

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

October, 1994

Dear Friends and Family,

True grit. The kind that fills the air and makes breathing difficult. It gets into your tightly closed suitcases and forms piles in every corner of the Landrover. It clogs the door latches making them unusable. It turns my skin a bright orange color and coats my teeth in a most disgusting way. A road trip in dry season is an experience not soon forgotten.

The Superintendent and I were going to meet with some leaders about their churches' desire to merge with the United Methodist Church. We also were going to visit a refugee camp and "rescue" our refugee team who lost their supplies on the train in route to the refugee camp. "An important trip," I kept reminding myself. But the dust was unrelenting.

Accommodations were not up to Motel 6 standards. No electricity, no water, no toilet, but plenty of insects of all types and LOUD music. Food was boiled rice. Period.

After three days we arrived at our first destination. The meetings were good and then the next day it was on to rescue the team. More dust. The team was very glad to see us. Money was running low. After we "unstuck" them, we were ready to return to Kigoma. "By the way," one team member told me, "they are ambushing vehicles on that road. Six buses got robbed in one day! They are using guns -- we think they are desperate refugees." Thinking about bullets can make you stop thinking about dust.

The map. No other road to home. We can drive to Tabora and put the car on the train. That will work! It sounds better than being ambushed. More dust.

At the Tabora railway yard, while waiting to load the Landrover into a box car, "did you hear about the shoot-out here at this station last night? Two military soldiers are dead." And this is the safe route...

Home. "Did you hear what happened on the road? They robbed a guy on a motorcycle. Stole everything, even his clothes. They found him wearing tree leaves."

The phone call from America. "We have the keys to the plane." Thank you Lord. One hour in the airplane is equal to one day's driving in the dust. And, hopefully, no bullets.

# Joy in the Harvest

NEW ESTIMATE: ONE MILLION KILLED IN RWANDA



## Refugees Hungry for “the Bread of Life”

“... I like to dwell on the love of the Great Mediator... I know that the gospel is the power of God — the great means which He employs for the regeneration of our ruined world.” *David Livingstone*

“These refugees need more than food...” said the Red Cross worker. United Nations and Red Cross officials gave permission and welcomed *Joy in the Harvest* to come minister to the Rwandan refugees.

As this is being written, a team of six *Joy in the Harvest* workers are living in tents among the 1/4 million Rwanda refugees in the camp at Ngara, Tanzania. Our team is coordinating an effort by 25 Rwandan Christians and 40 Rwandan pastors to win people to the Lord.

### Signs of spiritual hope are everywhere.

Dozens of Rwandans have made decisions for Christ at Ngara. In two Burundi refugee camps, *Joy in the Harvest* Evangelism class members have started two *United Methodist* churches. In a Burundi refugee settlement, another member has started a class for new believers — 42 attending. Burundi refugees in yet another camp have asked for our assistance in starting a new church.

**With new refugees arriving daily, adding to the nearly 1/2 million refugees in our area, the needs are great. Please remember in your prayers these and all efforts to take the Gospel and love of Jesus to them.** ✠

### → CHECKLIST →

#### ☺ Mailing Address:

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

We love to hear from you!

☺ **The situation in Burundi is very tense.** The threat and reality of new violence has forced the temporary evacuation of some missionaries. BBC radio is warning that Burundi could become another “Rwanda type” disaster.

☺ **The *Joy in the Harvest* Fall Women’s Retreat will be Nov. 12th.** Contact Ruth Wertz (708-474-2354) or Linda Trout (708-474-5696) for more information and to register. Bring a friend and don’t miss a great day!



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**The *Joy in the Harvest* Refugee Ministry Teams are doing outstanding work for the Lord.**

Our first team visited the Rwanda Refugee camp at Ngara for a few days in May before officials requested all groups to refrain from working inside the camp until things stabilized. Conditions inside the camp were very dangerous and chaotic. This team’s work, and the spirit



**The First *Joy in the Harvest* Refugee Ministry Team**

shown to the officials, paved the way for securing our unlimited access to the camp. This team’s members were Rev. Muyombi (not pictured), Kiisweko, Mulenembele, Ndarambigwa, Mbaruko, Baome, Mutula, Wandama, and Rev. Lowell Wertz. Some of these men are members of the *Joy in the Harvest* team now ministering inside the Ngara camp located on the border of Rwanda and Tanzania. ✠



“WINGS OF JOY”

## *Joy in the Harvest* Given An Airplane!

**A beautiful Cessna 182. It's a single engine, four seater, that has the range, payload, and equipment to make it a great airplane for Africa!**

A call from the *Mission Society for United Methodists* was the answer to our prayer. They were given an airplane but could not use it themselves. They asked, “Would you be interested?” You bet! The *Joy in the Harvest* Board of Directors voted to accept the gift and voted our new flight ministry — “Wings of Joy” into existence.

**A ceremony was held at the Vandalia, Illinois airport on August 30, 1994.**



The “Wings of Joy” Cessna 182

The airplane's owner, Mr. Burnside, turned over the keys to Dick McClain of the *MSUM*. He then passed the keys to Darrell Rader of *Joy in the Harvest*. In a phone call with Lowell Wertz in Africa, Mr. Burnside indicated his wish to follow the future work of

the plane. He had purchased the airplane new in 1977 and has been it's only pilot. Always hangared, the plane has been upgraded and maintained beautifully over the years. “I feel like we are inheriting his child — it is a great airplane” said Lowell.

**The airplane is now in the shop at *Wings of Hope* in St. Louis being readied for it's trans-Atlantic flight to Africa.**

A *United Airline* pilot has offered to fly the plane out to Tanzania. We are seeing God bring together many individuals and organizations to get this airplane into mission service. Our thanks to each one, and especially Mr. Burnside! ✠



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## How Do You Get A Small Airplane To Africa?

**Q. How do you get a small, single engine airplane from the United States to Africa?**

A. There are two options. The first possibility is to take the airplane apart and ship it overseas in a container. However, this method often results in damage to the plane and involves considerable work putting the airplane back together once it arrives. Second, is to use the “Charles Lindbergh method” and fly it over the Atlantic. Airplanes

were made to be flown. However, this kind of flying is specialized and high risk. “Ferry” pilots charge high fees — \$10,000. or more plus expenses is not unusual. A group of very experienced airline Captains, who are Christians, have formed a ministry organization to fly mission planes overseas. They charge only the direct trip expenses, such as fuel and clearance fees. The aircraft is equipped with large fuel tanks inside the passenger compart-

ment. The government gives special permits that allow the airplane to be overloaded up to 25% of its normal maximum weight so that it can carry enough fuel. The total flight time from Chicago to Tanzania will be between 50 and 60 hours and it is expected to take about a week. Because of bad weather over the Atlantic in the winter, the latest date the plane can be ferried out to Africa is in November. If the plane is not ready for the flight by then, we will have to wait until Spring. ✠

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