

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 10:03 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: loss of a friend

We are glad the trade fair on the polo field next door is over so things are quieter on the hospital compound this week. The dry season is on so we are getting used to the dust again and conserving water again. The nights are cooler and the mornings chilly enough for us to wear our sweatshirts when we go for our early morning walk. A stomach flu was going around last week and hit several families on the compound but we are thankful no one in our family was sick. The dry wind and dust brings a lot of respiratory viruses and other bugs but I suppose we have been here so long we may be developing some immunity to a few of the nasties.

Although the world economy is struggling it hits me especially hard when humble folk come to the hospital looking for help but just don't have the needed resources. On Friday a woman came in to my office in the clinic holding a baby who had hydrocephalous. I explained we needed to do an operation to help the baby and then asked her to go to the "theatre" to get an estimate of the cost before taking her child to the pediatric ward for admission. After getting the price of the operation, she left because she did not have enough money. Then today two women came into the clinic. The one holding the baby was dressed like a Moslem but her friend was the one who spoke English. Her friend was a Christian neighbor who felt sorry for her neighbor's child who had a spin bifida problem. The child already had an infection and needed to be admitted to get antibiotics before the surgery. They both pleaded they had no money for an operation. After the Christian woman asked if the baby would ever walk again and I said "No", she left with her friend and the baby because they did not have enough money for the admission and surgery. These sad situations are tough as we strive to serve the poor yet the hospital does not have the resources to provide free care.

Jimmy McGonagill, the optician from Texas, leaves tomorrow after doing a great job setting up the optical workshop at Evangel to make eyeglasses. He has trained a Nigerian to use the equipment so he can begin making simple glasses. The workshop looks great and we hope will serve many patients who come for eye care at Evangel. Jimmy hopes to return next year to give more training to the staff and encourage them to do more.

There is a team of physicians and nurses from the U.S. visiting this week. They are interested in encouraging our staff and are scheduled to give lectures and spend time with the nurses and doctors on the ward. Another team from upstate New York is coming next week so we are looking forward to hosting a number of visitors in the coming weeks.

The girls are enjoying playing basketball at Hillcrest. Heather and Anna are on the junior varsity team and had great fun in a basketball tournament this weekend. Their team won all their games and finished with a one point lead in the last game. They are getting good experience, learning more about teamwork and keeping in good shape. Marie is busy practicing three nights a week for the senior play next week. She has a big role in the play and we are looking forward to seeing the play next week.

On a sad note, a good friend of ours and a person I grew up with in Nigeria, Jim Crouch, died this week of metastatic sarcoma. Jim served at Kent Academy for 40 years and will be greatly missed by his students, the staff, alumni and hundreds in the Miango community. We are praying for his wife Linda and his 5 children this week as they mourn the loss of their dear father.

That's all the news for this week. Thanks for your support and prayers. We appreciate your faithfulness in praying for us and supporting us so we can continue to have an impact through our ministries at Hillcrest School and Evangel Hospital.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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