet from her boyfriend. Then in the evening Dorothy and I went out on a date to a nice restaurant for a special Valentines dinner complete with red tablecloths and an enormous buffet of Lebanese food including a complete roasted goat on the serving table, a large ("elephant of the water") fish, roasted lamb, beef kabobs, salads, hummus, tabouleh and a variety of cakes and red desserts including fresh strawberries. A dear friend gave Dorothy a gift certificate for the dinner as a "thank you" for her teaching at Hillcrest so it was a great evening. Then to top off the week on Saturday evening the whole family went to Hillcrest for the Valentines dinner put on by the senior class as a fund raiser. It was very nice and the kids enjoyed getting dressed up. The girls looked beautiful and we all had a wonderful evening.

It seems in medicine things often come in sets of "three." Last week I told you about a man who had a bad tendon injury from being attacked by the motorcyclists. This week we had two more hand cases. One man had his hand mostly amputated in an industrial accident at a bakery and all we did was complete the amputation in an unsalvageable hand. The other case was a deep palm laceration going to the bone in a man who stepped in the middle of a fight between two men over women problems. All the flexor tendons in four fingers of his hand were cut and the thumb was broken with two thumb tendons cut as well. We found all the tendons and did our best to put him back together. He will have a tough recovery because recovery depends a lot on the patient's motivation to do the prescribed physical therapy.

On a sadder note on Friday afternoon Jim Crouch, an SIM missionary who has been serving as the principal at Kent Academy at Miango for 40 years came to see us about abdominal pain. He had a sarcoma removed from his pelvis 5 years ago and had postoperative radiotherapy. After our examination we felt he could have a recurrence of the tumor so recommended they return to the U.S. for further evaluation and treatment. Amazingly there was space for Jim and Linda on the Lufthansa flight the next day so last night he flew to Brussels and then on to Charlotte today. It is a very hard thing to see a dear friend going through this again. I know Jim and Linda would appreciate your prayers as they seek medical attention this week.

We were thankful that the internet was working this week so we could communicate with the U.S. SIM folk about Jim's situation. I was even able to connect them on SKYPE to talk to their son Danny. Our SKYPE name is "bdardill" in case any of you use SKYPE as well. It allows us to use the internet to make phone calls to regular telephones for about \$0.02 a minute and it is free to another SKYPE user using a computer-to-computer link.

Work is continuing on the new compound security gate. It is looking very impressive and will be a far better security measure than the previous one. Since the road from our house to the hospital is blocked while they make the gate, we cannot drive to the hospital or out the front gate. They have opened a back gate to let us in and out of our side of the compound. The sidewalk in front of our house is also almost completed. We hope by Monday it will be done and ready for use. It will improve the safety of those coming and going from the house who have had to negotiate the rough rock pathway to get in the front door.

I am so grateful that several have written expressing interest in helping toward the cost of the installation of the autoclave. We still have a need if you are still interested in helping. This week I have several board and committee meetings so should not be quite as busy in the hospital. The government hospital is on strike so we are pretty full at Evangel. It keeps the staff busy but prevents us from doing many elective cases if we don't have beds for them.

Dorothy had another tough week with the boy in her class who has an anger problem. He is quite disruptive and Dorothy is spending a lot of time every day trying to keep him under control. Finally at the end of the week she

called in the elementary school principal to help her manage this boy. I applaud her patience with him and hope he can change his destructive and disruptive behavior patterns.

Thanks for your faithful prayers for us. I am encouraged by the witness of Evangel Hospital and the testimonies of patients coming to Christ through the sharing of the Gospel by staff and chaplains. We are glad to be a part of that pilgrimage process for many and pray we will also have a positive influence on the staff and those in training as we work together.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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

* SIM by Prayer *
