

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 9:39 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: a rabbit tale

Monday was the big day. We had been planning for the wedding for months and finally it came this week. We took the bride-to-be to the groom's house and made the necessary arrangements with the family. We carefully selected the right groom taking into account the important features and personality traits we had been looking for. All seemed in order so the ceremony began. Our son David got Rosie the rabbit when she was 6 weeks old and now she was old enough to have babies. David thoughtfully chose a large gray male and Rosie was put in her cage for the "wedding." After the male did his thing unsuccessfully for a few minutes, Rosie started the same behavior until, Paul – the owner of the male, picked up Rosie and after a quick look exclaimed, "Rosie is a boy!" Boy, did we ever laugh and all came to the conclusion that arrangement would not work! So David picked out a gray female rabbit to marry our "Sir Rosie" rabbit and it was a match made in heaven, so to speak. So we came home with "Sir Rosie" and "Lady Thumper" (hopefully pregnant) and a funny story of mistaken identity. Stay tuned for this developing story...

We also took in another visitor this week. The Gardeners were Wycliffe missionaries in Nigeria for a number of years working with a tribe on the east side of Plateau State. They returned to the U.S. but their daughter Lydia who was in Marie's class wanted to graduate with her class at Hillcrest. So she will be staying with us for a few weeks and then spend time with some of her other classmates before graduation in May. She is a welcome addition and Marie is happy to have the company.

Marie received her letters of acceptance to Biola and California Baptist Universities this week as well. After considering a number of issues, she has decided to attend Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles and study Child Psychology. She is very excited and has started corresponding with fellow freshmen and current students and alumni. Thank you for praying for her and us in this decision. We are now working on getting her financial aid forms in and are applying for need based scholarships - another big prayer item.

This week my surgery clinics have been amazingly busy. I think everyone who wanted surgery since November finally summoned the courage to come to the hospital. With the crisis in Jos and the holiday season, many stayed home until now. So I have cases lined up for several weeks and pray for wisdom as we tackle some challenging surgical problems.

School also started on Wednesday so we are all back into the school routine. With the ongoing curfew in Jos all the evening activities and programs area being rescheduled for the afternoon hours so it is a busy schedule. Dorothy has a new student in her class and I am teaching 27 11th graders Apologetics. I am looking forward to the semester and hope to keep it interesting for them.

We are thankful the well diggers have found some water at 32 feet. It is a hand dug well so is a slow process. We would like them to dig a few more feet so we are sure it yields enough to last us until the rains come in April. We are grateful our old well is still producing some water every few days to help us get by. So the whole family is learning to take short showers standing in a large basin so we can reuse the water to flush toilets and water a few plants in the garden.

On Monday and Wednesday afternoons I gave two lectures at a Trauma Workshop jointly sponsored by the West African College of Surgeons and the Jos University Teaching Hospital Department of Surgery. The meeting was well organized and was held in a beautiful hotel in Jos. I enjoyed seeing many of my surgical colleagues from the university and was grateful for the opportunity to present some of our experience in dealing with trauma.

On Friday the ProLife Evangel crisis pregnancy ministry advisory committee met with the hospital management to discuss the future of the ministry. There had been some misunderstandings and so this meeting was critical in the hospital deciding whether to continue this ministry. I am so thankful that at the end of the 6 hour meeting, the hospital has agreed to continue this important outreach to women in crisis and accepts that ministry to the poor and desperate is not always "income generating." There are still some finance and logistic things to work out but basically there is a renewed sense of partnership together in moving forward to help these desperate women. I was very thankful for the medical director's clear position in this and support of continuing the ministry. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we work out the details of the path forward and the need for financial support.

Finally on Saturday morning we said a tearful goodbye to the four from College Parkway Baptist Church in Maryland who came to help with the children's program at the SIM conference. They did a terrific job and the kids had a wonderful time. This week we have taken them around a number of different ministries in Jos and they have had a good and stretching week. We appreciated all they did for us and look forward to seeing them this summer when we stop in Maryland for a few weeks.

This week I have a VVF committee meeting and the Hillcrest Board of Trustees meeting so never a dull moment. Hopefully no more rabbit tales for at least 4 weeks!

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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