

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 9:26 PM
To: Ardill-News
Subject: [ardill-news] departures
Attachments: footer.txt

Friday was a difficult day. On Wednesday I tackled a challenging case of an elderly woman with a large abdominal aortic aneurysm. I discussed with her family that it was a high risk operation and gave them as much information as I could so they would understand the considerable risks. The case went well even though it was so hot in the operating room I was sweating in the wound most of the case. She had a good recovery until Thursday afternoon when she began to have problems. I found out on Friday morning that the resident doctors had been called to help her on Thursday but had not responded appropriately and never bothered to call me for advice or let me know she was in trouble. So she died Thursday night and I was never called. Needless to say I was upset and very sad for her family who had such high hopes that the surgery would be successful. I am still working on trying to find out why the resident doctors responded the way they did.

Then later on Friday I found out that our former driver Kingsford's sister, who had gotten married three weeks ago, died at Evangel of liver failure probably from a drug toxicity reaction. She was a lovely young woman we have known for some time having helped her a bit through laboratory technology school. We were excited to hear she was getting married to a young Christian man so were shocked to learn she was so ill so soon after her wedding. Her family is well known in the community and her death has had a big impact on many in the Evangel community. Death is so much more a part of life in Nigeria than in the U.S. It seems more young people die here and often their deaths are unexplained and from unusual causes. Of course we do our best to learn even from these tragedies but often patients die and we never figure out the reason.

Then today we had a departure of a different kind. Peter Yu, a surgery resident from San Diego, and his girlfriend, Jean Kim, left for the States after a 10 day visit with us. They were a great encouragement to us and my children especially had a good time with them learning about the latest trends and fashions in the U.S. It was great for me to have Peter helping in the operating room and Jean was always eager to learn. She is an ICU nurse also working in San Diego. Peter got a stomach virus so was sick for three days but near the end of his illness he was conscious enough to ask Jean to marry him. We all thought that was not very romantic so yesterday we took them to Miango and after climbing the small hill behind Kent Academy, we suggested he propose again and we would take photos to document the historic occasion. So Jean got two proposals in the same week and now is really engaged. Another funny thing happened on Saturday afternoon. We were taking them around Jos to show them a few interesting places including some of the areas where there had been fires from the riots in December. We were going across a major intersection near a large garbage dump when Jean pointed to an animal in the garbage and asked, "Is that a hippo?" We roared with laughter and told her that was the urban type we normally call pigs! It was a really huge pig! They were a delightful couple and we trust their experiences here will have an impact on their lives as they begin to make decisions about their future plans.

On Friday Heather and Anna went to Abuja with their classmates for a class trip. They stayed with a family living in Abuja and had a great time. There is now a small amusement park in Abuja in addition to the zoo so there were lots of activities for the class to do. They missed the garage sale on Saturday so Dorothy and I worked that alone and were glad to get rid of a few things we had accumulated over the past two years. A great advantage of the missionary lifestyle is that every two to four years we have the "opportunity" to sort through all our possessions and decide if we really want to pack it up, store it in the attic and use it again or just get rid of it. It helps keep the clutter and junk down when you have to lift those boxes every few years into the attic.

David's baby rabbits are doing well. They are at the very cute stage now so last week we took them to Dorothy's class to show the kids. Now we have a few kids interested in buying a bunny so it looks promising to get rid of all of them before we leave at the end of May.

Thursday and Friday I will be chairing the Hillcrest Board meeting. We are grateful for all we have accomplished this year on the Board and pray the decisions will honor God and help the school move forward in providing an excellent Christian education. There will be a number of key people leaving for furlough so we hope each missions can choose capable and willing people for the Board next year. Thanks for praying for the meeting. We are also grateful that most of the teachers we need for next year have made commitments to come so there are only a few vacancies.

We have our furlough schedule finalized in case some of you do not get our pray letter. I will include it at the end of this letter.

Thanks for your prayers and emails.

In Christ,

Bill Ardill

Please reply to bill.ardill@sim.org

May 31 Leave Nigeria for SIM HQ in Charlotte, NC
June 5-25 Annapolis, Maryland
June 26 Quakertown, Pennsylvania
June 28 Bloomfield, New Jersey
July 3 Farmington, Connecticut
July 4-17 Camp of the Woods, Speculator, NY
July 18 Grand Rapids, Michigan
July 21 Chicago, Illinois
July 22 Kansas City, Missouri
July 24 Dallas, Texas
July 27 Tyler, Texas
July 29 Comfort, Texas
July 30 El Paso, Texas
July 31 To San Diego