

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 8:13 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: eventful week

We are glad to report that the new well has good water (we think). When the well diggers finished digging at about 35 feet, they said there was 6-7 feet of water. After taking out the water, the next day there was 6 feet again so it seems to be a good water source. They dropped down precast concrete rings to line the well and now we are waiting for them to make the cap and install the pipes and pump. Stay tuned but so far it seems less expensive than a borehole.

Another encouragement this week was our December donor report from SIM. We were very encouraged by the generosity of many friends and churches. After a tough few months last fall we are so thankful for these gifts that allow us to help so many here in great need. Thanks for your prayers and gifts toward the ministries here.

Friday was the Elementary Science Fair and David enjoyed showing all the kids how many volts 4 lemons connected with wires produced. He also had potato, tomato, and onions which didn't produce as much voltage. By the time the science fair started, the lemons were producing 2 volts so we were sorry Bill and David had not hooked it up to a flashlight bulb to show a new kind of night light! It was great fun and Dorothy was exhausted even though the kids did all the talking.

I am enjoying teaching Apologetics at Hillcrest. Last week we tackled the question "Can God make a rock so big he cannot lift it?" I gave my first test to the junior class today. Most did OK which encourages me that most are staying awake and some of the material is sticking. Last week I was upset that some were talking among themselves during class time and it was very distracting and disrespectful. So I spent a class period "encouraging" them to be more respectful of each other and me. Just after the class Bob Murray, the high school math teacher, handed me a note from a Nigerian girl who graduated last year. She often challenged me in the Ethics class and so I was surprised to read that the Bible class had helped her prepare for many of the issues she is facing now in college. It was a surprise to hear that from her and was a great encouragement at the end of a tough day at school.

Things at the hospital have also been strange. Many of the family practice residents have not been diligent in their patient responsibilities. I have good residents but they are very inexperienced so I end up taking them through procedures that a senior resident can usually handle or teach them. Dr. Dankyau, a graduate of the Evangel family practice residency a few years ago who has been serving at the Galmi Hospital in Niger, is back at Evangel and we hope can have an impact on the resident work ethic and sense of responsibility. We have a medical student from Nebraska and a visiting ENT surgeon from Oregon here for a few weeks and it has been great having them here.

The hospital has not made a decision on whether it wants to continue the ProLife crisis pregnancy ministry. It has been expensive running the home for the pregnant girls and the hospital has not made a decision on whether or not to continue this aspect of the ministry. I am to meet with the management committee tomorrow and we will see what they are thinking. Even though I would like to see it continue, from the beginning I wanted it to be the hospital's ministry and their vision and not just mine. If they do not want to continue, there are others in the community who are interested so we will trust the Lord for the future of this important outreach to women in crisis.

Track season has started at school. Marie and Heather are doing the long distance running events. On Friday at their first meet, which was an in-house event, Marie was second and Heather third in the 800 meter race. In the 1500 meter event, Heather placed second and Marie was third so we now have an in-house running rivalry. Anna got a part in the high school spring musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." She is very excited and it already sounds like it will be fun musical for the kids to perform. She plays the part of Sally.

On Sunday Heather and Anna both played in church. Anna played her flute and Heather played the piano for a number by the Praise Worship Team. They both did great and we are so thankful they are now at a stage they enjoy playing and are becoming more confident performing.

Yesterday I sent our driver and van to the airport in Abuja to pick up Dr. and Mrs. Verbrugge who were coming for the Evangel 50th Anniversary this weekend. On the way to the airport our driver called that the van

had stopped running. I hastily got another driver and van from Peter Fretheim and the new driver made a hasty run for the airport in Abuja. He got there about an hour late but was able to get our friends to the guesthouse in Abuja and then on to Jos today. We got word this afternoon that our van has been temporarily fixed and is on the way home this evening. Tomorrow we will begin the autopsy on the car or ICU evaluation and see what the damage is and what we need to do to get it on the road again. So we are borrowing vehicles for a few days and are grateful for the kindness of our neighbors.

Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning are the main events for the Evangel 50th anniversary celebration. We are expecting a number of former staff and missionaries to attend and are praying it will be honoring to the Lord for His faithfulness and grace over these many years. The hospital was opened in 1959 and I remember watching my first operation at Evangel as a boy in the early 60's. My how time flies!

That's all for this week. Thanks for your prayers for us.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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