

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 10:17 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] purity retreat

I forgot to tell you about something last week but it is not too late. Marie celebrated her 17th birthday on September 3 so we had a small party with the family. Because there were so many activities at school she did not get around to having her friends over for a sleepover until this last Friday night. It has become a tradition of sorts for her to have all the girls in her class to our house for a party and sleepover on her birthday. David and I usually get out and sleep over elsewhere to keep sane and not risk seeing or doing something that might embarrass them or us. Marie had a good time and all seemed to go well. We are very proud of her and glad she is following the Lord. She came home from school today and excitedly announced that she got one of the lead parts in the senior play at Hillcrest. It will mean a lot of evenings at the school in play practice but she manages her time well and is disciplined in her studies so I am sure will do just fine.

The timing was good for me to be away on Friday. I helped lead a weekend purity retreat for the high school boys. Forty six 9-12th graders came and it was a great weekend. There were ten main sessions over the weekend with small group discussions after each main session. There were lots of visual aids and participatory games and each speaker brought his own perspective and experience to the discussion of the importance of young men staying sexually pure before marriage and then on into their marriage to be faithful to their wives. I was surprised how transparent the boys were and their good honest questions. The discussions were frank and there was a good tone throughout the weekend. Fortunately my roommate did not snore and he even looked for a bed in another room with a fan because he was so used to sleeping with a fan on. We watched a "guy video" each evening and overall it was a great weekend getting to know these boys better and sharing our lives with them, both the joys and the struggles. Next weekend of the high school girls' purity retreat so Marie, Heather and Anna will be going to that. We pray it is also a good experience and helps them have a better understanding of the biblical view of purity and learn guidelines in dating and boundaries in relationships.

I was encouraged this morning that two of the young children that we did big surgical procedures on last week are doing well. One child needed a colon operation for a dysfunctional colon and the other a big reconstructive bladder procedure. It has been great having Shannon, the surgery resident from San Diego, here helping me in these big cases. She is an eager learner and seems to be enjoying the variety of challenging cases we do at Evangel. This week we have more interesting and tough cases so continue to look to the Lord for wisdom and healing in each case.

Over the weekend I was encouraged to hear from another missionary about the exciting things going on in the ministry to the Fulani. They are a strong Muslim tribe who have been resistant to the gospel for years. Now they are seeing many come to Christ and they are forming their own fellowships in their own way and are seeing growth in their groups. I also heard for the first time the rest of the story about the man who came to Evangel in December 2004, just before I was shot, who had been attacked and showed up with two arrows sticking out of his chest. We did a thoracotomy and removed one arrow from his heart and the other from his chest cavity. The missionaries who had been sharing with me over the weekend, Mark Gaddis, heard there was a Fulani in the hospital so came to befriend him and share the Gospel. When Mark entered the ICU, the man was wide eyed with fear written all over his face. He was terrified. Apparently he had three wives and was seducing another woman to be his fourth wife. The fourth woman already had a boyfriend who was planning to marry her so when our patient did not back off, the enraged man and his friends attacked him with bows and arrows shooting him four times, twice in the chest. Surviving the attack he made his way from a long distance away by taxi to Evangel Hospital with two arrows sticking out of his chest! After hearing the Gospel from Mark in his own language, the man prayed a prayer of confession and then exclaimed how peaceful he felt. Mark said he visibly relaxed, his breathing slowed down and there was a visible change in his appearance. He eventually left the hospital and Mark gave a good report our patient continues to follow Christ in spite of the pain of returning to his village and finding all his wives had been married off to other men because they thought he had died in the attack and all his cattle were sold. He got a few cattle back and one wife even though as a Christian he faced tremendous persecution. We praise the Lord for his healing, his trust in Christ and his faithfulness in continuing to follow the Savior.

On Wednesday I have asked a visiting American who is HIV+ and who is here to work with AIDS patients to speak in my senior Bible class. Bob has a compelling story of God's grace and forgiveness and the reality of the consequences of sin. The Hillcrest Board meeting is on Thursday so I would appreciate your prayers for

that meeting. We are facing several major decisions and need the Lord's guidance. On Thursday Dr. Gidado, my Nigerian surgical colleague, is leaving for a one year course in the United Kingdom. I will miss him a great deal especially as my own workload doubles. Thanks for praying for additional strength and patience. He was doing most of the orthopedics so now I will need to change gears and take on that load as well. Dr. Truxton is also leaving on Thursday. She and her husband Chuck are going on a four month furlough and will be greatly missed at the hospital and on the compound.

Thanks to those who has responded to our emails about our support needs. Our ministry account is also low so we are curtailing a number of projects we were supporting until more funds are available. Thanks for your prayers in this area as well.

So till next week, Thanks for reading and praying.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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

* SIM by Prayer *
