

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
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To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] concerto

All week there has been a trade fair next door on the polo field. What this means is the polo field has small plywood houses all over it with merchants from all over town creating a new market next door to us. Then the added attraction is a huge stage on which music groups and various artists present their "music" every night. Many of the merchants also have music blaring all day from their stalls and when you throw in the M call to prayer 5 times day, it makes for quite a din next door. We are about the closest missionary house to the action so feel we have front row seats to the noise. Last night the noise went to about 12:30 am so I am getting to sleep only with the aid of ear plugs. On top of the noise, the traffic around our area is worse than usual with everyone coming and going and trucks pulling in to drop off their goods. The motorcycle taxis are more obnoxious than usual and we pray every time we have to go near the area. Nights are the worst especially when there are concerts since not only is it more difficult to see Nigerians at night who are walking along the road and running across the four lanes of traffic, pedestrians think you can see them so they often walk right in front of oncoming traffic. The trade fair was supposed to end today but we heard it is being extended another 4 days. Thanks for your prayers.

Yesterday Heather and I had another unique cross cultural experience. I had seen a poster for a "Trumpet Concerto" for Sunday afternoon. I was not aware there was much interest in classical music in Jos so I invited Heather's trumpet teacher, Lisa Mitchell, and a classmate of Heather's who plays the trombone. We arrived at 5:00 on time and were about the first there. We chose seats near the back in case there was a problem and we needed to leave. As the trumpet soloist was warming up a goat ran in and out of the conference hall without anyone seeming to care if he was going to stay for the concert. The trumpeter was quite a strong player who even attached a microphone on his horn for added effect. Aside from my opinion of his playing we enjoyed the music and were pleased about 80 people finally showed up. To top it all off, at the end of the "concerto" he introduced his sponsors for the event. Among them was a bridal shop so for the final number, he played a somewhat elevator music style song while 5 models dressed in wedding gowns complete with plastic flowers paraded into the hall and modeled their gowns. He played the whole time they strutted in and finally wrapped it up with all five posing in front of the hall to a big ovation. I must confess I have never been to a trumpet concerto and wedding gown fashion show in the same sitting complete with a goat interlude!

My caseload at the hospital has dropped a bit as people begin to prepare for the Christmas and New Year holidays. I am still busy but it is not as hectic trying to fit in emergency cases into our already packed schedule in the operating room. I am so thankful the new autoclave is working well and our power and water have been steady. Being thankful for small blessings!

The basketball season is well underway at Hillcrest School. Marie is on the varsity team and Heather and Anna are on the junior varsity team. They are now playing weekly games and it has been great fun to watch and cheer them on. Marie has also been busy preparing for the senior play. She has a major part and the practices are three evenings a week. She also completed her memoirs for English class. Although I have not seen them yet, she worked hard on them including a scrapbook like look complete with stories about major events and people in her life. We will get to see them this week and it should be both insightful and interesting.

Finally we would like to urge you to vote in the election tomorrow if you live in the United States. In addition to fundamental differences in values and the sanctity of life and marriage, there are also important issues on the ballot in various states. In California for example, there is a referendum to establish marriage as a union between a man and a woman and another one to require minor girls to get parental consent before having an abortion. Please vote to stem the slide toward Gomorrah! Thanks.

In Christ,
 Bill Ardill

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

 * SIM by Prayer *
