



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

December, 1995

Dear Friends and Churches,

Merry Christmas everyone! As we celebrate the third anniversary of the founding of *Joy in the Harvest*, we are amazed at what great things God is doing. Here are some of the highlights for 1995--

- Personal & *Jesus* Movie evangelism saw hundreds make decisions for Christ. Young people, Muslims, refugees, and others found the Savior. Many more received a clear witness to the Lordship of Christ.
- Over 100 Christians completed *Joy in the Harvest* evangelism and discipleship seminars. We entered into an agreement with Nav Press for us to translate into Swahili and publish their Bible study booklets. First editions are already being printed in our garage.
- For seven months of 1995 *Joy in the Harvest* provided **total financial support** (salaries, rents, and children's schooling) for the six pastors of the **UMC of Tanzania**. Other assistance included flights for delegates to annual conference in Zaire, assistance to the refugee churches, printing, and numerous small grants. We have been encouraged by the spiritual growth among UM laity in Tanzania.
- Visitors were a great blessing in 1995! Our "renovated" container provides sleeping facilities. We hope these are the first of many who will come as volunteers.
- "Wings of Joy" became a reality with the arrival of our airplane 5H-JOY in 1995. It has been a wonderful help.
- *Joy in the Harvest* sponsored two **Women's Retreats** in Wheaton, Illinois and a missions booth at the Good News Summer Celebration in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Other highlights include hosting **missionary Bible studies**, support for the **destitute in South Africa** through *Aid to the Aged*, a month of Swahili **language study**, **acceptance by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability**, assistance to the **French Speaking School** of Kigoma, and providing **emergency help** to many individuals facing medical and personal crisis.
- Finances were very tight mid-year but we are ending 1995 in the black.

We praise God for you who made this possible! Our heartfelt thanks. Merry Christmas and all our love from Africa.

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly + Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



The symbol of trust

FULL MEMBERSHIP GRANTED

ECFA Approves Joy in the Harvest

"47% (of all charitable giving) is given to religious organizations. Individuals giving modest sums (contribute) 83% of all charitable giving."

Robert & Gerald Thompson in Organizing for Accountability.

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability has approved *Joy in the Harvest* as a full member in good standing.

The approval process began in the earliest stages of the *Joy in the Harvest's* formation. *ECFA* standards and membership requirements were used to develop *Joy in the Harvest's* policies and organizational structures. This insured the highest standards of accountability and integrity.

The application process involves many requirements.

ECFA requirements include meeting a minimum time in existence and minimum annual income level, complete audits of finances to the highest standards, policies and organizational structure that conform to their standards, a clear evangelical statement of faith, and recommendations from two *ECFA* member organizations. *Good News* and the *Mission Society for United Methodists* recommended us. Member organization's books and methods are open to *ECFA* compliance reviews at any time.

***Joy in the Harvest* is proud to display the *ECFA* logo as a symbol of our ministry's Christian commitment to integrity and excellence.** ☩

CHECKLIST

* **Mailing Address:**

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

Merry Christmas and God bless each of you!

* **An "end of the year" tax reminder from Joy's Stateside Office and Uncle Sam...** for gifts to be eligible for deductions for 1995, checks must be dated and postmarked in 1995.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Orv and Ruth Wertz, the parents of Lowell Wertz, are in Tanzania doing volunteer work for *Joy in the Harvest*. We are so happy to have them with us for 6 weeks.

Orv and Ruth first traveled to Africa in 1984. This is Orv's fourth visit, and Ruth's sixth to Africa. Over the years they have packed over 500 shipping boxes with 15 tons of donated supplies destined for African missions.



Ruth and Orv Wertz

Other accomplishments include African vocational training, child evangelism, and student sponsorship programs. In the United States they speak about African missions in churches. This trip they are heading up a relief distribution at the Kigoma Destitute Camp. Married 53 years, they have 6 married children, 12 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. ☩



THOSE WITH NOTHING WILL RECEIVE

Christmas Distribution for Kigoma's Destitute

***Joy in the Harvest* will coordinate this year's Christmas distribution for the people at the Kigoma Destitute Camp.**

This camp, a series of abandoned government buildings, is home for Kigoma's poorest people. It's 45 residents are disabled. Many suffer from leprosy, are missing limbs and are blind. All are totally destitute and unable to work. Last year *Joy in the Harvest*, along with others, distributed health kits, towels, blankets, soap, and other basic items. In June of this year the



Last Christmas: Kigoma Destitute Camp

government food assistance to the camp was disrupted, forcing the people to sell their blankets to buy food. When their plight became known, those attending the weekly missionary Bible study provided emergency donations of food. This Christmas *Joy in the Harvest* will again provide supplies and health kits donated by supporting churches and UMW groups. Blankets and other items will be purchased. Our thanks to all of *Joy in the Harvest's* contributors who are making this a Merry Christmas for these needy folks. ✠



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is your Thanksgiving Celebration like?

Q. Knowing that Thanksgiving is an American holiday, do you celebrate it in Africa? What is Thanksgiving like for the Wertz family in Tanzania?

A. Although Thanksgiving is not a holiday in Tanzania, most American families in Africa still observe the day. This year was a special thanksgiving for our family. Having Mom & Dad Wertz out for a visit made it a wonderful time for us. Last spring, when we were in Johannesburg, we bought 3



Thanksgiving Dinner at the Wertz

small frozen turkeys imported to South Africa from Pennsylvania! We packed the frozen turkeys in a Coleman cooler hauled them home. They were still frozen

when we arrived in Kigoma. We invited friends living in Kigoma to be our guests for our Thanksgiving meal. Kigoma's city electrical generators are broken down and the electricity was off the month before Thanksgiving. We did managed to cook two turkeys when the power unexpectedly came for on one day. We saved the remaining frozen turkey for our Christmas celebration. Now if only the power will come on again before Christmas so we can cook it ...

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