

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 9:52 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: visitors and a celebration

On Monday we sent our driver to the Abuja airport (3 ½ hr away) to pick up Glenn and Berniece Verbrugge in the evening and take them to a guesthouse and then bring them to Jos on Tuesday morning. The plane was expected to arrive at 8:15 pm and at 5:30 pm our driver David called me that our van had broken down about 1 ½ hours outside of Abuja. We have been having problems with an oil leak and I feared the worst. I asked him to find a mechanic to take a look at it while I made other arrangements for our visitors. We found another driver in Jos willing to hurry to Abuja in another van so Sam took off hoping to meet our friends before they would panic and think we had forgotten them. Sam got to the airport about an hour late and picked up the Verbrugges from the airport. He then brought them on to Jos on Tuesday. Glen and Berniece worked at Evangel from 1974 – 1984 and were returning for the Evangel 50th anniversary celebration this week. It was wonderful seeing them and showing them all the changes and new ministries going on at the hospital and in Jos. Phil and Janne Andrew also came from Australia for the anniversary and we enjoyed seeing them as well. They had worked at Evangel for 15 years and were our neighbors for two years before they left. Of interest is the exciting news that Phil has been nominated to the next SIM Nigeria Director so this visit was to further explore that idea as well.

The Evangel celebration began on Friday afternoon with a thanksgiving service for the current staff to praise God for His faithfulness over so many years. Bev Truxton put together a Power Point slide presentation that was a great review of the highlights in the history of the hospital featuring many missionaries and Nigerians who had made significant contributions to the ministry at Evangel. A Women's Fellowship choir sang magnificently and it was a great time of testimony. On Saturday for Round 2 of the celebration they featured former staff who had come back for the celebration and again it was a wonderful service of reflection on the many faithful and dedicated people who have made the ministry possible. Sunday morning was the grand finale with a 3 ½ hour service. The ECWA General Secretary spoke, a large cake was cut by 10 of the older missionaries and Nigerian staff and fed to three of the younger staff doctors symbolizing the passing of the torch of ministry. An ECWA church choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus for the finale and it was an amazing sound of triumph and praise. Even though there were a few funny moments and things did not go exactly as we would have planned, it was a wonderful tribute to many who have served here and truly a praise service to the Lord for all He has done. I will get a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and put it on our website if you are interested in seeing it. www.ardillfamily.com. Please give me a few days to get it ready for the website before looking for it.

On Wednesday the hospital management met with the ProLife Advisory Committee Chairman and me to discuss again the future of the ministry at Evangel. At our last meeting they said they did not want to continue running the home for the pregnant girls but wanted to continue with the office counseling. I had approached another ministry in Jos about helping with the house and they were prepared to take it over. So on Wednesday we expected a finalizing of these plans. Much to our surprise the hospital management reversed their opinion and decided they wanted to continue to run the house for the girls in spite of the high cost of this aspect of the ministry. I was quite surprised at the turn about but pleased the hospital is taking some ownership of the vision and importance of this ministry. We will still need donations and gifts to continue but at least the hospital is taking the responsibility to oversee it and minister to these women in crisis.

On Saturday the senior class at Hillcrest had a lovely afternoon Valentine dessert party at school to raise funds for the class. Marie played a big role in organizing the event and it was very nice. They served a tasty light lunch on nicely decorated tables with relaxing music playing and delicious desserts. Afterwards Marie was treated to a romantic dinner by her boyfriend who asked her to the senior banquet. She was all smiles and walking on cloud 9 all weekend.

Finally we got our van back today after the mechanic repaired a damaged clutch, put in new pistons, rings and connecting rods. He says it should be fine and we are glad it is finally repaired. Getting a new engine for the van would have been a lot more expensive so we will do our best to keep this one going for a few more years. Oh I almost forgot, the new well is almost finished. The workmen made a cement slab well cover over the weekend so all it needs now is a submersible pump and pipes to our holding tanks and hopefully we will have enough water to last until the rains come in April.

That's all the excitement for this week. We had heard rumors there would be trouble in Jos over the weekend

but we are grateful it was a quiet and peaceful weekend all over the city. The army apparently went around the town threatening each community that if there was trouble, the army would come in and flatten the community. Enough said! Thanks for praying.

Bill