

The rains are coming every day now and the yard is covered with a beautiful lush green carpet of grass. The air is cooler and the cloud formations are magnificent. The best news is that now our well is filling up so we have lots of water. We put in an extra water storage tank and are planning to change the bathroom pipes which are very clogged from years of mineral residue.

This week two important people left us. Lydia Reichart is the Moody Bible Institute student who has been living with us this summer. She was like another daughter to us and helped partially fill the void of Marie's absence this summer. Lydia is majoring in missions at Moody so was keen on seeing as many ministries as she could and jumped right in with the Gidan Bege ministries. She had a lot of fun with the twins and taught the kids a few tricks on our new trampoline. Our driver Kingsford also left us this week. He has a diploma in accounting and has had an interest in pursuing his career in accounting for many years. Recently he enrolled in a local university for another accounting degree. The SIM finance office was looking to hire another staff person so Kingsford applied and was accepted to start this summer. We miss him because he was not only a terrific help to our family in so many ways but was also a true friend. We wish him the best in this new career and we are sure he will do well.

Because of some power problems on the compound we had no internet or email service for most of this week. We have been especially frustrated we have not had much communication with Marie. She is now at Camp of the Woods in the counselor training program at the Tapawingo girls' camp so is a bit out of touch. We miss her terribly and are sorry we have not been able to talk to her much this summer. We trust she is doing well and having a good summer.

Dorothy has been getting ready for the new school year which starts the first week of August. Heather, Anna and David have been enjoying some sports camps at school for the Hillcrest kids in Jos. They have also been practicing their instruments and piano and watching a lot of videos. Very few of their classmates are in Jos so it has been a bit lonely this summer for them. I have been very busy at this hospital. I am presently taking care of an Evangel staff nurse with serious abdominal pain and praying for wisdom in caring for her. We have also had several critical head injury patients from motorcycle accidents. My Nigerian surgical colleague, Dr. Gidado, has been away for the last three weeks which has increased my workload considerably. I look forward to his return the end of this week.

I was very encouraged attending the vesicovaginal fistula program advisory committee meeting this week. In the month of May 57 women trusted Christ as their Savior. Although the economy is also worsening here as in many parts of the world with fewer dollars and fewer resources, we are grateful the Lord has continued to provide for this vital ministry through a generous Christian foundation in the U.S.

My parents seem to be doing well. My father is getting stronger and doing more every week. We are grateful

I suppose the big news is that next Sunday we will be going to Europe for a two week family vacation. We will be meeting Marie in Frankfurt and then spending a week in Switzerland and a week in Northern Ireland. Because this will be Marie's last vacation with us before she heads off to college, we wanted to do something special with lasting memories for all the children. Dorothy has wanted to go to Switzerland all her life so this will fulfill one of her lifelong dreams. We also wanted the children to see where my side of the family is from and meet some of our family in Northern Ireland.

While we are away a lot of missionary families and visitors will be coming to Nigeria. Houses are being cleaned and prepared on every mission compound and the guesthouses will all be full. Thanks for your prayers for safety for the many who will be traveling (including us) and for quick adjustments to all who come. As soon as we return, Dorothy starts work and the kids start school on the Wednesday.

Thanks for your faithful prayers, emails and support. We value your interceding before our Father in heaven on our behalf.

In Christ,  
Bill Ardill

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