

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2009 9:00 PM
To: 'ardill-news@sim.org'
Subject: Marie's week

This was a big week for Marie. On Thursday she turned 18 and was so proud she would go to college as an "adult" which meant we would not have to sign everything for her as a minor. We had a nice dinner together and then a small family party (Unlike our big parties in Jos where we invited the whole compound over to our house for cake). We gave her a nice necklace and a few smaller gifts and then enjoyed an ice cream cake birthday cake – another treat unavailable in Nigeria. The necklace we gave Marie had some pearls on it so hoping to take advantage of this teachable moment I asked David, "Where do pearls come from?" He looked quizzically at me and then said, "From Mommy's tummy?" I said "What? Pearls?" When he responded, "I thought you said 'Girls'!" we all rolled with laughter.

This was a long anticipated week in our household for another reason. Dorothy spent a lot of time with Marie this week helping her get her supplies and things ready for school and on Friday with a fully loaded car, Dorothy and I took Marie to Azusa Pacific University in the eastern suburbs of Los Angeles. After standing in a variety of lines with her to get her room assignment, mailbox key, orientation group number and computer logon setup, we took a break for lunch at Burger King. In the afternoon we joined Marie at a meeting of Third Culture Kids and faculty interested in supporting them. It was very encouraging especially to meet Frank Dubisz, an SIM MK who graduated from Hillcrest and is now working in the computer department at Azusa. It was great to know there are a number of upper classmen and faculty interested in helping kids who have grown up abroad adjust to college life. We then went to a dinner on the campus lawn with 3500 others – freshmen and their families and then heard some speeches by the President and various school luminaries. Overall it was encouraging to hear of their desire to care for our children in a godly environment and integrate biblical faith in every subject in the curriculum. We left late and got home after midnight so were pretty tired over the weekend.

Our dear friends Bob and Sally Zirschky from Salem, Oregon were in the area for the weekend to visit their daughter Katy who started medical school at Loma Linda. They invited us to join them for the weekend at a hotel on the beach. We had a terrific weekend with them relaxing on the beach, shopping and enjoying food and fellowship with them. They were a great encouragement to us and it was a greatly needed break from the busyness and stress of settling in and getting Heather and Anna sorted out and getting Marie off to school. Bob and Sally were very kind to us and we are grateful for their friendship and generosity.

Heather has had a tough beginning to the school year. Because of ongoing knee pain she has decided to pull out of cross-country as a competitor but will stay on to help with logistics and help the coach in whatever way she can. She has enjoyed the fellowship and friendship with the team members and wants to continue those relationships. Heather and Anna have also been struggling a bit with their courses. Not being sure of the level of difficulty of the classes it has taken a while for us to figure out what load they can handle. Thanks for your prayers for Heather and Anna as we help them sort this out so they are taking a manageable school load. They are also taking piano and their instruments so have a lot on their plates this year.

I was also discouraged this week after visiting the doctor for a physical exam. My diabetes has not been as well controlled as I had hoped and I have developed high blood pressure. I am on so many medicines now that I finally resorted to buying one of those pill boxes that has a little window for each day so as I lose my memory I can at least take the right pills each day. Boy, getting older is not easy and something no one warned me about. I am not sure I would have had too many options but it is still a bit discouraging to learn your body is failing you one system at a time in spite of your best efforts to eat right, exercise and generally behave. Fortunately Dorothy got a good report so at least she will be able to still care for me in my old age!

Thanks for your faithfulness in reading these weekly tomes and praying for us. As our lives settle into the "normalcy" of life in the U.S., we will decrease the frequency of our letters but do value your ongoing prayers that this year will be a time of refreshment and re-charging as we recover from the stresses of

living in Nigeria and prepare to return next summer. Let us know how we can pray for you as well. Our trip this summer was wonderful because not only were we given the opportunity to thank you but also to hear about your joys and sorrows so we can now pray more effectively for you. Till next time...

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

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