

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 1:48 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: departures

This was a week of departures. Our missions pastor from one of our Maryland churches, Casely Essamuah, was here for 4 days and left on Monday. It was his first time in Nigeria and we enjoyed showing him the various ministries in which we are involved. He was encouraged by the variety and scope of the ministries here and was also an encouragement to us. The Zirschky family from Oregon was here for three weeks and left on Wednesday. Bob Zirschky was a great help at Evangel in orthopedics, especially now that we are admitting so many trauma patients. He is a terrific teacher and encourager and Sally was kept busy sewing curtains and a variety of sewing projects. We will miss them and look forward to their next visit. On Saturday two medical students from Northern Ireland returned to their studies. Timothy and Daniel were enthusiastic learners and jumped right into the medical work. We hope they return to the mission field after they finish their training. Two nursing students, Allison and Alyssa, from California left on Sunday. They were exposed to a variety of nursing opportunities during their 6 week visit including the hospital, working with the street children, helping in Blindtown and serving as camp nurses at the ECWA Youth Camp. They were lots of fun and gave Marie some helpful ideas as she applies to college for next year.

Then we had one new arrival at the end of the week. Jim Neagle is a generator expert who has been to Nigeria several times before and is realizing the huge need for someone to train Nigerians in generator maintenance. With the government power becoming more unreliable, we are depending more and more on our own generators. Jim will be servicing the hospital generators this week and then move on to about 10 other generators in the next two weeks. He is a welcome addition to the team.

I forgot to mention last week that we had one last birthday party for David last Friday. Because his birthday was when we were in Ireland, we wanted him to have a party with some of his school friends. The girls were in volleyball practice so Dorothy and I were left to make sure the half dozen 8 year olds who came to his party did not kill each other! To top it off, it was raining heavily all afternoon so we were stuck keeping the boys inside. We were hoping we could at least let them work off some of their energy outside but it was not to be. They had a good time but needed some supervision. They can get pretty creative in their game ideas and I wanted to reduce the amount of blood shed and bones broken. David had a great time as usual with his friends.

We have had an unusual amount of rain this August. Hillcrest School is on a hill so there are impressive small rivers of water flowing through the campus when it rains. Last Friday evening we had a huge rainstorm and the drainage gates of one of the drainage ditches got clogged so the water began to build up along the lower wall. Sometime in the night the water pushed down about 50 feet of the wall so the maintenance crew has been busy trying to clean up the mess and rebuild the wall. We are thankful our roof is not leaking and our well is full.

Our internet has been down for over a week now. There were several problems but because of the ongoing problems, the hospital is considering changing our satellite providers. We have become very dependant on internet for email and the girls use it for their research and school papers. I have been going to Hillcrest with my laptop every day to do email but it limits the time I can spend and makes it tough on the girls to do homework. We are hoping a solution is found soon so we can get back online.

Dorothy's classes are going well. She has a good group of students this year (so far!) and she and David have a good classroom relationship. I am enjoying teaching the senior Bible class and enjoy the interaction with the students as well.

Thanks for your faithfulness in praying for us. Our financial support is a bit low and we would appreciate your prayers that others will join our support team as we minister in Nigeria.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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