

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:53 PM
To: 'ardill-news@sim.org'
Subject: well, well, well

It's been an up and down sort of week. We are grateful that politically it has been quiet in Jos although on several occasions heavily armed men were caught trying to sneak into the city. Traffic and the markets are getting back to normal. The biggest change on the roads is implementation of a motorcycle helmet law. There is an amazing variety of "helmets" ranging from U.S. standard ones with plastic faceguards to thin plastic "Bob the Builder" ones that are perched on their baseball caps without even a strap. As a trauma surgeon, I hope these help reduce the head trauma a bit but enforcement will be key to long term results.

Things are picking up at the hospital as well, although we are not as busy as usual. After a holiday it takes a while for people to recover financially to come especially for elective surgery. The hospital is building an incinerator which we hope will help do a better job of medical waste disposal on the compound. They are also building an in-ground water cistern to help with the water shortage in the dry season.

Speaking of water, our back yard well went absolutely dry this week. Usually it gets us through the end of March when the rains begin to come in April but this year it dried up frustratingly early. So we are again in the extreme water conservation mode. We called the Nigerian plumber we normally use to see if digging the well deeper would help but the answer was "No." "JJ", as we call him, then called in the professionals. I came home from lunch to meet them. The group of three told me they had found water in the back yard with their "thing." I asked to see the "thing" so the leaders showed me a bent piece of wire about 18 inches long. I asked him to show me so he held the wire in his hand like a handgun and walked across the yard. When he came to the water, the wire swiveled 90 degrees in his hand. I could not believe it and thought it was a trick so I asked him to show me the other water spots and he did. They were not as strong and the wire did not turn as much. Then I asked if I could try it and after my best efforts, the wire did not turn. So I called in the big guns and asked our kids to each try it. Marie and David also failed to get the wire to move but to our amazement both Heather and Anna saw the wire move when they got near the supposed water. Wow! I have no explanation for this except that I have heard of water "divining" before but had never witnessed it. So the men started digging this afternoon and we will see if there is water where the wire said so! Stay tuned! Now at least Heather and Anna can add to their resume and business cards, they are "diviners."

On another front, we mentioned last week we were looking for a vehicle to use for our cross-country trip this summer and for our year in California for the family. Dear friends of ours in Comfort, Texas, Don and Delia Hunt, wrote they had a vehicle we could use that sounds perfect. We are so excited and thankful for their generous offer. It has been wonderful over our years in Africa to see how God provides for us so faithfully. We will still need to find a small car for Bill to take to work but it is a wonderful provision to have our "across America" car.

This afternoon we are going to Miango for the annual SIM spiritual life conference. We will be there until Sunday afternoon. A team of four from Dorothy's parents' church came to help with the younger children's program and a group of non-SIMers is helping with the Middle and high school program. SIM had invited a speaker from Korea but he was denied a visa so Dr. Danny McCain, a well known and loved missionary in the Jos community, agreed to fill in. Thanks for your prayers for the SIM Nigeria family this weekend.

So till Sunday, thanks for praying and writing.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bill Ardill

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