

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 7:55 PM
To: 'ardill-news@sim.org'
Subject: rest

Marie returned this afternoon from her senior class trip to Ghana and two days with a girl friend in Lagos. We are thankful there were no major problems and Marie had a good time. They enjoyed the Atlantic Ocean beach, walked along a tropical forest canopy walk series of seven rope bridges about 50 feet up from the forest floor, visited the largest slave castle in Africa and did some shopping. It was a good break from the pressures of her senior year and we are thankful she enjoyed being with her friends.

Dorothy and I enjoyed a very relaxing weekend in Abuja. We met some friends from the U.S. who work in Congress who were on a fact finding trip to Nigeria. It was great to hear their family and U.S. news and we enjoyed sharing with them what is going on in our lives. We mostly rested, read and swam and came back to Jos refreshed and relaxed. A single teacher from Hillcrest, Dana Roberts, came to our house and took care of Heather, Anna and David and did a terrific job. There were no broken bones or blood so overall they had a great time!

Just before our weekend break a man came into the clinic with a painful abdominal aortic aneurysm. I offered to help him with surgery but told him he needed to come back with four people to donate blood for him and some money. He did not show up before we left for the weekend so maybe he will show up next week. Then an orthopedic surgeon was scheduled to come in April to help me with quite a number of difficult orthopedic cases. He sent an email this week that he is too busy to come so now I have to figure out what to do with about 25 patients needing more expert orthopedic care. Some I can manage but many will have to wait until someone else shows up.

Since Dorothy and the kids are off school this week for the spring break, I am taking off work as well. Yesterday and today we got a lot of packing and sorting done in the house as we prepare for our furlough. I know the coming weeks will be busy with end-of-year activities and Marie's graduation so it is great we have a few days to work together to get a lot of the basic packing done. Now the house looks like there was an explosion in a box factory so we hope we can get some of the boxes into the attic tomorrow for storage.

On Thursday we will drive 8 hours southeast to a place called Obadu Ranch. It is a nice old resort with a beautiful swimming pool at the foot of a mountain and the resort at the top. There is a big Swiss-made gondola that connects the upper and lower areas so it should be fun for us all. We are going with a group of single missionaries and look forward to more family time and rest. We would appreciate your prayers as we travel on Nigeria's dangerous roads on Thursday and then again on Sunday when we return.

Marie is waiting to hear on financial aid from several colleges she has been accepted to for the fall term. Thanks for praying with us for wisdom as we seek the Lord's direction and provision for her. Heather is getting stronger after her near-fainting episode on the track two weeks ago. She has been worried about gaining weight so has been trying to stay thin but now we are working on helping her gain some weight and strength. She is doing better and has had a good attitude. Many of us wish we had her problem! Anna has been practicing hard for the spring musical which is coming up soon. She has the part of Lucy in the musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Thanks for your faithfulness in praying for us and supporting us. Our summer plans are coming together and we look forward to seeing many of you as we make our way across the country.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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