

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz  
P.O. Box 364  
Lansing, IL 60438*

June 22, 1993

Dear Friends and Churches,

There is nothing emptier than an empty box-- unless it is an empty Post Office Box. Believing that God wanted us to continue to be His missionaries, we rented P.O. Box 496. Through that empty box would come our answer-- could we continue to serve our Lord Jesus in Africa?

Today we know the answer. He used an empty P.O. Box to confirm His call upon our lives and provide for our needs. You believe God wants us to be missionaries-- the P.O. Box did **not** remain empty-- and we are now returning. We thank God for you!!!

Enclosed you will find our new "prayer reminder" card. The cards we are sending to individuals have a magnetic backing-- ready to be stuck up on the refrigerator or any metal surface. We need your prayer support.

If you feel a special prayer burden for this work, please send us your picture. We will have a "prayer partner picture board" up in our house. It will encourage us to know you are praying.

We hope to be back in Zaire on July 5 to attend the North Shaba Annual Conference. Reports indicate food supplies and the economy of Zaire are getting very bad-- more than 50 starvation deaths per day in the city of Lubumbashi; more than 10% of the children in Zaire's capital city, Kinshasa, are starving. There is work to be done in the name of Jesus.

An empty tomb, chiseled out of rock, was to become the scene of our greatest hope. Our Resurrected Savior calls all of us to serve Him. What higher privilege, what greater joy could there be?

Love,

# Joy in the Harvest



OUR MOTTO, OUR GOAL, OUR PRAYER

## Returning to Africa ... So They May Know Jesus ...

*"Foreign missions are absolutely dependent upon the spiritual life of the church. Therefore we need to rouse the hearts of Christians to pray without ceasing for a mighty revival..."*

*Andrew Murray in The State of the Church.*

I was stunned when Claudia noted that I had our motto wrong. I had inserted one extra word— and the motto incorrectly read, "... so that they may know Jesus..."

I began reflecting on our motto. It is a clear expression of what we are about. Five words that have great meaning. "so"-- all that we do, our motivation, our purpose, our intent. "they"-- ministry for the sake of others; the ones that

we are called to love and serve. "may" -- opportunity, having a chance. "know"-- to have knowledge of, experience, to have a personal relationship with. "Jesus"-- the way, the truth, and the life.

" ... so WE may know Jesus... "

As disciples we are committed to a life of spiritual learning-- about Jesus. Faith grows through obedience. Jesus said, "if you love me you will keep my commandments."

We are returning to Africa to begin our fifth term of service. Our prayer is for the salvation of many Africans, and that we may know Jesus better. Join us in prayer that God may teach us, use us, and bless His church in America and in Africa. ✕

### → CHECKLIST →

#### ☺ Mailing Address:

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

Letters for the Wertzes sent to this address will be forwarded to Africa by *Joy's* stateside office! Please use this address for all support gifts.

#### ☺ Ladies--

**SAVE THIS DATE**  
**Saturday, Oct. 2, 1993**

We are pleased to announce the first ever *Joy in the Harvest* Women's Retreat. Plans are being made to make this the "event of the year". More details will follow.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**Carolyn and Eugene McElyea bring years of United Methodist mission leadership and commitment to *Joy in the Harvest*.**

Carolyn is a Director of *Joy in the Harvest*. She has served as Missions Conference Coordinator First UMC Tulsa, OK; Missions Chair at First UMC Crockett, TX; Secretary for the Palestine District



**Carolyn & Eugene McElyea**

Board of Missions; and currently serves on their church's mission committee and District Task Force for New Church Development. Eugene is an attorney, and has served on his church's Mission & Education committees, and Council on Ministries. *Joy* is honored to have them as decision makers. They radiate the love of Christ. ✕



CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS RESPOND TO MEDICINE APPEAL

## Container Ready for Shipment to Africa

Thousands of pounds of medicines, medical supplies, eyeglasses, health kits, seeds, relief clothing, and school kits are being shipped in June.

The miracle of God's love is being given expression as Christians from across America sent boxes of supplies to help the hurting people of Africa. One senior citizen couple gave up their daily newspaper to donate funds. Another lady donated funds for medicine. When we tried to buy medicines with the money, we were given-- without cost-- 500 pounds of medicine and supplies!

Thanks to all who responded, in Christ's love, to this appeal. ✕

All donated items are carefully sorted, inventoried, and repacked for shipment. Many African families will be helped with these items.



This group of volunteers spent many days getting the supplies ready for shipment. Let's pray this container through to it's destination!



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## The Most Frequently Asked Question.

**While speaking in our supporting churches, we discovered that one question was asked more frequently than all others.**

**"How do Kimberly and Luke feel about going back?"**

We are very fortunate our children are happy about returning to Africa. While our children adjusted very well to life in the USA, they have lived

most of their life in Africa. Because our last departure from Zaire was in the middle of a civil disturbance, it is only natural to wonder if the children are scared to go back. Apparently our experience in Luena was more traumatic for the adults than the kids. The children's Grandma Wertz was out for a visit and spent the 5 hours on the floor playing with them and keeping them occupied. Thank God for Grandmothers. Although there was the noise of gunshots all

around us, our children did not see dead bodies and did not see the destruction of our home and projects. They were not highly traumatized. They understand that we are not able to return to Luena at this time and that they will be living in a new town and a new house. Like all kids making a move, they wonder about making new friends, what the new house will be like (do we each get our own bedroom?), and if the people speak "our" language. ✕