

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:58 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] Heather and Marie

On Thursday and Friday afternoon and Saturday morning Hillcrest had the final track meet for the season. Marie and Heather ran a long distance race each day. There were five Nigerian schools competing with Hillcrest. It has been unusually hot and dry and on the track it was pretty hot in the late morning on Saturday. Marie and Heather were doing well in the 3000 meter race when on the last lap of 8, Heather started falling behind Marie and eventually slowed down so much she was almost walking. It looked like she was limping so we thought she had hurt her knee. I was about 50 meters from the finish line and by the time she limped to my side of the track she was swaggering and barely able to keep vertical. She finally slowed and began to swoon with her eyes rolling up in her head I ran onto the track and caught her as she collapsed in my arms. She was as pale as sheet and barely coherent. We quickly began to fan her and got some liquid in her and after about 30 minutes got her to a cold shower and she finally cooled down. She complained of soreness in her legs, a headache and extreme fatigue. After about an hour she was finally able to sit up and then walk. We figure it was a combination of heat exhaustion, dehydration and not eating enough to store up some reserves for these long distance events. This week she has been tired but is slowly recovering. I took her for an ice cream yesterday afternoon and we are trying to fatten her up a bit for soccer season. We all learned a few things about sports in the hot dry season and hope she will be strong enough for the upcoming soccer season. Someone gave us Gatorade and we won't run out of bananas ever again!

Yesterday Marie and her senior classmates drove to Abuja and this morning flew to Lagos and then on to Ghana for their senior trip. We heard they arrived in Accra safely and are praying they have a fun and safe week. They plan to spend time on the beach, visit a slave castle and do the tropical rain forest canopy walk. Thanks for praying for them this week.

I was pretty tired after an all day Hillcrest Board meeting on Thursday and an all day SIM meeting on Friday. This week is a bit lighter with only a small meeting this afternoon and another tomorrow afternoon. I like the Bible verse "God so loved the world He did NOT send a committee!"

This week the report cards are due so Dorothy has been busy getting her grades in and I have been marking test papers and getting my grades in as well. Dorothy has had a few parent teacher conferences and so far has not been too bloodied after the meetings.

We are looking forward to going to Abuja this weekend. Dorothy and I will leave Heather, Anna and David in the hands of two single missionary women and we hope to have a restful weekend celebrating our 21st wedding anniversary. I will take off Monday – Wednesday to start packing the house for our furlough and then on Thursday the whole family will travel to a nice hotel about 8 hours south of Jos for three days holiday. It will be our last Nigerian holiday with Marie and we are all looking forward to the rest and change.

Some teachers are still needed for Hillcrest for next year (August 2009). These include a High School math teacher, Middle School Social Studies, high school Bible teacher, school Chaplain, 4th grade teacher and computer technical support specialist. If you know of someone who could help, please let us know as soon as possible.

Finally Kingsford stopped by our house this evening with a fantastic report on the bucket distribution at the women's conference in Kaduna this last weekend. There were over 5000 women at the conference and our team distributed 5,500 buckets to women who promised to use them to collect grains for the widows and orphans in the church. They also did AIDS testing on 845 women and only 27 were positive for the HIV virus. We are so thankful for this amazing opportunity to challenge women to live lives marked by purity and to pass this on to their children. It is also an opportunity for them to give of their own resources to help the needy widows and orphans in their community.

Thanks for your prayers and support.

In Christ,
 Bill Ardill

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

 * SIM by Prayer *
