

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 8:04 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: back to Jos #2

We are grateful for your prayers and emails. It has been a quiet weekend both in the Miango area and in Jos. We have appreciated the rest and time for reading and catching up on some things. The kids have had a great time with all their friends here. This morning we had a meeting at Hillcrest to decide if things were settled down enough to resume school on Wednesday. Since it has been quiet and there are no new worrisome signs of problems, the school decided to resume classes Wednesday morning. There will be time set aside to debrief the teachers and students. Next week is exam week for the Middle and High Schools so the teachers needed a few days to finish the term before finals. It means the kids will need to get into high gear to be ready for their exams.

It will be a different Christmas season since most of the scheduled school Christmas events have been cancelled or postponed until January. There is still a curfew in Jos so there will be no evening events or concerts. I am sure the teachers will make some effort to have some Christmas activities for the students but it will be toned down because of the time limits. We are still planning to come back to Miango for Christmas week (so Dorothy does not have to cook!)

We will go back into Jos Tuesday morning and I will do rounds at the hospital and resume work Wednesday. Dorothy will be at the school for a meeting on Tuesday afternoon with all the teachers and then will figure out what her schedule will be and what topics she will not be able to cover. Please pray for her on Wednesday as she also spends time with her 3rd grade students debriefing them, listening to their stories and helping them as she is able.

I have been checking almost every day with the staff and residents at Evangel Hospital and they are handling things pretty well. Because of the situation, very few people have been coming to the hospital for care except for emergencies. Most of the elective surgery has been postponed because patients are not coming to the hospital out of fear and the general uncertainty in the wider Jos community. After a hectic few days this slower schedule has been a well deserved break for the hospital staff.

We are grateful that only a few staff at the hospital were injured in the crisis and a few lost their homes in fires. The compound was never attacked and we are grateful for God's protection in all of this. Throughout the city there were hundreds who were killed and a lot of property was burned so there are still quite a number of people living in refugee camps outside the city. A number of churches and missionaries have been helping in these camps. Another amazing event was the arrival for three days of rain on and off. For the middle of the dry season this was truly a miraculous weather anomaly that seemed to cool not only the environment but the mood in the city. We continue to be cautiously optimistic that peace will prevail over the holiday season but are being careful where and when we travel and certainly avoiding certain parts of town whenever possible.

Thank you so much for your prayers for our family, the missionary community and the many Christians we work with in Jos. Please continue to remember us through this season as we worship and celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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