

## Bill Ardill

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**From:** Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 27, 2009 6:30 PM  
**To:** Bill Ardill  
**Subject:** [ardill-news] Christmas Chronicle

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I caved into the pressure from the kids and two weeks before Christmas borrowed a very long ladder and strung lights along the eaves of the roof of the house so we were not the odd house on the block. Then we had a fun time going to a Christmas tree parking lot and picking out the perfect tree – a 6 foot Noble fir with a good shape and strong branches and needles for hanging ornaments. We found two boxes of Christmas ornaments and decorations in the attic and after unpacking them put them on the tree and around the house. Meager but beautiful to us.

On Christmas Eve after a carol singing service at our church, we decided to look at the house lights competition so went to an area of San Diego called “Candy Cane Lane.” About four city blocks have decided to go all out with Christmas lights. It was absolutely amazing to see how many thousands, yes thousands, of light could be arranged on a single house and yard. Many had animated decorations and some had light shows timed to Christmas music you could hear by tuning into their private radio station! I had gone to Home Depot, Target and Wal-Mart a week earlier looking for a few mores lights for our house and none of them had a single string of lights. Now I know why, these guys on Candy Cane Lane had bought out every string of lights in Southern California! Needless-to-say we were entertained and impressed but it was a bit gaudy and we have no aspirations to join the competition.

Being in Nigeria for the last two Christmases, it was wonderful to be with family this Christmas. Dorothy and I had done most of our shopping early so were not frustrated by the commercialism or craziness of the shopping malls. Dorothy and I had a few surprise gifts for each other and had a great time hearing the squeals for delight from the kids on Christmas morning. They also had fun shopping since in Nigeria our options are limited to getting imported candy or high priced breakfast cereal for each other! We invited my parents in for the present opening ceremony – mostly a sequence of squeals and yelps of delight. Then enjoyed a lovely late Christmas dinner with the family in 65o F weather!

It has been especially nice to have Marie with us. She is enjoying Azusa Pacific University but is glad for the winter break from classes. I took her this morning to the San Diego airport for a flight to St. Louis for the Urbana Missions conference. It is an amazing gathering of over 20,000 Christian college kids interested in cross-cultural missions. The speakers are fantastic, the seminars extremely practical and helpful and the networking unparalleled. I am sure she will have a great time and will meet many like her who have grown up abroad and are interested in serving the Lord cross culturally in the future. She will be rooming with her roommate from Azusa who is also going and is also looking forward to spending time with her boyfriend, Dwight, who is going to the conference from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Marie and Dwight will return here on Friday, New Year’s Day, for a week before their classes start.

I start back to work tomorrow but will also have the New Year holiday off. Dorothy is finishing up her last two classes online and hopes to be completely finished by the end of January.

We were sorry to see a Nigerian involved in a plot to bring down an airplane on Christmas day. In spite of the added hassled flying these days because of heightened security measures, it reminds us there is a lot more work to do in Nigeria extending the Kingdom message to the millions who have never heard, especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Thanks for your faithful prayers and support for the work in Nigeria and our family as we enjoy a time of refreshment and renewal this year in the U.S.

Sincerely in Christ,

