

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2008 8:40 PM  
**To:** ardill-news@sim.org  
**Subject:** purity retreat 2

On Thursday Dr. Truxton left for her four month home assignment. She will be missed because of her experience, hard work and flexibility. As a family practitioner practicing at Evangel for many years, she has played an important role in both missionary care and ministering to thousands of Nigerians. Dr. Gidado also left on Thursday evening. He is the Nigerian family practitioner who has been working with me in surgery. He was accepted into a one year orthopedic course in London. He has had an interest in orthopedics for many years and was doing most of the orthopedic work at Evangel. Dr. Bob Zirschky, the orthopedic surgeon from Salem, Oregon, has spent countless hours with him helping him learn to take care of complicated orthopedic problems. So now I will be tackling these challenging cases. I am sure there will be a lot of emails and pictures exchanged in the coming weeks. We pray this course will be helpful especially in his teaching role at Evangel.

This month was also challenging because there were several residents who were not doing well in their work. Their bad decisions created a lot of problems and increased my stress so I am thankful they have moved on and the latest group is much better. I enjoy teaching and training but some make it easier than others. Unfortunately the reward for bad work is more work so if a resident does not perform well, he stays on in the surgery posting and my misery continues. I guess the thinking is if they stay long enough something will sink in!

Thursday was also the Hillcrest Board meeting. I am so thankful the meeting went well with few controversies. There was great unity and many things were approved that will improve the school. It was especially encouraging to hear stories of children whose lives have been changed because of the staff and ministry of Hillcrest. This week we will have half a day of fire and security alarms to make sure everyone knows what to do and where to go.

Marie, Heather and Anna had a great time at the purity retreat weekend. The format for the weekend was similar to the boys' weekend with 10 large group sessions and small group sessions to discuss the presentations. They had time to relax and process what they were hearing and had a lot of fun. Our girls were all pretty tired when they got home on Sunday and hope can catch up on the lost sleep quickly. The high school girls who went on the purity retreat all wore white T-shirts to school today to symbolize the theme of the weekend.

We enjoyed a short visit by my nephew Luke this weekend. Luke is my brother Jim's son who is working with SIM at a leprosy hospital in Niger Republic. Luke finished at Biola and was not sure about a career path so came to Africa to get some experience in medicine. He is helping in the physical therapy department of the leprosy hospital and is enjoying the work although the living conditions are tough. The hospital is in the desert so it is HOT and dry with limited food choices, and even fewer recreational options. He came to visit us en route to Abuja to take his Graduate Record Examination for graduate school. He arrived on Thursday, went to Abuja on Friday and returned after completing the exam on Saturday. He did very well on the exam and it will serve him well as he applies in the coming weeks for a program in either physical therapy or a physician's assistant program. He took a taxi early Sunday morning for Kano and then on to Maradi. It was great to see him and we had a lot of fun even though his visit was short.

We continue to trust the Lord to provide for our needs each day and are thankful to the Lord for those who have joined with us to support us with their prayers and gifts. We struggle with the problem of creating dependency by our giving but ask for wisdom each time we help with a need among the many that we see each day. Thanks for helping us by your gifts and prayers.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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