

**Bill Ardill**

---

**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 01, 2009 8:27 PM  
**To:** ardill-news@sim.org  
**Subject:** another rabbit tale

It seems we have a lot to learn about raising rabbits. For the past several weeks we have been trying to help our female rabbit "Thumper" get pregnant. We put her together with our male rabbit "Rosie" several times with no apparent success. So last weekend we took Thumper to another male and hoped this time it would "take." Much to our surprise on Friday morning one of our staff came running into the house at 7 am saying he had opened the garage where the rabbits wire mesh cages were suspended from the ceiling and found baby rabbits crawling around on the floor. We all rushed in, put the nesting box in Thumper's cage and then put the eight baby rabbits into the nesting box filled with strips of rags and some of the mother's fur. We were worried they would die and that the mother would not nurse them. So over the past three days we have been checking them and much to our delight they are all still alive and seem to be doing OK. Stay tuned and, by the way, we are still looking for someone who can give us better advice on raising rabbits than we have received so far. We missed the gender of Rosie and now missed the pregnancy of Thumper. We won't be surprised if our male has rabbits next!

This was also "achaba" week. In Nigeria the motorcycle taxis are everywhere and are called by different names around the country. In the south they are called "okada", in some places "going" and here in Jos they are called "achaba." They have increased in number to the point they are like the flying monkeys in the Wizard of Oz, buzzing like gnats around you as you drive, flying in front of every driver, weaving in and out with passengers hanging on for dear life. Although the government instituted a helmet law in January, only about 1/3 of the drivers wear helmets which range from plastic toy hats to painted gourds and a few with safe helmets. Of course none of the passengers are given helmets and are usually the most seriously injured victims in the accidents. Most of the drivers are underage teenagers given bikes by rich men and told to go out and earn money picking up passengers. The number of accidents has now risen to become a major public health concern. Almost every night we have people admitted with head injuries, broken arms and legs and some deaths from achaba accidents. They have also been involved in assisting in many armed robberies so the curfew for achabas is now 7 pm while the curfew for cars is 9 pm.

Last week a man was admitted with a serious head injury including facial fractures. He had been in an achaba accident and as we explored the story we found out he did not have a motorcycle driver's license, he had borrowed the bike and had a seizure disorder and actually had a seizure on the bike while driving. He is fortunate to be alive and will probably leave the hospital to go out and ride a bike again since there is not enforcement of the existing laws about licensing (especially with someone with a seizure disorder not taking his medications) and wearing helmets and driving safely.

A few days later a woman 8 months pregnant was brought in with a head injury from a motorcycle achaba accident. She was thrown from the back of the motorbike. We were trying to manage her serious closed head injury but her blood pressure kept going up so we finally did a c-section and got the baby out safely. The mom is doing better and will leave the hospital to be able to take care of her baby.

On Monday I was coming back from school and needed to stop at a friend's house so slowed to a stop, turned on my "trafficator" (turn signal) and when the oncoming traffic was passed, I began to turn left but suddenly heard and felt a motorcycle with a woman passenger slamming into the left side of my van as an achaba driver tried to pass on my left as I was making a left turn. Fortunately a policeman was watching the whole incident unfold and so came running to the scene and began to yell at the achaba driver on my behalf. I was so glad that no one was seriously injured and that the policeman was acting on my behalf. As it turned out after about 30 minutes of yelling, they all agreed including other witnesses that I was innocent and the motorcycle driver was at fault. So when I asked to leave, the policemen said, "We know you are not at fault. He is at fault. However, it would be nice if you could help him with something to help him with his broken bike." After closing my dropped jaw, I learned another valuable lesson in culture. It goes like this: If he hits you, then you pay. If you hit him, then you pay. If he hits you, you are at fault. If you hit him, then you are at fault. So we know when we drive that we are always at fault in any accident either because we are Americans or because we are considered the person with the most means to help in the unfortunate situation. Thanks for your prayers as we navigate the streets and culture!

I have also been involved in a number of committees and boards and am trying to keep up with the paperwork and preparation. Tomorrow I have an important meeting regarding SIM's relationship with ECWA, on Tuesday

another meeting to prepare for the Hillcrest Board meeting next week and then two lectures for the family practice residents and my usual Bible Apologetics class every afternoon for the juniors at Hillcrest.

Dorothy had a good week. On Friday her class displayed for other elementary school students the American Indian villages they made. David and two of his classmates made an adobe village and had lots of fun using homemade play dough to make "adobe" houses and a village complete with dogs and horses. Marie and Heather are doing well in track and had a good meet on Friday and Saturday. So far Marie has beaten Heather 3 out of 4 races. But, the one victory was sweet. Anna loves being in the high school musical and we are looking forward to their performance at the end of March.

Finally we are glad our new well is producing water for us. We alternate between the old well and the new one and are getting enough for drinking water, getting the laundry done each week and getting baths. Our van is also working reasonably well but still needs some carburetor work done when we get the oil changed next week after the piston and ring job a few weeks ago. Although these things seem a bit mundane and boring, the little things like getting water every day, keeping the van running and keeping our email and computers running are important for us to continue to serve the Lord here. I often think that I don't say enough in my weekly emails about the people who have been impacted spiritually by our ministry here. I am not sure I know but I was encouraged to learn that last year over 1000 men and women came to faith in Christ at Evangel through the ministry of the staff and chaplains. We continue to be faithful to God's calling in our lives and are grateful for your prayers and investment in our family.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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