

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

March 15, 1994

Dear Friends and Churches,

Two dollars is two days pay in Kigoma. The first day assignment for the students in our “personal evangelism class” was to give that amount, in local currency, to someone they did not know. The students were not to tell where they had received the money. Here is just one of the stories--

When I arrived at the market I saw a group of people watching a fight. One man was in debt and had already lost his shirt -- the other man having stripped it off him, to keep it, because of the (one dollar) debt. I asked if I could speak with them. The crowd shouted it would do no good -- the problem was money!



Joy in the Harvest Personal Evangelism Class

I took out the money and gave (one dollar) to the man in debt. He paid his debt and got his shirt back. Then I gave the same man (another dollar) so he would have some money to keep. The two men asked why I was doing this. I told them that a long time ago a man paid a very big debt of mine. I was able to tell the men, and the crowd that gathered to watch the fight, about Jesus.

I have asked myself, “Where does one begin when asked to help start a church in a new country?” This personal evangelism class is my answer.

Most of the students are very new Christians. Several have found the Lord as their Savior in class. They are eager to learn the Scriptures and to learn how to share their faith. When they go out to tell others about Christ, many of the people they are speaking with are Muslims. What a sense of God’s blessing and His approval we are experiencing!

Please pray for our class and all aspects of this new work in Tanzania.

Love,

Joy in the Harvest



OVER 200,000 DEAD IN BURUNDI

“Africa’s Bloodiest War”

“If this is war,” the message said, “a woman is not likely to stop it.” Back went her reply. “You think only of the woman. You have forgotten the woman’s God.” — quoting Mary Slessor, 1848-1915, missionary to Nigeria

This headline of *USA Today* reported the awful reality— the Burundi conflict turned into “killing with a passion”.

Tribal hatred between the Tutsi and Hutu peoples has flared into one of the greatest human tragedies of our time. Effective use of machetes, bamboo spears, bow and arrow, and guns have brought a 90% kill rate— perhaps the highest in any conflict this century. Burundi, one of Africa’s most densely populated countries, has been turned into a death zone.

Over 700,000 refugees fled into neighboring countries. (270,000 into Tanzania) Another 300,000 people have been displaced within Burundi.

By late December the *Red Cross* estimated that over 200,000 people had been killed since Oct. 21— more than in the entire Bosnian war.

“There is blood on everyone’s hands,” reports a Red Cross worker. In 1972 the Watutsi slaughtered 150,000 Hutu. As this is being written, the mass killings have subsided but the situation remains very tense. Tribal hatred could reap bitter fruit for generations to come. Only the power of the Gospel of Christ Jesus can change that terrifying hatred into love. ✠

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ Mailing Address:

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

We are grateful to you who are making this ministry possible.

☺ *Joy in the Harvest’s* Photo Darkroom “Up and Running” In Kigoma.

Lena, wife of martyred UM missionary surgeon— Dr. Glen Eschtruth— donated Glen’s darkroom equipment to *Joy in the Harvest*. Glen gave his life in his Lord’s service in Zaire in 1977. Thank you Lena.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Johnson Kiishweko joined *Joy in the Harvest* as assistant business manager last July. He is intelligent, articulate, and speaks several languages— including English. God has blessed *Joy in the Harvest* through his work and witness.

Johnson accepted Christ as his Savior in 1989 as the result of two UM pastors ministering in



Johnson, Janeth, Kokunura & Jacob Kiishweko

the Kigoma area. Trained as a land surveyor, he now serves as our representative to the banking and business communities. His willingness to tackle any job, his organizational effectiveness, and his desire to please God have made him a valued worker of *Joy in the Harvest*. Johnson is taking Bible classes and hopes someday to be a pastor. Johnson and Janeth married in 1987. ✠



GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING

What's happening ...so they may know Jesus...

SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

- ◇ Saturday, April 30th — Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, IL
Make reservations now!
- ◇ Main speaker: Barbara Lee Johnson, from Orlando FL, Christian author specializing in women's concerns.
- ◇ Speakers, Special Music, Mini-sessions, Food. Don't miss it!
- ◇ Info, brochure, reservations—
Ruth Wertz 708-474-2354
2748 Lighthouse Ct
Lynwood, IL 60411
- or -
Linda Trout 708-474-5696

AFRICA UPDATE

Johannesburg, South Africa

Joy in the Harvest has begun providing partial support for a wonderful Christian ministry giving friendship, aid, and spiritual hope to the forgotten and destitute aged in South Africa. ATTA, "*Aid to the Aged*", started by Rev. Walter Maasch, is reaching out with the Gospel and help to over 300. Claudia and I visited several of these dear folks when we were in South Africa. We were deeply impressed with the Christian love being shown these Seniors. Pray for Rev. Maasch and ATTA!

Kigoma, Tanzania

The Tanzanian government is relocating the Burundi refugees out of the Kigoma region to a new location at Kigwa, in the center of the country. *Joy in the Harvest* has launched a pilot program to continue to minister to their needs. Lowell taught a course in personal evangelism. Bangurambona Henri, a refugee, who has led dozens of refugees to the Lord at Kigoma, has completed the training. Henri is now serving as a *Joy in the Harvest* worker ministering full time to the refugees at Kigwa.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sunday School Kids Ask Questions

Here are questions from the Second Grade Sunday School Class at the UMC in Morrison, Illinois

Q. What is it like to live where you live?

A. It is wonderful. The people are friendly and kind to us. The weather is never cold and snowy, but sometimes it seems too hot. Many things are different here—there are no McDonald's restaurants, there is no television, and there are no

shopping malls. Our children go to school in a special room in our house and their mother is the teacher. They have lots of fun.

Q. What is the name of your country?

A. Africa is the second biggest continent. There are 51 countries in Africa. The country we live in is called Tanzania.

Q. What are the other countries like?

A. Some countries are desert

and others are jungle. People have different languages and customs. It is fun learning about them! Many religions are found in Africa, including Muslims and witchcraft. We tell people about how Jesus loves them.

Q. What do you eat?

A. Frog legs—sometimes. But usually we eat rice, beans, fish, noodles, bread, and spaghetti. The nearest ice cream is 800 miles away! So we bring Jell-O and Dream Whip from America.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest." Isaiah 9:2,3