

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

October 15, 1996

Dear Friends and Family,

Just a brief newsletter to update you before we return to Africa.

Our first days in the USA were busy with buying clothes, getting our driver's license, and purchasing a car. Our 20 foot travel trailer is providing us a place to stay, as my parents sold their home just before our arrival. Our kids have grown and the trailer seems smaller than we remembered it!

After two weeks, we took the trailer to Canada for a "family reunion / vacation". Ten days of visiting with both sets of our parents and many other relatives & friends, good weather, and great fishing made it a wonderful time. Kimberly and Luke tried to water ski -- didn't succeed this year -- but will next time.

We returned to celebrate Claudia's parents 50th wedding anniversary. The restaurant, owned by Claudia's brother, overlooks the beautiful Rock River of Northern Illinois. A perfectly restored 1948 Nash convertible delivered the "newly weds" to the party. It was an elegant celebration that we will never forget.

After the anniversary, Lowell held meetings with each member of the *Joy in the Harvest* board of directors. It was a blessing to attend our fall board meeting and we are excited with the progress and direction of *Joy in the Harvest*. New ideas and plans point toward innovative, expanding ministries in the future. We all share a strong sense that God is in this work.

A cost estimate for doors & windows for the new mission station by a Tanzanian company arrived in the mail and was over \$50,000. After the shock subsided, we started considering alternatives. We decided to extend our stay in the USA for one month (the trailer seems to be getting smaller each day!) and are purchasing windows, doors, toilets, tubs, tin roofing, plumbing, and electrical supplies. It is all being packed into a 20 foot ocean shipping container. We are thrilled to see how the Lord is providing bargains. Both the container and we are scheduled to depart for Africa on Oct. 29.

We were surprised by a message from the airplane's maintenance shop. 5H-JOY's engine failed its inspection. For safety's sake we have purchased a replacement factory rebuilt engine. It, too, will be shipped in this container.

Our thanks to you who continue to support us in prayer. We have much to be thankful for and so much to pray about. God bless each of you!

Love,