

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2008 9:02 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: donuts, water and a story

In spite of a rain last weekend we continue to struggle with water conservation. Our well is helping us get by but at the hospital we had to cancel elective cases two days this week because there was not enough water to clean the instruments and run the autoclave. The management hired a bore hole digger so we hope with two new boreholes the hospital will have enough until the rains come and fill the wells. The state government is still on strike so the water board is not pumping water to anyone in the city. Again we hope the rains come soon. We are hot and thirsty!

The Hillcrest musical went well on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Heather and Anna did well in the orchestra and Marie had fun running the spotlight. We went for the Friday performance and the cast did well, Anna carried the orchestra when the power failed and the keyboard did not work, and they all had a lot of fun. This Friday is the Junior/Senior banquet. Marie's boyfriend has asked her and she is busy helping with the banquet preparations as well as getting her own outfit ready.

My father is slowly improving but had some blood pressure problems this week so he will stay in the rehabilitation center until Wednesday when he will go live with my sister for a week until they can get his apartment ready. He is quite weak from not eating well and has had little appetite for food. Please pray for strength for him to continue his therapy, encouragement when he is discouraged and strength for my family caring for him.

The student in Dorothy's class that was struggling with anger left school this week after several long discussions with his mother. Dorothy had a much better week although she is disappointed things did not work out better.

Justina, the dorm parent and counselor at the ProLife House stopped by my office this week and shared several great stories. I thought you would be interested as well. Hadiza is a Muslim girl who was found on the street. She had just given birth on the street and was bleeding when she was found. Her baby was covered with dirt and leaves and the umbilical cord had not been cut properly. When she arrived at the hospital she was weak and drowsy from not eating all day. Her husband had traveled so she had tried to tell his people but there was a misunderstanding so she came to Jos to find her uncle when the baby was delivered on the road.

Justina cleaned the child and anointed him with oil like Samuel believing God had something special for this child. Then she helped bathe the mother and gave her new clothes. Justina told her about Christ's special love for her and her child. The girl insisted on finding her uncle so left with some basic things for her and the baby. She contacted Justina a few days later and said she would come and visit her again. Please pray for Hadiza and her child - that the Lord will continue to work in her life through the witness of Justina.

Donna is a 22 year old girl who came to the Miriam House when she was six months pregnant. Her parents gave her in marriage when she was 14. She gave birth to a boy who could not sit up when he was 10 months old. This became a burden for the family so after consulting the village priest, they decided the baby was not "fully human" so the innocent child was taken to a shrine and thrown away as a "bad child."

After this horrible incident, Donna came back to her mother's house. Her husband's family refused to finish paying the dowry so the marriage was annulled. Donna wanted to complete her secondary school education.

Her situation at home was not good and she began living promiscuously. She became pregnant again but the person responsible denied his role. So she had an abortion. Now that she is six months pregnant she did not know where to turn because she again faced rejection from her family. Even though the father of her child admitted his role he could not take care of her or the child.

A woman in her village brought her to Jos and took her to another hospital. A Christian doctor took her to the Social Welfare office looking for help for her. The Welfare office staff humiliated her saying she was too dirty to deserve their attention. They refused to help her until she cleaned herself up. She did not know where to turn so the doctor brought her to ProLife for help.

When she came to the Miriam house, Justina interviewed her and sensed she needed deliverance. After

praying for her, Donna was delivered from the spirits tormenting her. After this she was evaluated at the hospital and found to be HIV+. In spite of this sad news, she has peace and a new found faith in Christ. She will receive discipleship training while she waits to deliver her child. Thanks for praying for her as well.

Finally on a lighter note, Dorothy asked our cook Regina to make "donut holes" for us. She had made donuts before so Dorothy thought she knew what to do. When Dorothy got home she discovered donut holes the size of large donuts. So Dorothy tired again and said, "No, small donut holes" The next day I came home from work for lunch and discovered Regina with a tray of "little round donuts" in the cooking pan ready to be cooked. The holes in the donuts were certainly smaller. I explained again and finally she got it right and we enjoyed some donut holes covered with sugar and cinnamon. The power of effective communication!

Thanks for praying and for your emails and support.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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