

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2008 8:15 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: school break

This week Dorothy and the children are enjoying the Hillcrest fall break. The kids got their report cards before the break and all did very well. I had a "parent-teacher" conference with David's teacher and she was happy with his progress. Marie did very well and has almost finished her college applications. She is applying to study child psychology and counseling at Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, California Baptist University and Westmont College – all in southern California. We will see where she is accepted, fill in the financial aid application in January and make a decision based on the financial aid offered and her preferences. In light of the economy in the U.S. and our own financial situation, seems bad timing to be sending a daughter to a private Christian college but we are trusting the Lord for His direction and provision since they are all beyond our reach. Marie has done well in school and I am sure her references will also be good so we will see what happens. Stay tuned! If you know of any good scholarships, let us know.

Last week was also the start of the basketball season at Hillcrest. Marie is on the varsity team and Heather and Anna are on one of the junior varsity teams. There were more high school students who have gone out for basketball this year than in recent memory. It is a good workout for them to help them stay in shape and they seem to sleep better, learn to use their study time more efficiently and it is a good social outlet for them as well.

This week a team from SIM International is visiting to do a "country review" of what SIM is doing in Nigeria. They are visiting the various ministries and having focus group meetings with the various ministry teams. We are usually not sure of the significance of these reviews but will see what they come up with. It is supposed to give direction to the local SIM administration and hopefully provide some direction for the future.

We are also expecting a church team from Texas this week. Several on the team have visited Nigeria before so it will be good to see them again. They are also supposed to be bringing the new heating elements for the autoclave so we hope to get them installed this week and have the autoclave operational soon. On the team is also the optician who donated the equipment for our optical workshop so we can begin to manufacture our own glasses. Jimmy is coming for a month to train the Evangel staff in how to use the equipment to manufacture low cost eyeglasses. It will be a great new way to serve the patients and hopefully increase opportunities for friendship evangelism.

Tomorrow I will be going to Abuja to get my passport renewed. I ran out of pages in my passport and while we were in Ireland over the summer, the immigration official in Dublin gave me a hard time for not having enough pages for his "wee" stamp. So I hope to avoid future embarrassments and get a new passport with lots of empty pages! On Wednesday we will be going to Miango for three days to get some rest and relaxation away from Jos and the hospital. I will turn my phone off and hope to get lost in a book, do some hiking, play tennis and get some sleep. We are going with another family with teenagers so the kids will occupy themselves with lots of their own activities.

I have also enjoyed meeting with the missionary men on the Evangel campus every Tuesday morning at 6 am for a time of prayer for each other. I was in a men's accountability group last term but never quite got going in a group this term. These have been good times of prayer and I appreciate their encouragement.

Thanks again for your encouraging emails and prayers. Thanks especially for your prayers for a safe trip tomorrow to Abuja.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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