

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2009 7:23 PM  
**To:** 'ardill-news@sim.org'  
**Subject:** rain

It's been a busy two weeks. On April 1 we were saddened to hear that a friend of ours from Maryland died of a heart attack. Bob Phelps was an active member of Dorothy's parents' church and had made multiple trips to Nigeria. He took a special interest in the boys in the street children ministry and loved spending time with them during his visits. He led many teams from the church to expose others to the challenges and joys of missions. He was planning to get married in June and we were excited to be in Maryland for his wedding so his fiancée Carole is also feeling the great loss of Bob's home going.

On April 4th we were excited to get our first rain of the seasons. It has been uncomfortably hot and muggy so the rain and wind were a welcome relief. We have only had one more small rain so it is still hot and humid and we hope the regular rains come soon. We are especially thankful our wells are still producing enough water for us to get by. Many in Jos are struggling to find water every day and everyone with a well is digging deeper to get a little bit more. Young men with push carts full of plastic water jugs roam the streets and neighborhoods selling water to those without any. Water trucks for hire are seen going into the more affluent neighborhoods to fill up family reserve tanks. Even on the hospital compound there is no water for the staff so they have to either dig a well or buy water to survive. (The bore holes on the compound are only for hospital use.) Every afternoon the dark storm clouds gather from the south and the atmosphere feels like it will rain but it still has not produced the daily drenching we need to fill the wells, water our trees and plants and cool us all down. Another great advantage to the rains is the wonderful cleaning it does of the dust on the plants, the garbage along the streets and dust in the air in the dry season.

On Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> the Evangel ProLife Advisory Committee met to map out a strategy forward. It was encouraging to have unity on the committee on programs and ideas to continue the ministry to women in crisis. We are averaging about 5 unmarried pregnant women in the Miriam House every month and are continuing to rescue babies from abortion and place them in Christian homes. The hospital is beginning to understand the cost of this ministry and is doing a better job in monitoring expenses and is looking for ways to raise fund locally. I am thankful for this important step and we continue to pray of the Lord's provision for this important ministry.

On April 9 my mother celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> my sister and brothers had a surprise birthday party for my mother. They had a wonderful time honoring her and sharing tributes and photos from family and friends. My father's brother, Austin, and his daughter and a friend were also visiting from Belfast so it was a special time for them. I am grateful for my godly mother and her example to me of humble service to the Lord and us.

We are going through our list of "last things" for Marie to do before she leaves Nigeria. This weekend we drove to the Yankari Game Park for the day on Friday. We are thankful for a safe and fun trip. There is a warm water natural spring that is amazing and very refreshing. We enjoy relaxing in the water and just floating down the river. We got bitten badly by the tsetse flies but otherwise it was a wonderful day for family fun.

In my apologetics Bible class with the junior class at Hillcrest we have been watching the movie The Da Vinci Code. I was surprised at the reaction of the class so far. This week as we go over the "facts" presented about church history, the forming of the canon of the Bible and who Jesus really was, I hope it challenges them that it is important to know how to discern truth from error since the movie supposedly is fiction but presents it as fact.

We got some more packing done tomorrow for our furlough. We are also pleased our new prayer card "refrigerator card" is ready and will be going out with our next prayer letter this month. We are also working on updating our ministry video to show as we present the ministries in which we are involved in Nigeria. Our itinerary is also set and we are getting excited to see our friends and supporters. Thanks for your prayers as we continue our preparations and as Marie finishes up her time at Hillcrest and in Nigeria.

Till next week.

In Christ,  
 Bill Ardill

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