

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2008 8:45 PM  
**To:** ardill-news@sim.org  
**Subject:** on a lighter note

This week David lost another tooth. It had been loose for a while and on the way to school one morning he worked it out himself. He then put it under his pillow that evening with a note complete with drawings for the tooth fairy. "Dear tooth fairy, did you see my tooth? I hope you like it. How much money will you give me?" Unfortunately the tooth fairy forgot to show up so this morning Dorothy hurriedly sent him back to bed and his tooth fairy money mysteriously appeared. Fortunately he knows better now and is in it just for the money!

At this time of year the physical education teacher, Jay Tolar, gives a beginning of the school year physical fitness assessment. The students are then reassessed at the end of the year to see their progress. On Thursday David astounded everyone in his class by doing 13 chin-ups, more than any of the other girls or boys. I was at the school going to my class and he ran up excitedly and told me the news. He was so proud and excited he had done so well and so was I.

Then in the classroom David and Dorothy are learning to get along. Dorothy has a class discipline and reward system that involves turning cards of different colors depending on good and unacceptable behavior and attitudes. "Turning a card" is usually not a good thing. There is always some awkwardness at the beginning of a school year waiting to see who will turn the first card and wouldn't you know, David turned the first card. Then this week he was the first to turn two cards in one day. He did not have to take a note home to his father and it was not really a major problem but he is learning how much he can get away in the classroom with his mother.

Dorothy enjoys reading the Bible to her students in a version appropriate for their age. This week she was reading the story of Abraham and the topic of circumcision came up. She read through the passage and then realizing there might be some questions so tried to explain circumcision in a simple way. Of course there were lots of questions so she began to address them. Excitedly David raised his hand and after avoiding him for a few minutes, Dorothy finally acknowledged him. Excitedly David blurted out, "Mommy, am I circumcised?" Dorothy tried to stay composed and said, "David that is a very good question. I would like you to ask your parents that question when you get home from school today." Oh, the innocence of youth!

We also were pleased by the arrival of Shannon this week. She is a surgery resident from the University of California in San Diego surgery residency who is visiting us for a month. I met her when we were in San Diego on furlough while I was working at the VA Hospital. She is a delightful young woman and it is wonderful to have a colleague in surgery with me at the hospital and especially in the operating room. She also brought some mail and neat goodies for the kids.

Some have asked about the patients I wrote about a few weeks ago. The two men who were malnourished are doing better so we are planning to operate on the man with the intestinal fistula this week. We pray he does well enough to leave the hospital some day. Thanks for praying for him and us. Stay tuned.

This weekend I will be helping with a purity retreat for the Hillcrest high school boys. 45 boys have signed up to spend the weekend studying what the Bible says about sexual purity. I will be leading one of the ten sessions and working with a group of 5 boys through the weekend. This will be a significant time in the lives of many of these young men as they confront this important problem and we all share our successes and failures in this area. The following weekend there will be a similar retreat for the high school girls which Marie, Heather and Anna will attend. Thanks for praying for me and all involved in this coming weekend and the following weekend retreat.

Finally another note on our support. SIM sent us the new support figures for the amount we are asked to raise monthly. They have increased our needed support by \$300 per month so that is a need in addition to the need we mentioned earlier for additional monthly support. Thank you to those who have responded and are praying for us. We are very grateful.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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