

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 10:04 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] time out

Happy Easter. We had a good week away from our work and responsibilities and feel refreshed and rested. On Tuesday we went with three other families to the Yankari Game Park near Bauchi. We are thankful the trip was uneventful except for the amazing site of finding a herd of about 50 elephants on the side of the road while we were driving into the park. We also saw several hartebeest and baboons. After "negotiating" to get the three rooms we had reserved a month ago, we settled into quite comfortable rooms. The first problem was the intense heat that was relived by either going into the spectacular warm springs river or waiting until 7 pm when they turned the generator on and the air conditioner worked. So we spent most days in the water, coming out only to go on a safari or to eat. The crystal clear water comes straight out of a rock cliff and flows for about ¼ mile until it disappears beneath the jungle into the game park. The river then meanders through the park as the main source of water for the thousands of wild animals. The only ones we saw near the river were the baboons which were incredibly aggressive and persistent. We had to keep someone on guard to keep our things from being taken. Around the living quarters they would barge in the houses and take whatever food they could find. One family had their house broken into by the baboons while they were down at the river. We went out on safari trips in the park four wheel drive trucks. We saw more elephants on two other occasions in herds of about 50-75 animals. They were terrific to see up close in addition to seeing waterbuck, bushbuck, antelope, a crocodile, lots of interesting and beautiful birds and some monkeys. We were pleased we saw so much and got a few good pictures. The only other nuisance was the tsetse flies which bit through our clothing and left itchy painful welts wherever they got us. Overall the three days were a lot of fun especially since the kids had other kids they knew to play with both in the river and in the evening activities.

We got home on Thursday evening and after getting some laundry done, we packed for our trip to Abuja on Friday. The kids chose who they wanted to have their sleepovers with and by noon on Friday Dorothy and I headed for Abuja, the nation's capital. We stayed in a great place that was complimentary to missionaries. On Friday evening we enjoyed a delicious Thai dinner and then slept the best we have in months in the quiet air conditioned rooms at the hotel. On Saturday we relaxed at the pool and then had a lovely dinner at another nice restaurant. The weekend was the kind of quiet restful weekend we both needed as we recalled how blessed we are and the Lord's many gifts to us over the past 20 years.

When we got back on Sunday afternoon we were pleased the children all had a good weekend as well and were even reluctant to come back home. In Nigeria both Good Friday and Easter Monday are federal holidays we enjoyed another quiet day today getting ready for work and school tomorrow. We got back Dorothy's laptop that was broken so got her software re-loaded and so she is ready for the last 9 weeks of the school year.

As we look ahead to the summer we are expecting a busy few months. We have several visitors coming in May and June, then in July we are planning another family vacation for two weeks and then more visitors at the end of July. Marie will be going to a counselor-in-training

camp at Camp of the Woods and then joining us for the family vacation. School starts the first week of August and we are expecting more visitors in September. The break this week was a wonderful refresher after being busy the last few months and will recharge us for the months ahead.

I know the maintenance staff was working on the autoclave installation while we were away so I am hoping it will be ready this week. I am also praying we can get someone to help us with the Hillcrest School website so we can get it up and running. Thanks for your prayers for safety this week as we traveled (over 1000 km) and for an enjoyable week with the family.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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

* SIM by Prayer *

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