

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 9:43 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: update

Since last week we have a few updates on what is happening in the Ardill household. Of utmost interest to many of you is the sad news that it looks like the "wedding" did not "take" so there was a repeat performance (much like President Obama taking the oath twice to be sure it "took") by the rabbit parties concerned and we again wait expectantly for the pitter patter of little feet in the cages in the garage.

The well diggers met with me this week and I knew it was not good news since they already were paid. Although we could see some water in the bottom of the well at about 35 feet, the dirt walls kept collapsing on the diggers and they were afraid the whole well would collapse on them so they quit. Our main contractor tried several more diggers but all had the same bleak news. So they finally suggested we consider doing a borehole and starting where the well diggers left off. So after asking for some suggestions, I now have a list of several borehole diggers in the area and we will see what ideas they have other than taking my money. In the meantime, everyone is doing well rationing water and we are grateful we have had city water come more than usual. So I guess the water dousing man was right, there was water there, we just can't get it!

Because of the interrupted basketball schedule at school in December due to the Jos political crisis, the varsity boys and girls teams had their final basketball tournament this weekend. Both Hillcrest Varsity boys' and girls' teams won their last games and it was a good finale. Marie got to play more than usual in her last game as a high school senior but was still glad the season was over. This week they started training for track and field. Marie and Heather are interested in the long distance running events and Anna is considering hurdles again. Anna also wants to try out for the school Spring musical so she will have to decide soon what to do. Since there is still a curfew in Jos, there are no evening school programs or activities so all the practices and concerts have been moved to the afternoon so people can get home before the 7 pm curfew.

I was involved in a sad situation today. A teenage girl came to see me about a year ago because she had a rectovaginal fistula. She had had an abortion that went wrong so the doctor did a hysterectomy. Afterwards she started draining stool from her vagina. I operated on her last year and gave her a colostomy to decrease the stool drainage. This morning I took her back to the operating room to sort out her situation. I found to my unbelief that the previous surgeon had actually sewed up her rectum so she could never stool normally. It was so scarred in I could not put her back together again and had to leave her with a permanent colostomy – all because she had gone for an abortion that went wrong.

We continue in uncertainty regarding the hospital's plans for the ProLife ministry. There is concern about the cost of helping these girls in crisis pregnancies and the hospital management team is deciding if they will continue the ministry. I had an opportunity to meet with the hospital management team and the ProLife Advisory Committee to explain our perspective and some critical historical background. Stay tuned...

The weather is getting hotter and hazier as we move into the toughest time in the dry season. It makes it difficult for the students in my Apologetics Bible class at Hillcrest to stay awake at the end of the school day. Other than a few minor problems, the class is going well and I hope I am both challenging their faith and equipping them to defend it as they face the challenges of university life outside of a mission school in a few years.

We have another house guest. Lydia is a senior in Marie's class. Several years ago her parents moved back to Oregon to continue their mission work from the States. Lydia wanted to come back to Nigeria to graduate with her class at Hillcrest. It was been great to have her with us and we hope she does not let people know how we really are at home!

Today we bought our plane tickets to the U.S. for this summer. We will let you know when we have a better idea of our summer drive-across-America itinerary so you know when to either leave town or water down the soup for our arrival. Now we are working on our summer plans, getting our packing schedule up to speed, reworking our furlough video, preparing for Marie's graduation and trying to be in the right place each day.

Thanks again for your prayers for us, the patients we serve at Evangel and the students whose lives we touch at Hillcrest School.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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