

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2008 10:07 PM  
**To:** Ardill-News  
**Subject:** [ardill-news] back to normal?  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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The Hillcrest Executive Committee met on Monday morning and decided things were safe enough and quiet enough in Jos to resume classes on Wednesday. We returned to Jos on Tuesday and have been running since then. There was an excellent debriefing for the school staff on Tuesday afternoon to not only debrief them and hear the stories of their experiences during the Jos crisis but to also help them debrief their students, some of whom had been through more traumatic situations. It was time well spent so when classes resumed on Wednesday, each section of the school had a general chapel meeting to encourage the students and give praise for a safe return and then throughout the day teachers had many opportunities to talk with the students about their experiences. Dorothy was a bit concerned about her class of third graders but it went well as long as they stuck to only telling their own experiences and not all the stories and rumors they heard. We are grateful the week back has gone very well and by the end of the week it seemed most students and teachers were up to speed and doing well. We are thankful that no one in the immediate Hillcrest community had any major injuries or loss of property.

Life in Jos has gradually returned to normal in most areas. That means the motorcycles that are so obnoxious and dangerous are now back on the streets in force and there are more pedestrians, taxis and motor vehicles than ever as everyone hurriedly finishes up their Christmas shopping. Yes, even here everyone (almost) wants to get presents for their loved ones. In spite of the fact there are fewer choices of places to Christmas shop, we are also thankful that we do not suffer from the same advertising fatigue, shopping "mall-itis" and incessant TV advertising all those bargains you can hardly live without. We are thankful things are getting more "normal" but not for the increased traffic and traffic accidents.

I have been busy working on quite a number of burn patients and patients injured in the riots with orthopedic problems. Many are very challenging cases like the man who had a bomb explode in his hands and the man injured when he was shot in both legs at close range by a home made shotgun. Because many are still afraid and money is short, fewer patients than usual are coming to the hospital for elective surgery so it is giving us opportunity to catch up on the "crisis" cases.

Dorothy is busy trying to squeeze in some of the material she missed with her class during the riots and also get her marking and grades done for the end of the semester. She has also started a blog for those interested in her thoughts on her teaching experiences in Nigeria at Hillcrest (<http://teachinginnigeria.blogspot.com>) The girls start their final exams tomorrow until Thursday afternoon. With all the anxiety and interruptions of the crisis, it has been tough for them to get back in the studying mode and prepare for their exams. I give my exam to my Bible class on Thursday and then have to mark it and finish my grades by Friday morning. I have also offered to teach Apologetics to the Junior class in the high school next semester so have been busy writing my curriculum for that class as well. I have not taught this class before so it is a lot more preparation getting ready for it. I will also be teaching the high school Sunday school class again after the New Year.

There are also the usual Christmas parties this week and we need to squeeze in a shopping trip to the two stores the kids can shop in here for small presents for the family and have a morning making Christmas cookies and gingerbread houses. Finally on Saturday there will be a piano recital for some of the children including David who will be performing for the first time. Because we could not find a missionary piano teacher in Jos willing to teach Heather and Anna, it has been difficult for them to stay motivated to practice so they are not going to continue playing the piano (much to our disappointment).

Obviously we are looking forward after all this fun to going to Miango on Saturday afternoon for a bit of a rest. We will stay for a week and enjoy being away from school and work as we enjoy the fellowship, food and fun offered at Miango during the holiday season.

We were encouraged that our donor statement for October that we just received from SIM shows our amount of support we received has increased. With the U.S. economy in a tailspin, we have also felt the effects of that in our own small investments, the value of our house and the support we are receiving. It has forced us again to remember our sufficiency is in Christ and not on our stored earthly treasures. We are very grateful for all

who have helped this year and given so sacrificially so we can continue in ministry in Nigeria. Thank you and we pray you also have a restful and joyful holiday.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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

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\* SIM by Prayer \*

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