

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2009 8:01 PM  
**To:** ardill-news@sim.org  
**Subject:** plugging along

We were concerned last week when we received warnings that on Friday trouble was expected in the downtown area. We avoided unnecessary travel and were on guard all day for any word of unrest. We are grateful it was another quiet day and evening. On Saturday evening we were surprised when armed policemen came to the residential area of the hospital compound and began to go house to house. We finally got word that the police had received a tip that the missionaries were a target so they sent police to provide some additional security. We have had trouble getting more specific information on that report but asked the police to continue to provide support at our gates. The 7 pm to 6 am curfew was also relaxed this week to 9 pm so the number of trauma and emergency cases coming to the hospital at night has increased. Thanks for your prayers for peace in Jos and our safety.

I faced two tough cases this week – both of whom had been operate one by other surgeons and had serious complications. The woman with the fistula is doing well and the little boy I operated on today for a poorly done intestinal procedure is doing well. We are grateful Dr. Musa Dankyau, a Nigerian family practice doctor and graduate of the Evangel residency, returned to work at Evangel after working with SIM at the Galmi Hospital in Niger Republic. Next weekend is the celebration of Evangel Hospital's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary so we are expecting a number of graduates and former missionaries to return for the occasion. As we have reviewed the history of the hospital, it is remarkable to see the hand of God through some very tough and challenging times and be reminded to God's faithfulness.

We are glad the well diggers have found water and this week they have been putting down cement rings to keep it from collapsing. They are now down to about 30 feet and still digging. We hope it will provide us with enough water to last until the rains come in April. It seems many parts of Jos are having water problems so we are not alone. Kijabe Medical Center in Kenya is also having a serious water shortage and they have asked for prayer as well.

Heather and Anna made us proud on Sunday when they played their instruments – flute and trumpet – for the service prelude, as a special musical number and for the service postlude. Heather played 2 pieces on the piano and did GREAT! They did very well and we are grateful they have stuck with their practicing so they can perform well in public. This week the girls start the track season at school. Marie and Heather will go out for the long distance events and Anna tries out for hurdles. Anna is also trying out for the spring school musical and can't do both so we will see which wins out. On Friday the elementary school has its Science Fair. On Saturday David and I spent most of the day working on his experiment. The question he tried to answer was "What food makes the most electricity? – Lemon, potato, onion or tomato? We placed four of each food in an egg crate, hooked them together in groups of four by wires with paperclips and then measured the voltage for each food group. We learned that lemons make the most electricity. David then made his poster and is very proud of his experiment. (So is his father!) For a special touch he drew pictures on his poster of a "tomato powered car," "a lemon powered house" and a "lemon powered rocket ship." Look out Al Gore!

I am generally enjoying teaching Apologetics to the junior class at Hillcrest School. However, there are a few in the class who chat among themselves every day and it has been a point of frustration and annoyance for me. In spite of calling on them to stop and gently humiliating them, they persist. So yesterday I spent most of the class time talking about the importance of a good attitude and the value of respect. I don't like those sessions but received a very encouraging note after class from a student who graduated last year from Hillcrest. She appreciated my Bible class and said it has been helpful for her in college this year. So some times, some of it sticks in some people! Yeah!

I got another head cold this weekend so am fighting drowsiness and headaches each day. The rest of the family is in good health.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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