

Subject: Cougars and Giraffes
February 5, 2012

We are rejoicing in a quiet two weeks in Jos. Thank you for praying for us and “the peace of Jos.” There were rumors this week of trouble that were quite upsetting and we considered closing the school but further investigation discredited the reports. We wrestle with the many stories and pray for discernment in handling the information. We are still cautious about not going to certain parts of the city and are reluctant to travel anywhere at night.

Heather’s BIG news is that she has decided to go to Azusa Pacific University in the fall and enroll in the premed program. We are excited for her and delighted at her choice of college. (Go cougars!) APU has a large active missionary kid group, outstanding weekly student chapels each week, a well-organized discipleship program for all the students and a strong premed program (and Marie will be a Senior). Thanks for praying for Heather through her decision process. Anna is excited to be going to Seattle Pacific University and is adjusting to the idea of cold, wet weather by figuring she will be designing lots of rain boots and sweaters!

At school Heather and Anna tried out for the spring musical “Annie.” Anna got the part of Annie and Heather got the part of “Rooster’s girlfriend.” They are very excited and it should be a lot of fun (after a lot of work and driving to innumerable practices!) Heather and Anna attended a Girls’ Purity Retreat this weekend sponsored by several of the girls’ moms. The girls attended a similar weekend when they were in 9th grade and it was a time of challenge and growth. They reaffirmed their commitments this weekend and felt it was a great weekend.

Marie is having a terrific time in Santiago. She is primarily teaching English to children in several orphanages and has a few adult students. She is also discipling a teenager in the home for abused girls. She has had the opportunity to see many of the beautiful sights in the city including trips up into the magnificent mountains, the beach and harbor and an amusement park. Her blog has been interesting to follow. Take a look for your self. <http://www.marie-escapadeinchile.blogspot.com/> and write her a note.

We have been busy on the Executive Committee of the Hillcrest Board working through a direction for the future of the school. With the input of many different mission boards it has been tricky clarifying the issues and working our way through our differences. Thanks for your prayers as we set a roadmap for the future of the school. We are grateful a number of positions for next year have been filled including teachers for Grade 3, 4 and 5, a Middle school English teacher and a Superintendent. We are still looking for an elementary school principal, a high school Bible teacher, and a high school math teacher. Please let us know if know of someone who might be interested in any of these positions.

I continue to have a “day job” working as a physician but the past two weeks have been mostly caring for sick missionaries. A Baptist missionary had appendicitis and we did a laparoscopic appendectomy, a missionary Bible school teacher had severe sciatica, a teacher had an esophageal ulcer and another teacher has knee pain from osteoarthritis. We are grateful to be able to help and are glad all are on the mend.

Our big news is that tomorrow morning bright and early Dorothy and I leave for a two-week medical conference in Kenya sponsored by the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

The conference is held every two years and about 350 missionary and African physicians attend from all over the continent. It is a wonderful meeting with terrific professional lectures, a great spiritual life speaker, uplifting music, and amazing fellowship with people of “like mind.” (They are all as crazy as we are!) Our Nigeria team includes Drs. Lee and Shephard and four of our Nigerian colleagues. Most have never been to Kenya for this conference, so it will be great fun introducing them to our colleagues from around the world who will be deciding on the Brackenhurst Conference Center. This is Dorothy’s first time going and it has taken 20 years to pull it off so she could come and not worry about the kids. Thanks for praying for us for a safe trip (Abuja – Addis Ababa – Nairobi) on Monday evening, a refreshing conference and for God’s protection for our children whom we have left with dear and patient friends in Jos. We will be back on February 17th. We are not sure of the Internet options at the conference but will get back to you next weekend if we are able to get online. Thanks.

In His care,
Bill Ardill