

Bill Ardill

From: Ardill, Bill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2008 4:59 AM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] chocolate, scones and visitors

Thank you for your prayers over the past few weeks while we have been away. Marie met us in Frankfurt but then the week started a bit badly when Lufthansa airlines asked David and me to surrender our carryon bags as we boarded the plane from Frankfurt to Zurich. Of course the bags did not arrive in Zurich so for the first day and night in Switzerland I did not have my camera or medications and David and I had no clothes. The bags finally arrived the next evening but it was a not the kind of start we wanted after our stressful previous week. We had a wonderful vacation in Switzerland and Northern Ireland. We stayed for 5 days at the Beatenburg Bible Institute near Interlaken and stared in wonder each day at the magnificent beauty of the Alps. We enjoyed seeing Mount Pilatus near Lucern, the phenomenal Alps surrounding Interlaken and enjoyed hiking and scooting in the mountains as well as doing a little shopping in the very expensive stores in Switzerland. It is a land of great beauty, fantastic chocolate, watches, Swiss army knives and cigarette smokers. We traveled by bus, trains, boats and gondolas and could almost set our watches by them. It was such a contrast from Nigeria and we enjoyed the few busy days we had there.

In Northern Ireland we stayed in a beautiful country farm house where a Christian businessman had renovated the stables into two apartments and a conference center. We were allowed to use both apartments and thoroughly enjoyed the slower pace and quiet beauty of the surrounding green pastures. The farm peacock greeted us each morning and I conversed with the cows and rabbits on my morning walks. We enjoyed amazing hospitality from friends and family and tried to balance seeing some of the popular sights in the country and visiting friends and family. We had fun at the Giant's Causeway and Rope Bridge, admired the skill and artistry of the craftsmen at the Tyrone Crystal Factory and Belleek China Pottery factory, learned about the close ties between Ireland the U.S. at the Ulster American Folk Park and climbed the tower of the Carrickfergus Castle near Belfast. The whole family enjoyed visiting Bill's Uncle Austin and cousins and had a wonderful evening with about 30 of Bill's relatives who lived in the farming community of Clogher. The Johnston family was especially kind taking us out to eat several times, taking us water skiing on Lough Neagh behind a friend's jet ski and then taking the kids to a water park complete with water slides and a pool. My cousin Beulah and her husband Ken were also very kind and encouraging throughout our visit. We came back rested and refreshed having many good memories and experiences as a family.

David also had his 8th birthday July 26 – the day after we arrived in Ireland. Ruth and Terry Johnston and Ken and Beulah Robinson were kind and helped us put together a birthday party for him. We went water skiing that day and David got up on the ski board on his birthday. We also had a party for him this week Friday with his school friends in Jos so we has enjoyed several parties and cakes.

While we were away a visiting American teenager fell from a water tower he was climbing and broke both legs. Dr. Zirschky, a visiting orthopedic surgeon, stabilized him and set his legs so he could be evacuated to South Africa for definitive surgery. I was thankful I was away but so grateful the Lord had arranged for Bob to be here to take care of the boy. Two weeks before Hillcrest school was to start the missionary couple who had been the dorm parents at the SIM hostel also decided to not return to Nigeria so the SIM administration team was left scrambling to find someone willing to be a dorm parent for the 7 children in the hostel. Robyn Bailey who is visiting for 6 months with her daughter Monique was willing to help for the next few months but this is an urgent need for the first 6 months of next year. Thanks for praying with us and letting us know if you know of someone who might be willing to serve the SIM family in this way.

We have been running full speed since our return. Dorothy and the children started school on Wednesday and got off to a good start. Dorothy has a class of 13 "angels" including David! I also started teaching the senior Bible class and have Marie in my class. So our dinner conversations should be interesting this semester when school issues come up. Former SIM Nigeria missionaries the Anthis family and Greg Kirschner were also visiting this week and as I mentioned the Zirschky family is also here for a few weeks. Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah, the missions pastor from Bay Area Community Church in Annapolis, Maryland, is also visiting this weekend. We have enjoyed getting to know him better, hearing news from the church and showing him what God is doing in the various ministries in which we are involved.

We also have enjoyed meeting the Mitchell family who arrived while we were away. Michael is an ENT and Lisa will be helping in teaching English in various ministries. They have four teenage children who are already fitting in both on our compound and Hillcrest. The Naatz family is back after a two year absence and Rick will

be working the hospital lab and helping teach industrial arts at Hillcrest. Brenda will help in the SIM office as Travel Coordinator. We are also thankful for several new teachers at Hillcrest so are fully staffed. Please check out the new Hillcrest website and let us know if there are areas needing improvement or things you would recommend adding to the site. It also lists the teacher needs we will have next year so you can be helping us look for teachers. www.hillcrestschool.net.

Thanks again for your prayers for our family. We value your ongoing prayers for our safety as we travel and seek to honor God in our service to Him here in Jos.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

Please reply to bill.ardill@sim.org

* SIM by Prayer *
