

***Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 364
Lansing, IL 60438
708-474-3081***

March 6, 1993

Dear Friends and Churches,

These are busy and exciting days around our house. We feel that Africa is just around the corner. Our telephone is ringing with calls from friends checking on how our plans are coming along. Checking the P.O. Box everyday for gift support is a real spiritual adventure-- what a thrill to see how the Lord is working out our return to missionary service.

Luke came running into the house today saying that his friends don't believe he was born and lives in Africa. He wanted his passport to prove it to them! (No, I didn't send his passport out to his seven year old playmates.)

Kimberly continues to be an honor roll student. She is looking forward to visiting her grandparents in Florida over Easter break. Especially since they plan on taking the grandkids to Disney World.

Our family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of my parents. The entire family turned out for a big gala party. We saw friends from my childhood and there was even a table full of friends of "Joy in the Harvest"! It was a once in a lifetime event that we'll never forget.

On a sad note, we buried Claudia's grandma recently. Claudia and her grandmother were very close and although she was in very poor health for a long time, it is still hard to say good-bye. Whenever I called Grandma Bryan my "tough old turkey" she would just laugh and say "you think so?" She was an inspiration to all who knew and loved her.

We have been updating the mailing list and I can't tell you how I feel about those of you who have been involved in our ministry all these years. Your friendships have been a source of happiness and joy in our lives. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have friends like you. May God richly bless each of you.

Love,

Joy in the Harvest

PLANS STILL ON TRACK FOR JUNE



Three Months Until Departure for Africa

"We are looking forward to your coming and working with us and pray that God will greatly bless your ministry." (1/23/93)

Bishop Ngoy Wakadilo
North Shaba Annual
Conference, Zaire

The Pace of Activity Increases with Joy in the Harvest as Departure Day Grows Closer.

With departure scheduled for June, the pace of activity is stepping up. *Joy in the Harvest* held its' first director and leadership meeting on January 16. It was a fast paced, up beat meeting of an extremely talented group that is committed to seeing the Gospel message go forward in Africa. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 29. A

recent letter from Bishop Wakadilo of Zaire outlined the places of missionary service for the Wertz's. They have been asked to establish two bases of operation: Kigoma, Tanzania and Manono, Zaire.

The Next Three Months To Be a Busy Time.

Lowell is scheduled to speak every Sunday until June. Many mid-week meetings are lined up as well. Arrangements have been made to acquire an ocean shipping container and a "needs list" has been developed and is available to those interested. A used car has been purchased, a rebuilt engine installed in it, and it will go into the container. God continues to bless this new effort to bring His love to the African People. ✠

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ Mailing Address:

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

Our thanks to all who have written and sent support!!!

☺ Council of Advisors:

Five of the most prominent names in United Methodist missions are now serving on our advisory council. Watch for a future article.

☺ Medicine Requested.

"Over the counter" drugs are urgently needed for Africa. Donate a bottle of aspirin, vitamins, thermometer, bandages, antiseptic creams, etc. God bless you.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Introducing Darrell and Marlene Rader. Darrell has accepted the position of North American Executive Director of Joy in the Harvest.

In 1982 Darrell, who is a Captain for United Airlines and United Methodist layman, served as a currier of medical and other supplies to Zaire. Darrell and



Darrell & Marlene Rader

Marlene have since supported the mission effort in Africa. Darrell was used by God to help raise funds to purchase an airplane for missionary work in the North Shaba Conference of Zaire. Darrell & Marlene have 2 married daughters and 7 grandchildren. Darrell will represent *Joy in the Harvest* in the USA and is accepting speaking engagements. ✠



HEAVY FIGHTING AMONG SOLDERS

Hundreds killed in Zaire

Major news sources have reported over 1,000 people killed in heavy fighting in the capital of Zaire.

Heavy fighting between elite troops loyal to President Mobutu and regular troops have left hundreds dead and wounded. Most of the fighting occurred in the capital of Kinshasa although other areas of the country were affected by rebelling solders. The regular troops were displeased that they had been paid in new 5 million Zaire banknotes that merchants would not honor. France and Belgium sent troops into the region and many foreigners were evacuated from

Zaire.

The United Methodists in Kamina Zaire suffered property losses due to looting.

Reports of looting the homes of United Methodist missionaries and the Bishop indicate that heavy property losses have occurred. The UM missionaries in N. Shaba pulled back to a remote mission station where few solders are located. It was reported that the aviation hangar for the church was looted but all the airplanes escaped damage. None of the North Shaba United Methodist missionaries were evacuated. ☩

Zaire's Present Tragedy

... The danger is that Zaire, a vast territory 20% larger than Mexico, could begin to disintegrate, plunging the 250-odd tribal groups into a nightmarish civil war of the kind that has left tens of thousands dead in Somalia and Liberia. Shortages of food and gasoline are severe; roads and rail links between major cities have been virtually swallowed by the encroaching jungle... With inflation at 7,000%, banks are closed and people shop clutching sacks full of almost useless paper currency. Zaire's central monetary authority... is virtually bankrupt. Time 2/22/93



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can United Methodist Churches support *Joy in the Harvest*?

Our church has received letters from the General Board of Global Ministries that imply we shouldn't support *Joy in the Harvest*. Can United Methodist Churches support *Joy in the Harvest*?

The GBGM, itself, gives support of about \$14 million to approx. 1,800 **non-Methodist** organizations yearly. There is nothing in the *Book of Discipline* that forbids a local United Methodist Church from

directly supporting any worthy organization or cause (including *Joy in the Harvest*.) A great many local United Methodist Churches are already supporting many inter-denominational and ecumenical mission groups. *Joy in the Harvest* is committed to helping the United Methodist Churches in Zaire and Tanzania. Some GBGM officials are trying to thwart financial donations to *Joy in the Harvest* and the Wertz's ministry by spreading misleading information. This

dishonors our faith, church, connectional structure, and the wishes of the United Methodist Church in North Shaba, Zaire, which is praying for the Wertz's return. Our focus will remain on Africans who are in need-- the hungry, poor, sick, illiterate, hopeless, and spiritually searching. Your church's support of *Joy in the Harvest* is proper within church law, and will be a blessing to United Methodists in Africa! ☩