

## Bill Ardill

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2009 9:54 PM  
**To:** Ardill-News  
**Subject:** [ardill-news] she's back

We were a little late getting to the airport last night to meet Marie but just as we got off the down escalator from the parking lot I saw her and she came running from the baggage claim area. We all squealed in delight and hugged for a long time. It was so good to see her after a long summer working at Tapawingo girls' camp in upstate New York. She looked well and in spite of the long flights, she was in good spirits. Her grandfather in Maryland booked her flight through Las Vegas so we wanted to be sure she did not have too great a trip during the transit stopover. Her only comment on that subject was that on the flight to Las Vegas from Albany, everyone was drinking and carrying on and it was obnoxious.

We were excited to hear she led 13 girls into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ over the summer – something of eternal value. The counselors spent most of Saturday packing up everything that was moveable and storing it all including canoes, picnic tables, and furniture in the small chapel building on the island. Needless-to-say she was tired on Sunday and was glad for an afternoon nap. We stopped at a California burger place on the way back from the airport and enjoyed hearing how her summer had gone. It was a lot of work taking care of 8-9 year olds with home sickness, bed wetting and helping them dressed in the mornings, but she had a worthwhile time and grew in her confidence and maturity as she counseled and encouraged girls from a wide variety of backgrounds and homes.

This morning she had her four wisdom teeth extracted so has been sitting and sleeping in our recliner chair in the living room with her cheeks wrapped in an elastic bandage to keep the ice packs on her swollen cheeks. We are so grateful a Christian oral surgeon in our church, Ray Michael Smith did a terrific job and was very kind and generous to us. When she is able to get around this week she needs to open a bank account, sort her boxes of clothes and stuff and decide what she wants to take with her to college and what will be stored in our attic. She has also made a request to buy some new clothes since many of the clothes she is wearing she bought 3 years ago on our furlough and they are showing their wear. (Dorothy ended up throwing out all Marie's socks and underwear today because they were in such bad shape!)

Heather and Anna are figuring out their teachers and classes. Heather has a teacher who is an atheist and outspoken critic of Christians so her Humanities class has been interesting. We are now spending some of our evenings talking about apologetics and defending our faith as Christians. She wants to hang in there in the class and not drop it because she finds the interaction interesting and she wants to learn how to better defend her beliefs. (You go girl!) Heather is still on the cross-country team after unsuccessfully looking for a soccer team to play with. Anna is playing volleyball in a local volleyball center and is enjoying it. David is now taking tumbling and trampoline lessons. He seems willing to try whatever his coach asks him to do and he is sleeping better after a good workout at the gym.

Dorothy has been busy working out the school schedules, school pickup arrangements, music lessons and sports activities. The house is looking better although we have not gotten to hang the pictures on the walls yet. We all worked together on the weekend redesigning one of the rock gardens in our front yard. We worked till about 8 pm and were pretty tired but it turned out well and will be less maintenance for us and be more attractive than what it was. Dorothy is also trying to get her Master's classes figured out and a women's Bible study. Life in America is sure busy – especially running all over the place on the freeways!

I am enjoying my work at the Veterans Hospital and was pleased to meet a Christian pathologist who just started working at the VA this month. We are hoping to get together with other Christians for lunch once a week. One of the difficult challenges working at the VA is how sick the patients are even before we do surgery. Most have heart problems and lung problems and diabetes and obesity and... and ... and... An elderly man I operated on two weeks ago is still in the ICU because of his kidney problems. I am grateful for the great ICU care, capable staff and coworkers and encouraging colleagues. I am also still looking at the many options for Bible studies and church small group activities. It seems we are not really needed anywhere because there are so many gifted teachers so maybe it will be a time of filling our own spiritual and emotional tanks while we are here.

Many have asked how our friend Bob Whitaker is doing after his recent surgery for a broken arm from a gunshot wound sustained in the kidnapping and armed robbery in Nigeria. He is out of the hospital and is getting wound care until his arm is ready for the skin graft. He will also need a nerve repair. Their son, Ozi, is enrolled in a high school in the Nashville area but would like to return to Nigeria to his friends at Hillcrest. They are still under a lot of stress and need our ongoing prayers through this tough time of waiting for healing and the Lord's direction for their future. Thanks for praying for them.

David is enjoying his 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. He is a bit frustrated he is not as good as the other kids playing playground handball but is still trying. He gets braces on his teeth on Thursday to correct a tooth that is not coming in the right place so he is stocking up on all the candy and forbidden foods which he will not be allowed to eat with his braces on.

Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for praying and writing.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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

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\* SIM by Prayer \*  
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