

---

# Ardill's News

---

Bill.ardill@sim.org

September 2000

---

**M**uch to our delight, we discovered early this year that Dorothy was pregnant. In light of the pain of her last pregnancy, we decided to wait to make the announcement. Her due date was October 8. On July 16 Dorothy noticed her hands were swollen and her blood pressure was elevated. Three days later during her visit to the obstetrician to see if the baby was OK, we were

advised to leave immediately for the States. Dorothy's blood pressure was becoming a serious problem that threatened the baby's life.

**It's a Boy!**



**I**rushed to the SIM travel office and in miraculously in three hours we had plane tickets and all our other paperwork completed to leave Nigeria the next day. After midnight on July 20, we boarded the KLM flight to Amsterdam and were thankful there was one empty seat so Dorothy could lie down during the flight. She rested in the medical unit in the Amsterdam airport. Thank the Lord for one extra seat on the next leg of the trip to Washington, D.C. for her to get some additional rest.

**D**orothy's parents met us at the airport and rushed us to the hospital in Annapolis, Maryland. The doctor's initial assessment was that Dorothy would need an immediate c-section to save the baby. Dorothy's blood pressure improved after getting some good rest that night, so the doctors decided to wait as long as possible to allow the baby to mature prior to delivery. Well, by Tuesday evening, Dorothy's blood pressure was back up so she underwent an emergency c-section. William David Ardill, Jr. was born at 12:47 am Wednesday morning at 29 weeks of age and weighed 2 pounds 4 ounces! For the next five weeks he was in the neonatal ICU. On September 4, he was strong enough to be discharged. Because he still had occasional episodes of slowing of his heart rate and breathing, he was sent home on a monitor. We were thrilled to have him home and the monitor provided us some security knowing the alarm would alert us if he was having problems.

**A**ll seemed to be going well for a few days. David was gaining weight and we were learning again how to care for a newborn. On Wednesday September 13, we noticed he had a groin hernia that needed emergency treatment so we quickly got a babysitter for the girls and rushed David to the university hospital in Baltimore. The surgeons "reduced" the hernia and the next day David underwent repair of groin hernias on both sides. We were tired but thankful the crisis seemed over. Then less than a week later on the following Tuesday we noticed his wounds were infected so he is now on antibiotics and the wounds are improving.

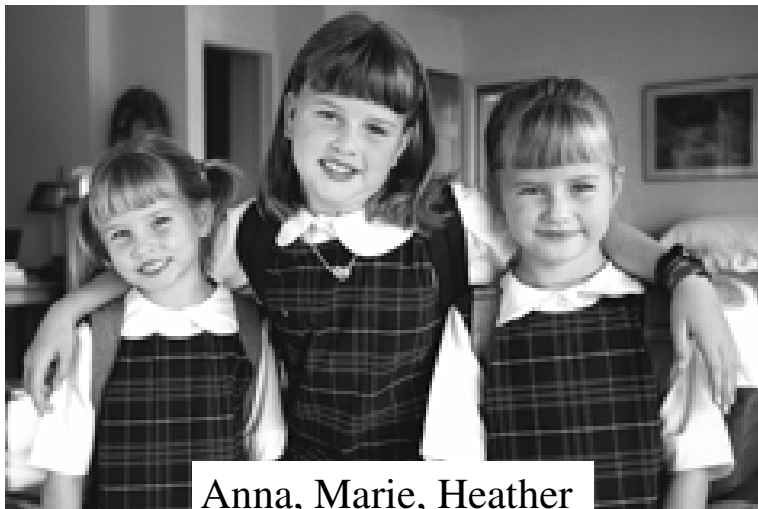
**M**any friends in this community have helped us with meals and cared for the girls during the long hours at the hospital. We are so grateful for their encouragement and kindness. We are also thankful for those in Nigeria who picked up most of our responsibilities and commitments.

There have been a number of changes in the leadership of the medical work in ECWA. We are so grateful for the godly men who lead this ministry. They make many sacrifices to work in a church/mission context and we are privileged to work alongside them. There continue to be strikes at the government hospitals in Nigeria so the staff at Evangel Hospital have been very busy. Since we left, another missionary doctor went on furlough so there is only one missionary doctor at Evangel until our return. Bill is thankful the doctors he has trained in surgery have been coping with the surgical cases. Bill has also been collecting some more medical supplies to take back while visiting several hospitals in the Annapolis-Baltimore area.

Gidan Bege - the outreach ministry to the poor, destitute and handicapped on the streets of Nigeria - has gone through some difficult situations this year. Problems with one leader paralyzed the ministry for months. We are grateful for God's grace and faithfulness as we have seen His hand through these rough days. We are in the process of expanding the Transition House program for rehabilitating the street boys. We are anticipating an increase in the street children population as the AIDS crisis looms and more children are orphaned and put out on the streets. Pray as we prepare for the impact of Moslem law in many northern states in Nigeria.

---

Marie, Heather and Anna are enrolled in a Christian school in our community. They are wearing school uniforms for the first time and learning the rules of a new and smaller school than Hillcrest. It has been quite an adjustment for them and we are grateful for their flexibility and good attitudes during these days of uncertainty and changing plans. Marie had her 9th birthday party on September 4 (one day late) - the day we brought David



Anna, Marie, Heather

We had originally planned to return to Nigeria in mid-October but are now planning to return December 20 in order to be back in time for Christmas. We need to wrap up a number of things in Nigeria and pack up for our regular one year furlough next June. We would appreciate your prayers for David and the rest of the family during these days of "temporary" living in the United States.

Thanks for your ongoing prayer and financial support. Just a reminder that we have a web page describing some of the various aspects of our ministries in the hospital and Gidan Bege. We also send a weekly email to family and friends interested in a more personal and detailed journal. Let us know if you would like to be added to that list. (Bill.ardill@sim.org) Our phone number until we leave in December is 410-757-8832 and our mailing address is 803 Coxswain Way. Apt 308, Annapolis, MD 21401.

In Christ,

*Bill, Dorothy, Marie, Heather, Anna and David Ardill*

**SIM USA, Box 7900, Charlotte, N.C. 28241 USA**

Visit our web page at <http://www.camp-of-the-woods.org/ardill/homepage.htm>