

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

June, 1997

Dear Friends and Churches,

God uses people to bless people. When we see God at work in our lives we can usually point to a person God is using.

On our recent trip to South Africa we were surprised when Harold and Elsie Amstutz dropped by our hotel for a visit. We didn't know they were in South Africa. They are in the process of retiring after many years of missionary service in Africa. After a 30 minute chat, they were off to the airport to catch a plane.

As I thought about all the ways God has used them in our lives, I was amazed.

When I was a young teenager using Armature Radio to speak with a group of United Methodist missionaries serving in the Congo (Zaire), the Amstutz were regular contacts. As a result of the radio conversations with those missionaries, I made a trip to the Congo in 1969 at the age of nineteen. Harold gave me my very first flight in a light airplane. Now I am a missionary pilot.

When the city of Kolwezi, Congo was captured by rebels in 1978, the Amstutz were there and by God's grace survived the horrible massacre.

They relocated to Nairobi where for many years they have been the communication link to the outside world for the missionaries in Zaire. We were among the many missionaries who depended on Harold for emergency communications, a place to stay while in Kenya, and just a helping hand in every way. The Amstutz provided guardianship for many missionary children attending boarding school in Kenya.

Airborne -- evacuating from Luena, Zaire in 1991 -- I heard Harold's voice calling on the radio from Nairobi! He knew we were in trouble and he was on the radio to help. He provided communications with our families and helped us so much in the days that followed.

Thank you Harold & Elsie for being God's blessing in our lives. We know God will continue to use you to bless many in your retirement years!

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



AFTER FOUR YEAR TERM

U.S.A. — Here We Come!

I leave for every furlough convinced I am incurably American and arrive stateside feeling more than half African, no longer in step with any culture, sharing a similar worldview with no one except a few other missionaries... because we have been changed, and influenced by our experiences..

Dr. Brad Hill, Soul Craft
(missionary to Zaire)

We are heading to the USA to begin our 5th furlough! We are excited to share the story of God's work in Tanzania for the past four years.

Our trip starts with a flight to the capital in our small Cessna, 5H-JOY. Our airline tickets to the USA are waiting at the DHL office in Dar. After a couple days of government paperwork in Dar, we are flying British Airways to

London where we will spend a few days. Kimberly and Luke are anxiously planning the sights they want to see.

Upon arriving in Illinois, we will be setting up an apartment in Lowell's hometown of Lansing, Illinois.

Our furniture has been stored in a small room in the top of a barn for 7 years. Our car has been in storage since last October. It will be "interesting" to see what condition our things are in.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on furlough!

We will publish our phone number in our September newsletter. See you soon! ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Address:**

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

Please continue using this address!

☺ **Joy in the Harvest will be at Purdue.**

See our display at the 7th Congress of UM Men, July 11-13, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

☺ **Lowell & Claudia will celebrate 25th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12**

Claudia's present from Lowell was a Tanzanite necklace. Ladies, ask Claudia to show it to you when she is at your church.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

With a movie projector, generator, and a bicycle, Pastor Luka is traveling the towns, villages, and refugee camps of Tanzania presenting the Savior to many thousands in spiritual need. *Joy in the Harvest* is proud to have this man of God as our evangelist.

Married in 1973, Luka and his wife have 4 living children. Luka accepted the Lord as His Savior in 1974. His background



Pastor Luka Ezekiel Chabandi

includes military training in England, business and financial administration, and banking. In 1993 he started the United Methodist Church in Kasulu, Tanzania. As a traveling evangelist with *Joy in the Harvest* he has presented the gospel of Christ to hundreds of thousands using the *Jesus* movie. ☩



Joy in the Harvest at Work in Africa

WAR REFUGEES RECEIVE HELP

In the past three months we have assisted many refugees with food, clothing, educational supplies, medicines, hygiene items, toys, and Bibles — thanks to you!!



Blackboards, chalk, pen & paper, Bibles — Refugees say thanks!

THREE THOUSAND REFUGEES SEE JESUS MOVIE

Our team recently traveled by airplane and Landrover to the Kanembwa refugee camp — over 100 miles from Kigoma. The United Methodist Church in the camp received us warmly. Lowell recounted to the many children some of his own humorous experiences growing up in the church. In the evening a group of over three thousand gathered to see a presentation of the *Jesus* movie in Swahili. Many decisions were made to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.

NEW MISSION STATION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The walls are up and the roof is going on the first building. The septic tanks are finished and the plumbing is underway. Construction will resume when the Wertzes return from furlough.



Ready for Metal Roofing



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What If You Get Sick?

Q. I can't imagine living in a place without good medical care. What happens if you get sick, need an operation, or have a toothache?

A. We are blessed in Kigoma with the Baptist Hospital. It has two American missionary doctors, qualified Tanzanian medical staff, and a recently opened operating room. Because it's primary function is to serve the nationals who are very poor, it lacks the finance, expensive medicines, and equipment needed to function to Western standards.



Dr. Susan Smith Confers with Staff

Nevertheless, it provides adequate primary care and treatment for less serious conditions. For most operations and sophisticated medical procedures we would have to travel outside of Tanzania. Nairobi would be the closest

alternative (4 hours flight time in our airplane) with good care. South Africa (11 hours flight time) offers the best care — on par with the States. We try to get most medical and dental needs tended to during our periodic visits to South Africa.

Recently Kimberly had a minor operation on her toe at the Baptist Hospital. The American doctor commented, "In the States I'd be using a laser for this, not a scalpel." Her toe recovered just fine. The best part was the bill — just \$5.00 ☺

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