

August 1985

Dear family and friends,

It has been far too long since our last letter and we apologize. However, life has been extremely full and just now seems to be back a bit more to normal. Of course, with four kids, what's normal?!

We can't thank you enough for your care and concern for all of us as our family split in half for five weeks while Grace took Kyle and Kara to the States. They couldn't have traveled better. In fact, on our way from N.Y. to Rome a bunch of American tourists asked me on the way off the plane if I "rented the kids out." They really were good. But I assured them that the only reason they were that good was because of all your prayers. Usually they are very normal!

The tubes inserted in Kyle's ears have proven a tremendous help. He's only had one ear infection since then and then everything drained out and didn't cause him the terrible pain the others had. Thank you for all your calls and gifts that helped with the added expenses a trip like that requires. You can be sure I absolutely enjoyed to the hilt Wendy's, Burger King, homogenized milk, cold cereal, and a thousand other things! Notice most of that was food! But it was also so special to be able to go to church on Sundays and have the freedom to worship. We miss that here so much. It seems like a dream that we saw both sets of parents. Everything happened so fast and we were kept so busy with doctors' appointments. But it was special for them to meet Kyle and see Kara again. How we miss you Moms and Dads!

We have had a very rare and special privilege these past seven weeks. Vicky Mohler came to live with us as a summer missionary. You need to realize that what makes this so special is that we got to disciple her during her freshman through senior years in high school while working at First Baptist Church in Collinsville. Vicky was always very committed. She faithfully attended our high commitment group early on Saturday mornings and she went on three of the mission trips we took the kids on. She has one year left at Bryan College and so you can imagine our joy as we have watched her love these people, teach them English (using Scripture, which thrilled them) and teach the women sewing. They loved listening to Christian Amharic music on our tape recorder. Vicky has been a constant help and the people have loved having her. Their good-bye to her today was so moving and full of tears. To see someone you love continuing to grow in the Lord brings a deep joy.

It sure was good to see three long-haired boys at the airport here when we arrived. (Their barber had been gone too long.) It's been fun having Drew home. We've already survived four stitches, two cases of worms, one of amebas, and one of lice, and countless colds while the four of them have been together. We've also enjoyed Swiss Family Robinson and playing Children's Bible Trivia as a family. How we treasure these times together.

Bill & Grace