

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 8:41 AM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: bags are packed

Today's good news is that Marie got her visa and her passport made it to update New York by courier yesterday. Dorothy's parents went to a courier office open on Saturday and put the last piece of the puzzle in place for our trip. Wow what a relief! We will leave Jos at 1 pm for the 3 ½ hour drive to Abuja and our flight leaves at 10 pm tonight. We are looking forward to seeing Marie in Frankfurt and then heading for Zurich and beyond! Thanks for your prayers and emails. We were very encouraged to hear from so many. Dorothy cried as she read the many that said they were praying.

In addition to the visa situation it has been a stressful week in other ways. We had more trauma patients, especially head trauma cases, come to Evangel than I ever remember. I was up several nights so it was a difficult week with head injury and burn cases. One evening the resident on call refused to go in and do a case so I had to figure out what had happened and make sure the patient received the necessary treatment. We have had two medical students and two nursing students visiting and we hope they are having a good experience at the hospital as they see the limits of medical care in our setting. It is fun for us to have students because of their fresh perspective, good questions and their wonder at the interesting medical situations.

On Thursday evening a gang of armed robbers attacked the Miango Rest Home. No one was seriously injured but they terrified the guests and made off with laptops, phone and cash. Several SIM missionaries were involved in helping the victims and mobilizing the community response. We are grateful most of the perpetrators were caught but it is another reminder of the times and culture in which we live.

On a brighter note I have not given you an update on the Evangel crisis pregnancy ministry in a while. The advisory committee appointed by the hospital; was "dissolved" last year and has not been reconstituted. This month a new chairman, Simon Khantiok – the head of the operating room and a nurse anesthetist was selected and we wanted him to go to a Christian crisis pregnancy services conference in South Africa sponsored by a group called "Africa Cares for Life." Justina, the counselor in charge of the girls' home, has been to this conference and it was a tremendous encouragement to her. She had major problems getting her South Africa visa so we were unsure if Simon would get a visa. We were thrilled to hear Justina was granted a visa and Simon was granted one if he would deposit \$1100 with the South Africa embassy in Nigeria as collateral that he would return! So next week they are off to the conference and we pray it is a helpful and challenging experience that will help move the ProLife ministry forward.

While we are away, there will be a great immigration of North Americans back to Nigeria including on our compound the Naatz family, the Lemanski family, the Anthises and Kirschners for a visit and the new Mitchell family. The Zirschkys will be staying in our house so we don't have to worry that it will be unoccupied and we hope it is helpful to them.

So as we climb the Alps, eat Swiss chocolate, drink Irish tea and enjoy the lush green Irish countryside, we will remember to thank our Lord for making this possible through your prayers and help. We will not be taking a laptop so will rely on internet cafes to check email occasionally. Till we return...

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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