

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

September, 1995

Dear Friends and Churches,

Arriving home from Annual Conference in Zaire, we were told that our fellow missionaries from Kigoma had just been kidnapped. The Baptist doctor's family from our town, the Baptist pilot and his family from Iringa, and a young daughter of another missionary family had stopped to "use the bushes" on a road trip. When the doctor, Bill Harrington, was returning to the car he saw three armed men forcing the others into the car and driving off. Stopping another vehicle, he gave chase but lost them.

The following hours seemed like an eternity for all of us. Bill, together with the father of the other young girl, started searching in the bush. Not knowing if the others were alive or dead, they searched all night. **They found the car, wrecked, and with one gunman in it -- dead. But no sign of their loved ones.** In Kigoma we followed the situation on two-way radio & telephone, prayed, and kept the US Embassy informed. I was prepared to use our airplane to search the next day. I would need special permission as the area is a military zone and civilian aircraft entering it risk being shot down.

Having received his permission, another Baptist pilot took off at dawn. By what he considers a miracle of God, he located the missing missionaries in a field, covered with ashes and soot, drugged unconscious. The sound of the aircraft engine caused them to awaken enough to get to their feet. The kidnapped pilot had been hit in the face with a rifle butt and had minor injuries. They were alive!

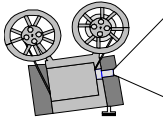
Bill searched for another half-day before he could be reached and told his family and the others were alive. The gunmen had made the missionaries kneel down. Putting guns to their heads, they told them they were going to die. One of the criminals was a convicted murder. The gang forced each of the captives to drink some "medicine". Within an hour they were going unconscious, not knowing if they would wake up in heaven or on earth. Lions and other dangerous animals were in the immediate area. But God heard the prayers of His people across Tanzania and around the world and protected them.

Bill, Sandy, and their 10 year old daughter Christine are back in Kigoma. Bill just phoned me to ask for a part so he can get the hospital's X-ray machine going. It is a privilege to serve Jesus with them. Such commitment has caused me to rededicate myself to the work of Christ's Kingdom.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly + Luke*

# Joy in the Harvest



DOZENS TURN TO CHRIST

## Jesus Movie Evangelism Begins

*"The noblest thing a man can do is, just humbly to receive, and then go amongst others and give."*

*David Livingstone, 1813 - 1873  
Missionary to Africa*

**Our visitors helped us build a screen, test the equipment, produce follow-up material, and pray with those making decisions.**

An 8 x 10 foot movie screen, standing 20 feet high, was built in Lowell's yard. When disassembled, it fits into our airplane—5H-JOY. The donated projector is top quality. A Honda generator is used to power the equipment. Under an agreement between *NavPress* and *Joy in the Harvest*, we have translated and published follow-up materials for new believer classes.

**The first two showings of the Jesus movie resulted in 177 recorded decisions for Christ.**

The first showing was at the Refugee Camp at Kigwa, Tanzania. Because of transfers to other camps and people returning to Burundi, the camp has decreased in size from 1,500 to just 500 people. All 500 turned out to watch the movie. 96 decisions for Christ were recorded! In the following weeks, over 60 of these were visited by *Joy in the Harvest's* refugee evangelist. He reports a 30% increase in church membership to 105 members. In the city of Tabora, over 2,000 people watched the movie and 81 decisions were recorded. What a thrill to see people coming to accept Christ! ☩

### → CHECKLIST →

☺ **Mailing Address:**

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

This ministry is made possible by faithful contributors & churches. Our deepest thanks to each of you.

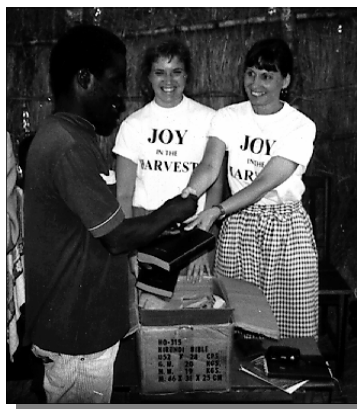
☺ **Attention!!  
Northern Illinois Churches**

Would you like Pam and Donna to share the story of their summer mission work? Send your request through our address above and we will forward it to them. Also, *Joy in the Harvest's* FAX number in the USA is 815-648-2766.

### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**Donna Trinko and Pam Hook are *Joy in the Harvest's* first short term summer volunteers. Africans were greatly blessed by their work and witness.**

18 months of correspondence culminated in their one month mission trip to Kigoma. Both Donna and Pam, who are members of the missions committee of the Wheatland-Salem UMC, are school teachers in Naperville, IL.



**Pam Hook & Donna Trinko distributing Bibles in Refugee**

They used their skills for the Lord teaching English to African Christians. In a refugee camp they distributed stuffed animals, shirts & hats (donated by their pupils and church members), and Bibles. They printed literature on a mimeograph machine and worked as counselors for children at the first showing of the *Jesus* movie. We praise God for their caring hearts and help! ☩



FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

# Mission News From Africa and the USA!

**Joy in the Harvest** presented a booth displaying African artifacts & ministry information at the **Good News Summer Celebration** held in Cincinnati July 13-16.



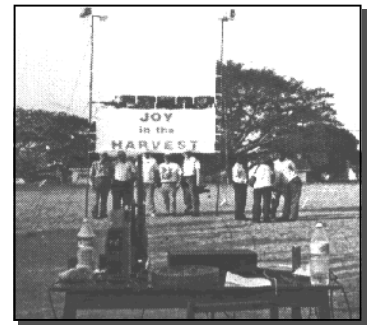
**"Manning" the booth for Joy, Darrell Rader and Glen Beck. They report the Conference was a tremendous spiritual blessing.**

**Five American Missionaries abducted at gunpoint in Tanzania during car jacking.**

Three adults and two children of the Baptist Mission in Tanzania were abducted at gunpoint while on a road trip. Debating whether or not to kill them, the criminals finally **drugged them into unconsciousness**. 15 hours later the missionaries awoke in the bush to the sound of a search plane. Dr. Bill Harrington's wife Sandy and daughter Christine were two of the abducted. The Harringtons live in Kigoma and are friends of the Wertzes. Lowell serves on the board of directors of the Baptist Hospital in Kigoma.

**South Indiana UM team in Africa.**

Rev. Joe Hollen, Rev. Paul Perry, Rev. Glen Beck, and Methodist layman (& Gideon) Dale Kitley — served the Lord in Africa for 2 weeks. They participated in a wedding, baptism, worship services, and movie evangelism. They met with UM pastors & laity and served as consultants for *Joy in the Harvest*.



**Jesus Movie — ready to show!**



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## What Is A Wedding In Tanzania Like?

NOTE: The first UM wedding in Tanzania was performed by Lowell Wertz & Glen Beck in Kigoma on Aug. 23rd. The bride, Mbuyu Nkulu, was married to Charles Kyungu. She is the daughter of Ntambo & Shimba Nkulu, well known Zairian UM leader.

**Q. What was the wedding like? (asked by a mission pilot's wife)**

A. This wedding was an international event: pastors from America, bride and groom from Zaire, wedding in Tanzania. The families had arranged for the couple to meet. The "bride



**The Saying of the Vows,**

price" was a head scarf, plastic basin, skirt, suit, shoes, tie, 3 goats, and \$100 cash. The

bride's family requested Rev. Glen Beck to preach a salvation sermon at the service. (No altar call was given as the altar was already in use!) After each vow was said, the congregation cheered. When the couple was pronounced man & wife, the church cheered wildly! At the reception, a ceremony was performed called "the cutting of the goat." The newlyweds served a piece of meat cut from a roasted goat to the head of each family, signifying trust & love between the families. ¶

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