

**Bill Ardill**

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 03, 2009 8:13 PM  
**To:** 'ardill-news@sim.org'  
**Subject:** Thanksgiving Tidings

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving on the east coast with Dorothy's family. We flew direct from San Diego to Baltimore on Wednesday and then had a great day at Dorothy's brother, Bob's house on Thursday. Dorothy's parents and sister Sue and her husband joined the party for a great family day of food, fun and fellowship. We also enjoyed seeing the Rettig family who visited us last year in Nigeria. It was good to hear the good news and some of the struggles and see how the Lord is working in each family.

On Friday we drove to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and spent Friday and Saturday visiting the shops in "Amish" country. We actually stayed in a small town called Bird-in-Hand. Although I was not so excited about the stores full of stuff to make your house look like a Better Homes and Garden masterpiece, it was fun to spend time with good friends. Several other families joined us and we sort of took over whatever store or restaurant we went in to. We also got our share of Amish food and our favorite Shoefly pie. The weather was a bit chilly for us (in the high 40's) but at least there was no rain or snow.

We then drove to Annapolis on Saturday and had a more relaxing time with Dorothy's parents. Much to our surprise the airport in Baltimore was not crazy when we left on Sunday afternoon and our flight to San Diego was uneventful.

Meanwhile Marie flew to Charlotte and joined a bunch of her Hillcrest classmates at the Tolar house. This is a tradition for the graduates to meet somewhere in the U.S. their first Thanksgiving break after graduation. She was especially delighted to see her boyfriend Dwight who is studying at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They enjoyed reminiscing and swapping college stories the whole weekend. They were also an encouragement to the Tolar (we hope). Jay was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease this year so this was a very special time for Marie's class with Jay and Heidi.

Another exciting development in the Ardill household is the addition of two new drivers. Heather and Anna both passed their driver's permit and are in the process of taking behind-the-wheel sessions with a very brave driving instructor. He must either have a very good life insurance policy or is desperate for the money! Dorothy and I can also now take them out of the road so please continue to pray for all of us and the rest of the innocent folk on the roads in southern California!

Heather also tried out and got on the junior varsity soccer team. This is something she has been longing for so we are glad for her that she can play on the school team. Anna is hoping to try out for the swim team after the New Year. David is still enjoying gymnastics on Monday afternoons and loves to play at his friends' houses whenever he can.

Dorothy is finishing up her last two classes for her degree and is spending most days now helping at David's elementary school with reading fluency. This is sort of her specialty and so she has been an encouragement to the other teachers who have been hesitant to begin fluency programs in their classrooms. She is also spending a lot of time taking kids to school and driving them to their various lessons and practices.

I am enjoying my work at the Veterans Hospital in San Diego. In addition to my ongoing interest in teaching the surgery residents, I have also taken on the responsibility of coordinating the surgical clerkship experience for the third year medical students. So far I have enjoyed reworking their curriculum and handbook and hope I can encourage them during their rotations on the surgical wards.

Thanks for your ongoing support with your prayers and gifts. We are grateful for the Lord's many blessings to us this year. We look forward to Christmas in the U.S. and plan to get a real tree this weekend to kick off the season.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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