

## Bill Ardill

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2008 9:37 PM  
**To:** ardill-news@sim.org  
**Subject:** Fools

This was Senior play week at Hillcrest. Marie had a major part so Dorothy went to the dress rehearsal on Wednesday night, I took the twins on Thursday evening and we all went on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was fantastic. "Fools" is a wonderful comedy about a town in Russia that is cursed and all the villagers are not too smart. A new school teacher comes and if he can educate the fair maiden in the town and marry her before the deadline, the curse will be lifted. The jokes are great, the kids acted very well in character and overall they did a terrific job. Of course, we think Marie did especially well. Although it was a lot of work for the seniors, they had mixed feelings when it was all over on Saturday night. It was a great time of bonding and fun for them and they are still repeating the lines to each other this week. Since Hillcrest is a relatively small school, the high schoolers get to participate in the drama productions, extracurricular sports and music events so they keep pretty busy (and so do the parents driving them to all the practices!)

On Saturday morning the high school kids also had a walkathon to raise funds for the ministries to patients living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. Marie, Heater and Anna all ran or walked for the hour of the event and helped raise both awareness and funds for this important cause. Following that the 11<sup>th</sup> grade class held the annual Craft Sale. This is another fund raiser for the class and was originally an opportunity for the students to make crafts and gifts for Christmas shoppers to raise money for their class but it has morphed into basically an opportunity for all the curio merchants in Jos to come and sell their stuff. There is the usual assortment of items tourists buy but there are also often a few new creative ideas. Dorothy likes to look at the tie-dye cloth and the artists' paintings while I usually sit and read my weekly TIME magazine and visit with other "drivers" to the event. It is about the only time our kids have to shop for Christmas presents. They don't have much in the downtown stores they would want to buy for us and their friends so this is a mini-mall experience for them. They also have food and snacks for sale and some things for the little kids like face painting and crafts. We had a fun time and came home with a few surprise gifts for Christmas.

Two babies were brought to Evangel last week for treatment. One child was 2 kilograms and the other was only 1 kilogram. Both had some of the signs of a bowel obstruction but I was not sure so we waited a few days to sort out the situation. Finally on Thursday I operated on both of them and to my surprise they had similar problems with a blockage of their intestines. Although it was a bit like sewing two pieces of spaghetti together even with my magnifying glasses on the surgery went pretty well. The 2 kilogram boy is doing well and it now taking breast milk and seems out of danger. The 1 kilo baby boy did not make it and on Sunday evening died probably for reasons related to his low birth weight and prematurity.

Last week another highlight was a visit from a family I knew growing up in Nigeria. Dr. Champion was a Canadian surgeon who started Egbe Hospital in the southwest part of Nigeria many years ago. Two of his children (Don and Betsy) came back (Don with his wife and niece) for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the arrival of SIM missionary Tommy Titcomb to Egbe. It was a grand celebration and was a wonderful celebration of God's faithfulness over many years and now the church is vibrant and thriving in the Egbe community. The Champions stopped in Jos for a few days on their way home and it was great to catch up on their family news and we were encouraged by their ongoing interest in the SIM ministries in Nigeria.

We were also thrilled with the arrival of a team of 19 young people from Camp of the Woods in upstate New York. The Camp has a program in the fall and spring for young people who want to take a semester off school to grow spiritually and in their Christian worldview. The program is called LIFT and is both a leadership development program and an opportunity for these young people to refocus as they begin preparation for God's calling in their lives. We are thrilled they have added a missions focus as well and so the whole class and their two leaders (Tim 1 and Tim 2 or is it 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy?). I gave them a tour of Evangel this morning and Dorothy spent some time with them at Hillcrest this afternoon. They will also see the Gidan Bege ministry to the street children and then participate in a medical outreach to a rural underserved area. We pray this trip will be challenging to each of them as they consider the needs and opportunities on the mission field today.

This will be a busy week again. This afternoon I met with the SIM administrative about our need for teachers at Hillcrest next year. We especially and desperately need house parents for the SIM Hostel for next semester. So far no one has volunteered to help with this important need to serve the SIM families who live

out of Jos and need to have their kids in dorm facilities. Friday I have a meeting with the Hillcrest Executive Committee in preparation for the Board meeting December 4-5 and then on Friday afternoon we have a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of the new ECWA Bingham University about their plans to start the medical school students' rotations at Evangel in February. On Saturday I am also involved in an all day board meeting for the ProLife crisis pregnancy ministry. There have been a number of serious problems and misunderstandings about the funding of the ministry so we are praying the hospital is still committed to continue this outreach to girls in crisis. Thanks especially for your prayers for that meeting.

Well we hope things will slow down a bit without the three nights a week play practices for Marie but stay tuned, I am sure she has a few other ideas of things to do to keep busy. Thanks for your prayers for us. We are grateful for each of you.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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