

THE BUTLER FAMILY UPDATE



SUMMER

We have just returned from two months in California. Our dear friends, the Duensings, once again gifted us with their hospitality by opening their home to us. Also, we were able to spend lots of quality time with our oldest daughter, Kara (*living in California - see May's newsletter for background*), who is taking healthy steps towards learning to cope with a mental illness. We also had lots of encouragement from friends and our home church, Creekside Community.

Thank you very much for your prayers during this difficult time. And **thank you** all who gave to make the trip home possible. Your incredible generosity was overwhelming in the midst of all the stress, doubt and confusion!

STUDENT-LED MINISTRY

Three days after returning to Zagreb, I found myself on an overnight train to Sarajevo (9 ½ hours) with my Zagreb campus director, Hrvoje. We met with Josh (the Sarajevo city team leader) and Anita and Denis (Split campus staff). We had two good days of discussion and planning for the student-led ministries in Croatia and Bosnia. Although there are many challenges ahead, everyone seems encouraged as we face the new year.

"I have never witnessed a nobler or simpler example of entire self-devotion to the cause of good. They have voluntarily sacrificed whatever attrac-

tions are found in the gilded saloons of London to devote themselves to unceasing and wearying labour."

– William Gladstone, four time British Prime Minister, on Adeline and Priscilla's work

I will be flying back to Sarajevo September 14-15 to help launch the Miss Irby project. For those of you who have not heard yet, Josh, the Sarajevo city director, wrote a book about his distant relative, Adeline Irby, who was an English missionary and Bosnian national hero. Our good friend, Karen Bonnar, in California, invested hundreds of hours to help shape and edit the book.

September 15th is the 100th anniversary of Adeline's death, and we, along with several churches, will use the commemoration to publicize the book, share about "her" faith (as an intro to the Gospel) and distribute Bibles as she did so many years ago. Please pray God's favor as the outreach takes place in a city that is 85% Muslim. At the commemoration, we are honored to have the British Ambassador to Bosnia as the main guest speaker. For more information, please look at the interactive web-site we have created at: www.MissIrby.com

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

On September 6th and 7th, I will spend two days leading out National Leadership Team, eight people in all, in praying and planning for the new year. We desperately need the Lord to guide us

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especially concerning where and how to open new doors to share the Gospel and developing funds for the ministries in both Croatia and Bosnia.

I will also begin the discussion of how and when to give my position as the National Team Leader over to someone else. It is time for one of our Croatian staff to take this leadership position. This transition will not happen overnight and Karen and I have no plans to leave Croatia even after the transition takes place. When we came to Croatia 18 years ago, indigenizing the ministry was one of our main goals. However, when we came, the job comprised of one country and four staff. Today, with two countries to reach and 40 staff to care for and direct, the responsibilities of director have also grown. We appreciate your prayers as we begin this significant endeavor.



The family at my first triathlon in San Francisco



We biked hundreds of miles through the East Bay Hills this summer with Karen Bonnar



We enjoyed a few days at Sea Ranch in N. California with the Heathorns (center) and the Duensings (right).