

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 8:57 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: never a dull moment and buckets

Last Tuesday morning at 5 am my cell phone rang. Stacy Lemanski, the SIM obstetrician/gynecologist, asked me to come to the OR immediately to help her with a patient who was bleeding. The woman underwent a c-section the night before because of bleeding but she kept bleeding so had an emergency hysterectomy in the middle of the night. By 5 am she was still bleeding so Stacy asked for help. We did a few things in the OR to try to stop the bleeding and hope she would be OK. An hour and a half later Stacy called again that the woman was still bleeding (after 7 units of blood) and she wanted to take her back to the operating room to open her abdomen to try and figure out the cause of her persistent bleeding. I helped Stacy for the next 2 ½ hours until we finally got things under control. The next morning, much to our surprise the woman was awake and talking and doing extremely well. Stacy and I were both exhausted but grateful the woman had survived her ordeal. We believe in these situations God has intervened in ways beyond our power for His glory. We praise Him for His grace and mercy.

My only other main traumatic event was a difficult committee meeting on Monday. I was asked to serve on a committee and after working for months to prepare and research the issue including talking to several I considered experts on the issue, I found myself out numbered by the other committee members. I was very disappointed at the outcome and do not believe the committee came to the right conclusions or made the best decision, but at least I did my best and got a hearing. I guess it is harder when our convictions are strong and others we respect have such opposite perspectives and positions. Guess it makes for diversity in the Body.

On Monday of this week the President of Nigeria visited Jos to offer his condolences to the family of the chief of Jos who died on Saturday. Main streets were blocked off for hours while he was in Jos so traffic was a mess. I got caught downtown going in circles for an hour trying to get back to the hospital. There is still tension just below the surface here and we pray daily for peace and a long term resolution to the troubles in Jos between various tribal and religious groups.

The weekend was lots of fun with the elementary school Field Day on Friday morning and the school Carnival on Saturday. For the Field Day, the students are divided into teams with children from each grade. They chose a color and cheer and then compete in fun relays races and activities. Dorothy and David's team, the Purple Knights, won and I am sure it was Dorothy's cunning strategy and David's speed and agility that won the day. The Carnival is a fund raising event for the 11th grade and is also a fun program for the younger kids. They had a water slide, dunking bucket, basketball and beanbag toss events, horse riding, a zip line and lots of good food. I managed to get some computer work done while David and the kids ran around the school the whole morning. This weekend is the final track meet for the season. Marie and Heather are competing in the long distance events. It has become very hot and we hope they get through their events without heat exhaustion setting in.

This week is Spiritual Emphasis Week at Hillcrest. A church team from Tennessee is leading the chapel services at school and we pray the messages and challenges will challenge the students to live for Christ.

Marie's senior class is in the final stages of preparation for their senior class trip. They will be going to Ghana and have had a difficult time making the arrangements. Today they submitted their documents to get visas and are hoping and praying it all comes together for their trip next week. They visit a slave castle, go on a tropical rain forest canopy walk, spend time on the beach and generally have a great time. We are praying it all comes together and that they have a safe and fun trip.

This weekend is also the annual VVF reunion. Usually 400-500 women come for a weekend of encouragement and evaluation. They are given counseling, physical checkups, and participate in the grand finale celebrations on Saturday. Each woman is given a gift basket with soap and clothes to take home. It is a wonderful event and as the women share their stories of suffering and then healing, there are very few dry eyes in the crowd. Many trust Christ and it is a wonderful testimony to God's faithfulness in healing over 400 women a year through this project. (For more information the VVF problem, look at our website www.ardillfamily.org)

This last weekend was another widows' grain bucket conference. Our local church women's fellowship drama team, AIDS testing team, and a book seller drove 8 hours north to Katsina to distribute buckets for the widows

grain bucket project. Besides the plentiful and huge mosquitoes, the conference went well. The team gave out 4,500 buckets for the women to collect grain for the church widows. Each woman was also give several books on HIV/AIDS. The main AIDS teaching is a drama put on by the women in Dorothy's women's fellowship group. The main character in the drama is our good friend, Lami. The drama is the real story of Lami's life. As she follows the casket of her dead husband, she walks directly to the pastors at the conference and laments that they did not care for her. She then goes to the women leaders and cries that they have talked behind her back. Finally she goes to a group of women and chastises them for not even sitting with her in church. The team even takes 3 children to play the part of her hungry orphaned children. Our former driver, Kingsford, watched the crowd and claims that 80% of the women were crying during the drama. The women are then shown how to use the buckets to collect a handful of grains every meal to provide for the widows and orphans in their church and community. The HIV testing team tested and counseled 645 women and men in two days! Praise the Lord only 3 were HIV positive. That is amazing when we normally see 5% positive in similar groups. Please pray for those that received the literature and bucket that they would learn how to care for those who are HIV positive and protect themselves. Also pray for the women's conference in Kaduna this weekend when more buckets and literature will be distributed. (For more information the Widows Grain Bucket Project, look at our website www.ardillfamily.org)

Finally I would appreciate your prayers for the Hillcrest Board meeting tomorrow (which I chair) and the SIM Board meeting on Friday. I do not enjoy being on these boards and committees but know they are necessary to establish good policies and procedures for our ministries to thrive. Unfortunately we are living with the consequences of some poor decisions made in the past and as we dig our way out we hope we are not making too many problems for those who follow us.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

p.s Sadly we must report that all eight of the baby bunnies died.

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