
Ardill's News

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We're Back

A week after we arrived in Jos after Dorothy's back surgery (more on that later) we had a frightening storm that blew down several huge trees on our compound. The falling trees took down all the electricity lines, phone lines and even broke the water main. We are thankful no one was hurt and no houses sustained major damage. We decided to seriously trim the remaining tall trees to avoid a disaster again. So sometimes we prune to increase growth and sometimes we prune to avoid trouble. Some pruning is through disaster and some is planned but all is purposeful. Through it all, the trees with deep roots remained strong while those with shallow roots succumbed to the storm. As we write we recognize we have been through a storm and attack and have undergone a major pruning in our lives the past six months. Through it all our roots were firmly grounded in our sovereign God and our trust in Him deepened. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support.



intensive physical therapy and has regained most of the use of his arm so he can do surgery, swim and most importantly pick up David. Thank you for your prayers for his recovery.

In March and April we were at a Christian counseling center called Link Care in Fresno, California. It was a wonderful time for recovery, processing our trauma and regrouping as a family. We are grateful for the godly counsel and encouragement we received.

Bill underwent surgery in California for the shotgun wound to his left arm from the armed robbery on our compound in January. Shortly after being discharged he developed a painful stomach ulcer and then a painful week trying to pass a kidney stone. Eventually the stone was removed surgically and from then on his physical recovery was uneventful. He started

We returned to Nigeria in late April in time for the children to finish the semester at Hillcrest School and for Marie to attend her 8th grade banquet. It was a good time of reunion with their friends and a better closure to the school year.

Shortly after our return Dorothy began to experience lower back pain. The pain increased and she developed weakness in her foot and numbness. Since we do not have the diagnostic facilities to evaluate her condition, Bill and Dorothy returned to the U.S. and left the children in the care of some visiting college students who moved into our house. (cont.)



On June 7 Dorothy underwent a mini-diskectomy to remove a piece of herniated disk at the L3 disk space. She had immediate relief of her pain and an uneventful recovery. Bill returned to Nigeria to be with the children two weeks after the surgery and Dorothy returned July 14. It is wonderful to be together as a family. The children were terrific through all the trials and matured in many ways. Thank you for your prayers for us through these difficult days of pain, depression, separation and questioning. God has faithfully provide “encouragers” all along the way and has restored us to the place of ministry to which we still are called and committed.



Dorothy will resume her workshops to train women in ECWA churches in Home Based Care of those with HIV/AIDS. She is also planning to distribute 20,000 more buckets in January and March at the Women’s Fellowship conferences to encourage them to collect grains for the widows and orphans in the church. If you would like to learn more how you can contribute or attend these conferences, please look at the “Bucket Project” at the SIM web site www.sim.org and contact us at bill.ardill@sim.org.

If you would like to receive our weekly family email newsletter, let us know at bill.ardill@sim.org.

Marie (13) will be starting high school at Hillcrest this year. She was wonderful as a “surrogate mother” the last six months and is glad to be back to being a teenager. She is especially looking forward to studying Spanish and being with her friends again.

Heather (11) loves riding the horses at the neighboring polo field. She also enjoys watching her Dad do surgery and now has some catchy looking personal scrubs with fun looking frogs! She has done well practicing trumpet and piano but would prefer to be out playing soccer. She will do well in Middle School after school sports.

Anna (11) has been faithful in practicing her flute throughout the summer and is also excited to see her friends again. She loves music and usually has a song on her lips, even when asking for things at the table! She and Heather will be starting Middle School this year so look out boys!

At 5, **David** is asking challenging and delightful questions. He will be in 5 day Kindergarten and can’t wait to be with his friends again. He also watched Daddy do surgery this summer and now has personal scrubs to match. In spite of his father’s attempts otherwise, he still loves to play with toy swords and guns.

Pro-Life Evangel, the crisis pregnancy ministry, is doing well under the leadership of a Nigerian attorney, Grace Dankyau. We face many challenges as we tackle the acceptance of abortion, the obstacles to adoption and the spiritual warfare of this ministry to needy women in crisis.

Thank you for your phone calls, emails, letters, gifts and prayers. We are blessed with a wonderful family of friends and supporters that is international in scope. Please let us know if you have questions about our work or would like to come for a visit.

In Christ,

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

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