

Bill Ardill

From: Bill Ardill [bill.ardill@sim.org]
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2008 9:54 PM
To: ardill-news@sim.org
Subject: more exciting news

This was a busy week full of good news and meetings. Last weekend Jimmy McGonagill arrived from Texas to set up the eyeglass manufacturing workshop. He is an optician who we met in Tyler, Texas a few years ago who has been gathering equipment to set up an eyeglass workshop at Evangel. He came with a large church team from Dallas and has been busy this week getting the workshop set up. We had to redo some electrical fittings, get transformers and stabilizers, fix several pieces of equipment, get chairs and fans and lots of other things to get the place both functional and attractive. One important piece of equipment is missing but he is moving ahead with what he has. It is exciting to see this dream become a reality and we are praying he can get all the equipment working so he can train two Nigerian staff before he leaves at the end of next week.

The team from Texas also brought the new elements for the operating room autoclave. I wanted to wait a few days after they were installed before I told you if they were working. Now a week after installation, the autoclave is working well and there is no sign of trouble. Thank you so much again for your help getting the new heating elements and your prayers for this important piece of equipment.

On Friday the SIM Nigeria council members met with a team from the SIM International office in Charlotte, NC who had completed an extensive evaluation of the work of SIM in Nigeria. They did hundreds of interviews with people all over Nigeria to assess perceptions of SIM and its effectiveness in its various ministries. The report was an amazing document and was very encouraging and challenging as we face the realities of how SIM is perceived by others and as we reaffirm our mandate for the future of the ministry here. The final report will not be presented for several more weeks but it provoked some controversy in its recommendations. We pray for objectivity as we scrutinize the findings, conclusions and recommendations and then wisdom to know the way forward.

Then on Saturday the SIM Council met for another day of "normal" business. The current director, Phil Tait, will be leaving next summer so one important discussion was the nomination of a new director. As we work through the process we trust the Lord for His guidance in selecting the person of God's choosing.

Saturday was a BIG day for Marie. Not only did she have the ACT college entrance examination test all morning but at 7:00 am before taking her to school for the test, I was reading our email and showed her an email from Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles that she had been accepted for the fall of 2009 as a freshman student. Wow! This is exciting news. Marie has been walking on a cloud not only because she was the first accepted to college in her class but because it is her first choice for next year. So now we are actively pursuing scholarships to see if it will be possible for her to attend APU. If you have any ideas of scholarships or sources, we would be grateful as we explore many avenues for financial aid.

Dorothy is doing well with her third graders. This week they began studying oceans so with no ocean for hundreds of mile from here, it is a bit of a challenge. David is becoming the class clown and Dorothy finds it hard sometimes to keep him under control because he is very funny. Marie is busy not only with her college scholarship quest but also with the senior play. She has the largest part and is also active in the National Honor Society, her class girls Bible study and a host of other activities including the girls' varsity basketball team. I am not sure when she sleeps! Heather and Anna played a hymn each in church last week and did very well. They struggle to keep practicing piano with no piano teacher but are still working at it. David is doing a good job of keeping his rabbit "Rosie" alive and growing. Our dog would like to have her for a meal some day so we are keeping the dog in a smaller fenced area for now until we can figure a way to keep the rabbit safe.

That's all the news for this week from our neck of the words. Thanks again for your prayers and emails.

In Christ,
Bill Ardill

Please reply to <bill.ardill@sim.org>