

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Sunday, May 09, 2010 9:28 PM
To: Bill Ardill
Subject: [ardill-news] a new master in the house!

This was quite a historic weekend. On Friday evening we went to Azusa Pacific University so we could be up bright and early on Saturday morning. At approximately 10:30 am we excitedly watched with cameras in hand as Dorothy walked across the temporary stage on the east side of the football field and received her diploma as a symbol of her completion of her Masters in education degree. We were very proud of her and cheered without embarrassment. It completes several years' work which began last furlough 3 years ago and has given her a new set of tools in her toolkit as a teacher.

We then loaded up our car with all Marie's school and dorm room things and headed home. Marie is now a proud sophomore and had a terrific year at Azusa. She made many new friends and is looking forward to a new dorm arrangement and more interesting and challenging classes next year. For the summer she will be taking one online class and then working as a camp counselor again at the girls' camp Tapawingo on the island in Lake Speculator, New York. We are sorry she will not be around much this summer but know this is a great fit for her and she is looking forward to it as well in spite to the low pay, long hours and distance from us. We will see her in July and look forward to that time together before we return to Nigeria.

For Mother's Day today we enjoyed having my parents, my brother Jim and his wife Shari and their daughter Emily and our gang for lunch after church. Emily's husband Matt is in the Air Force as well as Emily and they are being stationed to Florida this summer.

Heather and Anna have had a great time being on the junior varsity girls' swim team at Rancho Bernardo High School. They have both done surprisingly well and especially enjoyed getting to know more girls in their school. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their growing relationships with friends at the church youth group. The church is in another city so most of the church youth group kids go to other high schools. They have developed a core group of half a dozen kids and have a lot of fun together including doing pranks on each other and having parties together.

Last weekend I attended the annual meeting of the Christian Medical and Dental Association in Asheville, North Carolina. Over 400 Christian physicians from all over the country met for a greater time of medical lectures and spiritual challenge. I especially enjoyed hearing Os Guinness and several of the talks on current medical ethical controversies. I was very encouraged to see many of the doctors I had met in previous meetings of the CMDA in Kenya. I was asked to be the missionary representative for the House of Representatives meetings and learned a great deal about both the administrative aspects of the organization as well as their heart for God and making an impact on this morally deteriorating culture.

You may have heard that the President of Nigeria died this week. Fortunately the Vice President had been the Acting President for the last few weeks so the transition has been smooth. We have not heard any more reports of trouble in Jos and for that we are very grateful. There is still some tension but life is getting back to "normal" again.

Dorothy continues to get calls to substitute teach in local elementary schools and has learned a lot by being in other teacher's classrooms. She has also been busy shopping for supplies for our return to Jos. The garage has one corner now filled with shopping bags of clothes, shoes, school supplies and kitchen and household things. This weekend we made our "schedule" and "list" as we begin the countdown for our August 3rd flight to Nigeria.

So in the coming weeks we have several big things to get done including:

- Moving my parents to a new living place near us
- Getting Marie ready for her summer work as a counselor in New York and making the arrangements for her next school year
- Getting our house packed and ready for a renter

- Going to Camp of the Woods in July for two weeks for a quick break before we leave

Thanks for your ongoing interest and prayers as the pace picks up for us in the coming weeks.

In Christ,
Bill