

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 8:40 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] visitors

Two groups arrived this week from the U.S. so we have been busy. One group is from Grace Bible Church in Dallas where I attended during my surgery residency and where we are supported. The second group is 2 family groups, Holly and Rachel Gross and the Rettigs, from Maryland. Bree and Carol Rettig were very generous and brought us a lot of goodies including coffee for Dorothy, candy and breakfast cereal for the kids and a few books I had ordered. They also brought more wedding dresses for the HIV+ widows who rent them out to help support their families. We have had a busy but good week showing them "our world." They have also seen a lot of other ministries in Jos. Their high school son, Luke, who is especially interested in medicine, has been coming to the hospital with me to do rounds and see some surgery cases in the operating room. This morning both teams came for the VVF graduation at Evangel Hospital for the women who are now dry and going home and then I gave them a tour of the hospital. We have enjoyed having them visit and hope it has given them a better idea of the joys and struggles of serving here.

I went to Abuja with Marie on Thursday and saw her off on a Lufthansa flight to the U.S. for the next 6 weeks. She will be attending a Christian worldview conference at Cedarville College in Dayton, Ohio and then have a week with her grandparents in Maryland before going to Camp of the Woods in New York for three weeks in a counselor-in-training course at the Tapawingo camp for girls. The house has been quieter without her and we miss her. Dorothy was a bit nervous sending her on her own through International airports, so we were so proud of her when we heard she missed her flight in Frankfurt and went to the transfer desk for a new flight and even changed terminals to find the McDonalds.

I leave on Saturday for a two week visit with my parents in San Diego. I am looking forward to seeing them and hope I can be an encouragement and help. I don't enjoy traveling much alone and will miss my family but will be praying for the Lords' care and protection for Dorothy, Heather, Anna and David while I am away. Thanks for praying for them as well.

Our water situation has improved a little. The rains still are not coming as often as is normal for this time of year. The city water continues to be erratic and only every ten days or so. We tried to get some men to dig our well deeper but the person who dug it initially had put a cement liner that was too narrow at the bottom to dig any deeper.. So first we had to get some men to break up the last concrete ring and they then dug another 4 feet. We are hoping this will be deep enough to provide water through the dry season as well.

I have had some challenging surgery cases this week. We did a delayed abdominal flap on a young woman with a large hand effect and a cross leg flap on a 6 year old girl who had a bad foot wound from being run over and dragged by a car. Tomorrow I will be doing a difficult case of a newborn baby with a large mass below his neck which is pressing on his trachea so he is having trouble breathing. Thanks for your prayers.

We took the visitors to see the Spring of Life HIV counseling center where Dorothy had worked before she began teaching. Dorothy enjoyed seeing her former workmates and was thrilled to hear that the Evangel program is considered one of the best centers for HIV patients in Nigeria. They currently are following 4500 patients and about 2700 are on HIV antiretroviral drugs. Much to our surprise unlike in the past, they hardly have a patient die that is in the program because of the free HIV drugs now available through the U.S. funded drug program. All the children Dorothy knew who were in the program are still alive and doing well. Your tax dollars at work (for the Kingdom!)

As a final note, I wanted to let you know we finished updating the Hillcrest School website www.hillcrestschool.net. Take a look and let me know what you think and if you have any suggestions or corrections. Look for pictures of our kids on the picture scroll. Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for your prayers as I travel and for Dorothy and the kids at home.

In Christ,
 Bill Ardill

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

 * SIM by Prayer *
