

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

July, 1996

Dear Friends and Family,

The apprehension I felt just 4 months ago concerning the fund raising drive has given way to rejoicing, astonishment, and wonder at what a great God we serve.

God's people have spoken. From all across the USA, Canada, Kenya, and South Africa funds and words of encouragement have flooded in. The effect has been profound. We have been left in a state of dazed gratitude and have been humbled by the experience.

Everyone involved with *Joy in the Harvest* is amazed at how fast the funds have come in. We really didn't know how long it would take to raise what seemed like a enormous amount of money. We certainly didn't expect to have almost three fourths of the funds committed before I wrote my next newsletter!

The facilities are greatly needed and will be wonderful tools for ministry. I was hoping fund-raising for construction would not dominate our time and attention for years to come. We always need to look beyond the tools and keep in focus the Great Task Jesus has called us to.

We are now beginning construction. What a blessing this mission station will be! Thank you to all who are making this possible. Rejoice with us. We serve the King of Kings. Together we have started building this new mission station for His glory.

"Only" \$50,000. to go until we reach our goal. (Did I just say that!?) Does God want you to give a gift toward that goal? Don't miss out on the blessings!

Love,

Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly & Luke

# Joy in the Harvest



## PRAISING GOD

*Thank You!*

## Funding at 73% for New Mission Station

*"... you receive the blessedness from giving that portion of your goods which you did not need. Thus, lay up for yourself a good foundation... in the world to come for eternal life. That foundation and all the blessings of God, are in Jesus... whatever we do in His name is a foundation for a good reward."*

**John Wesley**

**The response to the appeal for funds to construct the *Joy in the Harvest* Mission Station has thrilled our hearts!**

In the four month period since our March newsletter, \$135,000. of the \$185,000. needed to construct the new *Joy in the Harvest* mission station has been given or pledged.

Church gifts, memorial gifts, offerings from Sunday School children, individuals and families making difficult sacrifices — all to glorify the name of Christ in Africa. We rejoice and praise Him for you!

**Enough funds have already arrived to enable work to begin!**

Now underway is site leveling and bulldozing, purchasing a dump truck and 800 sacks of cement, brick making, and building of retaining walls. Ground breaking for the first buildings is expected to occur soon.

**Please remember to pray with us about the \$50,000. still needed to complete this mission station.** ✠

### → CHECKLIST →

#### ☺ **Mailing Address:**

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

Our appreciation for those supporting our general fund and construction fund.

#### ☺ **United Methodists to elect new Bishop for N. Shaba, Zaire and Tanzania areas.**

At the Central Conference held in August, the new Bishop will be chosen for Tanzania and N. Shaba Zaire. Please remember this important decision in your prayers.



## WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

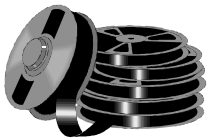
**Three years ago Deo Venance was hired as a day laborer by *Joy in the Harvest*. We have been blessed every day since by Deo's hard work and faithfulness. We thank God for bringing him to work on our staff.**

Deo was working in the yard when we held our first evangelism class. He literally ran out of the yard to get away. The



**Deo on the construction site of the new mission station.**

next day another worker asked him why he was running from God. He started attending the class and accepted Jesus as his Savior. He has become a faithful church member doing personal evangelism, refugee evangelism, and serving on church committees. He is the foreman of construction for the new mission station. Deo is married to Evaleni. They have two young girls. ✠



IN THE PAST 4 MONTHS

## Over 60,000 Watch the *Jesus* Movie

**Joy in the Harvest's evangelism team has shown the *Jesus* movie in Refugee camps and villages all over western Tanzania. The response has been wonderful.**

By train, Landrover, and bicycles, the three man evangelism team has taken the *Jesus* movie to 13 locations in the past 4 months. 248 hours of video and cinema were shown. Attendance at the showings was over 60,000 with 2,407 decisions made. Remote villages required the use of 5 volunteer bicyclists to transport the equipment to them. Invitations continue to arrive from many places asking for the team to come.



**The crucifixion of Christ as depicted in the *Jesus* movie.**

**The team has faced several difficulties.**

Unexpected delays in getting official permissions, thought to be

caused by Muslim opposition, have forced postponement of some showings. Transportation remains a problem. Two donated bikes have helped but are not the total solution. The poverty of local Christians sometimes precludes them from being able to provide food for the team. The team needs to become self-sufficient with food & tents. Follow-up materials are in short supply and more printed materials are needed.

**God is blessing this work. Remember to pray for its success. Rejoice with us that many are turning to Christ. ✕**



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. Our church is planning its annual mission conference and we were wondering if you would be available to speak. When are you coming home on furlough?**

A. We have been back in Africa for three years already this term. For many reasons, we have decided to extend another year in Tanzania before taking furlough. Our furlough is planned for the fall of 1997 and we plan to be in the USA for the children's entire school year. We will visit as many churches and friends as possible. Late this summer we will be in

## When Is Your Furlough?

### Schedule of Events with the Wertzes.

Aug. 25 4:00 P.M.  
Trinity UM Church, Seymour, IN

Sept. 8 4:00 P.M.  
Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria  
Greenwood, IN

Sept. 14 & 15 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
"Open House" at River Oaks Chapel  
Dolton, IL (Lowell speaking at 3:00)

the USA for a few weeks. Lowell will attend the next Board of Director's meeting and Claudia's parents are celebrating

their 50th wedding anniversary. Her parents graciously provided tickets for her and the children.

We are very excited about being back in the USA for a visit. We will not be itinerating to supporting churches due to the limited time of this trip. However, friends and family have arranged several events to make it possible for folks to visit with us. We hope you can make it to one of these events! We'd love to see you. Contact the home office (815-648-2197) for more information and maps. ✕