



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



December, 1996

Dear Friends and Churches,

Merry Christmas from Africa! *Joy in the Harvest* is four years old this month. We are celebrating all God has done in 1996. Here are a few highlights —

- Over 70,000 people **presented the Gospel** with the *Jesus* movie, teaching, and preaching. **Many decisions** made to accept Christ as personal Savior.
- Translations of **Bible study material** in Swahili and Kirundi completed.
- Started and provided roofing for a **new church** and supported **refugee church work**.
- *Joy in the Harvest* sponsored the first ever Tanzanian United Methodist **laity conference**.
- Helped support work in the **Kigoma Destitute camp** and *Aid to the Aged* in South Africa.
- Helped support the **French speaking school** at Kigoma. Many children are refugees.
- Sponsored two **Women's retreats** in Wheaton, IL. Spiritual fruit resulted.
- Launched **building program**. **Contributions & pledges** received total \$170,000. Within \$15,000. of goal. Purchased a Toyota **dump truck**, cleared the land, made 20,000 **cement blocks**, and **shipped construction supplies** from the USA.
- Celebrated the first anniversary of "Wings of Joy" and the **safe operation** of our Cessna airplane. **New engine** for the airplane purchased. Four years of negotiations with the Tanzanian government for permission to build a **hangar** making progress.
- Rejoiced with the United Methodist Church with the **election** of our friend, Ntambo Nkulu, as new Bishop over Tanzania and a part of Zaire.
- Wertzses enjoyed a **trip to the USA** to celebrate Claudia's parents **50th wedding anniversary**. Much administrative work was accomplished for *Joy in the Harvest*. **Special meetings** in Illinois and Indiana a real blessing.
- **Renewal approved** of *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability* membership. (ECFA)
- **Helped refugees** from Burundi and Zaire who fled to Tanzania under gunfire.
- Finances for construction of the new mission station far exceeded expectations! General fund very tight with unexpected and crisis expenses. Praying that 1996 may end in the black.

Let's rejoice in what God is doing. We thank God for each of you who are making the work of *Joy in the Harvest* possible! May we feel Christ's love anew this Christmas season.

Love,

Joy in the Harvest



ZAIRE CRISIS & BURUNDI CRISIS

Thousands of Refugees Flood Into Kigoma

"A fireplace, no matter how inviting the architecture, is as cold as a tomb if it doesn't surround a crackling fire. All the bricks and brass in the world won't make up for the lack of warmth... And that's true of churches too."

Charles Swindoll, *The Bride*

Over 25,000 refugees from three nations — Zaire, Burundi, & Rwanda — arrived in Kigoma, Tanzania in early and mid November.

The Wertz family had just arrived back in Kigoma when the refugees started arriving. Most of the refugees arrived on the beach at Kigoma in crude boats. The outbreak of hostilities in eastern

Zaire caused many family to flee. Refugees with gunshot wounds recounted how they were fired upon by soldiers. Many had family members killed.

The unexpected arrival of thousands of refugees caught the United Nations off guard. UNHCR appealed to *Joy in the Harvest* and other groups for assistance.

We responded by putting our construction dump truck and a staff of eight to work. Meeting the refugees on the beach and transporting them to camps, dispensing food & water, hauling food and fire wood, and assisting in registering the refugees were some of the task accomplished. The head of UNHCR in Kigoma has expressed his personal gratitude to *Joy in the Harvest* for

CHECKLIST

* **Mailing Address:**

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

Our special thanks to all who made this ministry possible in 1996.

* **E Mail comes to Tanzania.**

Send us a message. Our address is Wertz@MAF.org It often takes a few of days to reach us, however.

* **Wertzses begin USA furlough in Sept. 1997.**

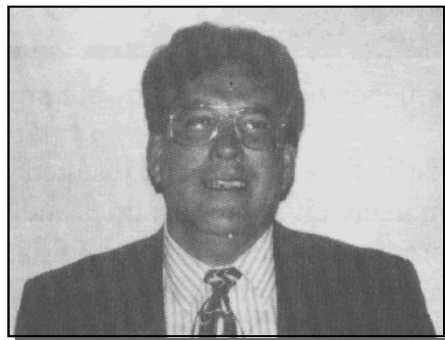
We would like to visit as many supporting churches and individuals as possible. For a visit, arrange dates with Rich Hutchins. (see below)



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Rich Hutchins served as Chairperson of the *Joy in the Harvest* board of directors from it's inception to 1995 and continues as a director. *Joy in the Harvest* is grateful for his leadership.

With advanced credentials in education, Rich is currently an administrator for the Northwest Suburban Special Ed.



Mr. Rich Hutchins

Organization of Palatine, IL. Married for 25 years to Donna, they have two children — Lisa and Kevin.

Rich is handling the Wertzses furlough calendar. If you would like a visit by the Wertzses in 1997-98, please contact Rich at his home phone number 847-803-1871. If you are in Illinois contact Dr. Scott Field at 630-904-1035. ☩

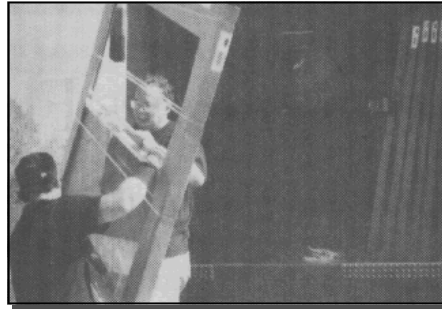


5 WEEKS OF PURCHASING & PACKING

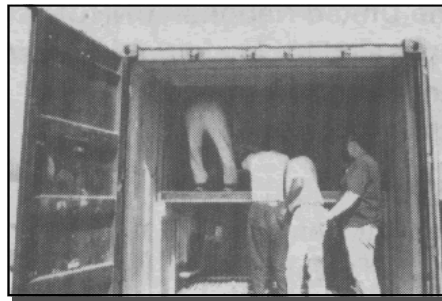
Construction & Relief Goods Shipped to Africa

Seventy thousand pounds of construction and relief supplies have been shipped to Tanzania. The two ocean shipping containers are now on the high seas and are due to arrive in December.

The two containers, each measuring 20 x 8 x 8 feet, were packed and shipped while the Wertzes were in the USA. All donations by individuals and churches of clothes, health kits, layettes, school kits, and other items are on their way to Africa! No donated goods are now in storage in the USA. With the refugee crisis mushrooming in



Guest house window being loaded.



Volunteers from "Hope House" at work.

Tanzania, this shipment of relief goods could not be happening at a better time. We praise God for all of you who contributed goods and funds to make this possible.

These containers hold the construction supplies for the first three buildings for the new mission station.

Three kitchens, 33 doors, 55 windows, 500 sheets of roofing, 7 toilets and 4 bathtubs are among the items shipped. Also included was a new aircraft engine and a donated computer for starting a computer class. What a thrill to watch God continue to provide for the work of *Joy in the Harvest*. ✠



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Has the Refugee Crisis in Zaire Affect Your Area?

Q. Recent television reports have shown hundreds of thousands of refugees in Zaire returning to Rwanda. Are the refugees leaving your area too?

A. Most of the Rwandan refugees in Tanzania are located in one massive camp about 100 miles north of our location. There is no indication at this time of their returning to Rwanda. In our area we are dealing mostly with refugees from Burundi and Zaire. When war broke out between Tutsi-backed rebels and the Zaire military in eastern Zaire,



Refugees being helped by our staff.

Zairian civilians were caught in the fighting. The battle for eastern Zaire resulted in many civilian casualties and produced a fresh wave of refugees, this time Zairian, into our area. About 25,000 Zairian refugees

arrived in Kigoma by boat from across the Lake Tanganyika. Another 60,000 are on the Zairian shore wanting to come.

A different crisis in Burundi is now flooding Kigoma with thousands of refugees. In a move to pressure Burundi's Tutsi dominated military government to become democratic, Tanzania and other countries surrounding Burundi have blockaded Burundi. Burundi is on the brink of economic collapse. Fighting within Burundi has resulted in many deaths and people fleeing to our area to save their lives. ✠

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