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Bill.ardill@sim.org



# Prevailing

“He only had three converts and wanted to build a small prayer house.” SH, a senior Nigerian missionary, related about a fellow missionary in northern Nigeria. We have supported and encouraged SH since he shared his testimony at a conference 10 years ago about how as a street boy he suffered a great deal and later became a Christian. Now he has a ministry encouraging other missionaries in tough frontier regions of Nigeria. The younger missionary knew that every village in his area was under threat that if they built a church, the local government would not bring electricity, make a road or build a school in their village. So he and his new converts labored in their spare time to build a simple mud block prayer hut on his own property.

One night several men destroyed the hut. The village chief called the people together to find out who was guilty. Everyone denied doing it until finally someone confessed they had seen men from a neighboring village demolish the hut because they were afraid the Christian hut would prevent them from getting a road, electricity and a school also. The people considered this an act of war and made preparations to raid the neighboring village. The chief was furious the neighboring chief had not contacted him. The missionary stood and objected saying he did not support this kind of response so the chief relented.

After a few minutes the chief smiled and said, “I know what to do that will really irritate them. We will ALL convert to Christianity and build a large church right in front of my palace.” So that is what they did and then they invited the neighboring chief to the first service. In the face of serious pressure and the threat of persecution, the Christians triumphed because of their bold stand for Christ. Please pray for the persecuted Christians in northern Nigeria and the missionaries called to these challenging regions.

## Off to a good start

On July 25 we arrived in Abuja after a good flight from Los Angeles to London, a fast 8 hours tour of London and then a comfortable flight to Nigeria's capital. We got our 22 boxes through Customs without difficulty and had a good road trip to our home in Jos. After a grand welcome by our friends and workers, Dorothy went to Hillcrest School to get her classroom ready while Bill began the unpacking.

Dorothy has 12 students from 7 countries and reminds us almost every day how much she likes her new “job” as a third grade teacher. She has appreciated the support and encouragement of the other elementary teachers and the patience of her family with her long hours, including Saturday mornings. She has more Attention Deficit



*Dorothy's Hillcrest 3rd grade class*

Disorder children than she anticipated and is learning to walk the tightrope of being strong and gentle. Dorothy has enjoyed showing other teachers new ideas she picked up in graduate school and some internet and technology tools. Thanks for praying for her as she coaches these young charges and especially as she presents Christ to the two Muslim students in her class.

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# Ardill News

# Bugs and babies

Bill is glad to be back at Evangel Hospital training the family practice residents. He is looking for a resident interested in surgery to train in the next two years. The staff had saved up a lot of surgery cases for Bill so he has been catching up on a number of challenging specialty cases. Unfortunately there were a number of pieces of operating room equipment that needed repair so he has been working on getting things back in working order. After a series of cases complicated by post-operative infections, Bill found out the large hospital autoclave was not working properly. So now we are looking for a replacement autoclave that will serve the hospital sterilizing needs. Thanks for your prayers and support in this. In February 2008 Bill is planning to go to the medical missionary meeting in Kenya .

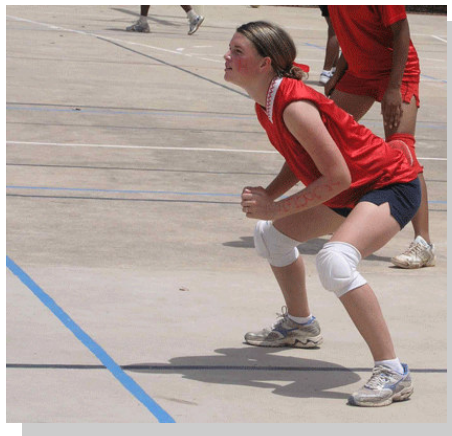
The Evangel Hospital ProLife crisis pregnancy ministry continued to grow this year. Nora is doing a great job as a counselor and is promoting the pro-life message in churches and schools throughout our state. Justina and her husband, Yusuf, are doing a terrific job at the Miriam House for unwed mothers. The women going through the discipleship and vocational training program graduate with a good foundation in Christian living.

Bill is again teaching Christian Ethics to the senior class at Hillcrest School and is enjoying helping this lively group of teenagers from a diversity of backgrounds think through contemporary ethical issues.

## On the go

Marie is doing well in 11th grade but is finding chemistry a challenge. Her varsity girls volleyball team won the end of season tournament upsetting the local favorite.

Heather continues to excel in trumpet and has joined an after-school soccer team. She loves to run but isn't as keen on being chased!



Marie poised for action!

Anna loves playing her flute and has performed in church and the Middle School concert. She is delighted to be back with her friends in Nigeria.

David likes recess the best and has after-school playdates with his friends every afternoon. He is reading well and continues to amaze us with his creativity and projects. David lost his front teeth so is having trouble eating pizza!



Anna



David



Heather playing soccer

### Special points of interest:

- Praise God for a safe trip back to Nigeria.
- Praise God for a good start to the school year for Dorothy and the children.
- Praise God for safety in our home and travels.
- Praise God for good health.
- Praise God for growth in the crisis pregnancy ministry.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and emails. We are glad to be settled and thankful for a safe re-entry. Please continue to pray for our safety on the hospital compound, at school and as we travel the dangerous roads. We are looking forward to visits by several teams from the U.S. as we share what God is doing in this great country. Pray also for the many missionaries serving sacrificially in the North to proclaim the Good News.

In Christ,

Bill, Dorothy, Marie, Heather and Anna Ardill

- Pray for continued safety for our family.
- Pray for the Nigerian missionaries working in northern Nigeria.
- Pray we will model Christ in every relationship