

Joy in the Harvest

READY TO BEGIN ANEW

Lowell and Claudia Wertz Arrive In Africa

"We made it!" Lowell Wertz recently declared in a telephone call from Africa.

Lowell, a United Methodist minister and veteran missionary, spoke by telephone with his parents, Orv and Ruth Wertz in Illinois. Lowell and Claudia wanted everyone to know that they and their children, Kimberly and Luke, arrived safely and in good spirits. Lowell said they had "a near perfect trip" from Chicago to London to Tanzania.

The journey spanned 7000 miles and several days. For those who know the Wertzes and their ministry, it was an answer to prayer and months of hard work.

Survived Military Uprising

In September of 1991, a military uprising in Luena, Zaire, destroyed the Wertzes' home and ministry buildings. The destruction included a printing shop and presses, carpentry shop and tools, communication-radio repair shop and equipment, women's school and materials, and several vehicles. Also lost were nearly all of the Wertzes' personal belongings.

Lowell and Claudia were in Luena at the time of the insurrection. Pinned down by gunfire, they were joined by faithful African Christians who prayed for the missionaries' safety.

After escaping to neighboring Zambia, Lowell sent Claudia and

the children on to the United States. Lowell, himself a pilot, made additional evacuation and mercy flights back into war-torn Zaire.

Upon Lowell's return to the United States, the Wertzes announced their intention to return to Africa. They also called upon Christians in America to pray for African church leaders, including their own United Methodist Bishop, Ngoy Wakadilo. For several weeks, Zairian soldiers unsuccessfully attempted to hunt down and kill Wakadilo and other United Methodist leaders.

Commitment and Accountability

Wertz also spoke openly about the need for greater commitment by Christians in the United States, and the need for more accountability from American church leaders.

Following an outpouring of support from many United Methodist churches and friends, the most difficult period of the Wertzes' twelve-year ministry was culminated by the formation of *Joy in the Harvest*.

Joy in the Harvest is a not-for-profit corporation which provides United Methodists and other Christians the opportunity to support the Wertzes and their ministry. Lowell and Claudia are confident that *Joy in the Harvest* will provide a reliable, cost-effective means of furthering the cause of

Christ in Africa.

Appointed by North Shaba

The Wertzes have been appointed by the North Shaba Annual Conference to serve in two towns in neighboring countries: Manono, Zaire, and Kigoma, Tanzania.

Presently, military unrest and civil strife continue in Zaire. Accordingly, the Wertzes will establish their home in Kigoma, Tanzania. This location will allow the Wertzes to assist Zairian evangelistic efforts in Tanzania and, also, Lowell will be able resume mercy trips into Zaire.

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You Can Help !

During his recent telephone call from Africa, Lowell stated, "We really are starting over. Every gift will make a big impact."

Some of Lowell and Claudia's needs are listed on page 2. If you would like to assist in this ministry, gifts and letters should be sent to:

**Lowell and Claudia Wertz
Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438**

A Letter to Grandma and Grandpa

On July 9, 1993, Orv and Ruth Wertz received the following letter from their grandchildren, Kimberly and Luke, who had just arrived in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The letter shows the difficulty of separation from relatives and living in a developing country.

Please pray for these courageous kids -- Kimberly and Luke Wertz.

Dear Grandma & Grandpa,
We are in Dar es Salaam and
it is 4:17 AM in the morning.
We are all jetleged and
we are all up too! We all
miss you and hope you
come out to visit as
soon. The water here
is yellow and the sink
in the bathroom
is not to nice.
But we are alive
and miss you!

Love Ya Love,
All! Kim & Luke

P.S.
(Say hi to Uncle Howard)

Urgent Needs

You can make a difference!

Lowell and Claudia Wertz have suffered extensive losses from the military uprising in Zaire. The destruction included a printing shop and presses, carpentry shop and tools, communication-radio repair shop and equipment, women's school and materials, and several vehicles. Also lost were nearly all of the Wertz's personal belongings.

Please consider whether you would like to help Lowell and Claudia rebuild their ministry. Every gift will make a significant impact.

Listed below are items that are needed right now, and their approximate cost. One person, one group or one church really can make a difference!

| | |
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| hand tool | \$ 20-100 |
| shelving unit | 40 |
| ceiling fan | 60 |
| air tool | 75 - 150 |
| shipping 100 pounds of evangelistic materials from U.S.A to Tanzania | 100 |
| electric transformer, heavy duty, 220v to 110v | 100 |
| barrel of gasoline | 250 |
| shipping 300 pounds of medical supplies from U.S.A. to Tanzania | 300 |
| air compressor | 500 |
| educate Kimberly or Luke for a full year, including texts, supplies & videos | 1000 |
| "Jesus Movie" system, film, projector & sound | 4200 |
| shipping an entire 8'x8'x20' container from U.S.A. to Tanzania | 8000 |

A gift. A question. A letter of concern.

The address is always the same:

Lowell and Claudia Wertz

Joy in the Harvest

P.O. Box 496

Lansing, IL 60438