

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
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To: Bill Ardill
Subject: [ardill-news] left coast travels

April 14, 2010

We have had a busy month and we wanted to fill you in. As you may have heard there were more riots in Jos in January and then a few weeks later in several villages south of the city. We have been in contact with several SIM missionary families and none of the mission compounds or missionaries was involved. These crises have raised the tension level in the city and renewed the nightly curfews including restricting night travel. Thanks for your ongoing prayer for peace in Jos and reconciliation between the parties.

It is about this time in our furlough that we begin to turn our attention to preparing to return to Nigeria. In spite of recurrent problems in Jos, we believe the Lord wants us to return for another two years. Heather and Anna will be going into 11th grade and our plans would be to stay until their graduation from Hillcrest and then return to get them settled in college in the U.S. Heather, Anna and David are looking forward to getting back "home" and Heather is even counting the days already! So in the coming days we will begin our packing, buying clothes and such for the next two years, looking for someone to rent our house, helping Marie get ready for next year at Azusa Pacific University, change our mailing address and on and on. Thanks for your prayers for the Lord's peace in this decision and for all the details we need to attend to in the coming days.

Marie is doing well and is enjoying her last days as a freshman at Azusa Pacific University. She has done well both in and out of the classroom. She has been chosen to be the leader for 10 discipleship group leaders next year and continues to look for opportunities to both serve and lead. She has a part-time job tutoring children in the neighborhood needing help with their homework and enjoys this interaction with the kids. She is sorting out her roommate, classes and activities for next year at Azusa and is planning to work as a camp counselor at the Tapawingo girls' camp at Camp of the Woods in up-state New York.

Over the past month we have been "college shopping" both in California and in the northwest. Since we will not be in the U.S. for the next two years, we are looking at possible colleges for Heather and Anna. Heather is interested in premed studies and Anna is interested in fashion design. We have looked at four colleges in southern California and last week during the girls' school spring break we flew to Oregon and Washington state and visited two schools there. It has been an informative and interesting journey for all of us as we seek the Lord's direction for them.

We also had a terrific time visiting our friends Bob and Sally Zirschky in Salem, Oregon, the Mitchell family in Vancouver, Washington and my aunt Vina Owens in Seattle, Washington. Emmanuel Bible Church in Salem has been a supporting church for many years and we were very encouraged visiting on Easter Sunday and this last Sunday. They are faithful supporters in many ways and we enjoyed seeing Pastor Stan and Mindy and the Missions Committee.

Dorothy is getting more substitute teaching opportunities and has begun shopping for clothes and shoes for the tribe for the next two years. We took advantage of the lack of sales tax in Oregon and bought two suitcases of clothes and shoes - 17 pairs of shoes in all!

My parents are working toward moving out of our house into an independent living facility on Memorial Day. We are helping them sort their clothes, downsize their stuff (again) and help relieve them of some of their food stores. They are excited about this new opportunity and we are so thankful for this clear provision from the Lord. Thanks for praying for them as well as they face this major change in their lives.

David is doing well in his trampoline and gymnastics classes two afternoons a week. He

loves doing projects with me on the weekends and keeps us all laughing with his new magic tricks.

Thanks again for your faithfulness in praying for us in the coming weeks.

In Christ,

Bill Ardill