

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz  
P.O. Box 496  
Lansing, IL 60438*

August 29, 1998

Dear Friends and Churches,

In a few days we leave for Africa.

That panicky feeling of “what are we forgetting?” is beginning to hit. Our apartment has been emptied and the keys turned in. Final packing is underway. The 8 boxes that are our checked baggage are being filled with last minute purchases. We are about to leave the land of shopping malls and grocery stores.

While our attention is now focused on the “forgotten stuff”, it is the remembrances of a wonderful year that will always be with us. We enjoyed visiting with so many of you. Your kindnesses filled our lives. We are so grateful. Even after a year we didn’t get to see everyone -- please forgive us.

The container was a total success. From all over the country donations poured in. Somewhere along the way – during the processing of tons of used clothes, shoes, and other items – I noticed that my spirits were lifted. Tangible proof of the essential goodness of my fellow Christians surrounded me. You gave to help Africans in need. You gave in support of our ministry. On behalf of the thousands who will be helped with your gifts, thank you. You gave unto the Lord.

Claudia’s father past away in June. It was unexpected. In God’s mercy we spent his last day with him. We were able to help Mom during this difficult time. Family good-byes are getting harder.

As we begin this next four year term of service we ask for your prayers. We know that God’s work is accomplished by the power of prayer. Pray with us that this one great purpose of *Joy in the Harvest* may be accomplished among the African people.

“... so they may know Jesus ...”

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly & Luke*

# Joy in the Harvest



A CONTAINER FOR AFRICA? YES!!!

## A Container of Kindness Shipped

... "grace" best represents the idea of God's kindness ... Because God has been gracious toward believers, they should treat all people with kindness and grace... Kindness is not an apathetic response to sin, but a deliberate act to bring the sinner back to God.

*Nelson's Bible Dictionary*

**A 40 foot container of donated supplies has been shipped to Africa and is expected to arrive in October.**

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our appeal in the March newsletter. Churches and individuals donated **18 TONS** of supplies and gifts for destitute Africans and to help the ministry of *Joy in the Harvest* in Africa.

**The response was so great we changed our plans from shipping a 20 foot container to a 40 foot container.**

All donations were sorted, boxed, and temporarily stored in three Public Storage units. The 40 foot container arrived on a flat-bed truck. We build a 16 foot deck inside the container so we could ship fragile items safely. It took two weeks to load the container. Each little space was stuffed with used clothes, rolls of toilet paper, or other small items. The container was stuffed full, full.

**Our deepest thanks to every one who contributed items and funds. It would be impossible for us to write and thank each of you. God bless you as He blesses so many Africans through your kindness.** ✕



### CHECKLIST

☺ **Mailing Address:**

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

☺ **Wertzes Tanzania Address:**

P.O. Box 1344  
Kigoma, Tanzania  
E Mail: Wertz@MAF.org

☺ **Joy in the Harvest Fall '98 Women's Retreat October 17.**

Billy Graham Center,  
Wheaton, IL "Sowing Seeds of Kindness", Call Sandra Shelby for



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**When *Joy in the Harvest* needed a drop-off point for donated goods in southern Indiana, we called on the Kitley's. Dale and Ann Kitley are longtime supporters of God's work in Africa. We consider it a high privilege to count them as fellow workers in this ministry.**

Dale has been to Africa twice. He visited with the Wertzes in Zaire in 1991 and in Tanzania in 1994. He is an active member of



**Dale & Ann Kitley with the Wertzes**

the New Palestine United Methodist Church in Indiana. Dale is a Gideon. Ann is a member of the Brookville Rd. Community Church and is the sweetest person and best cook you'll ever meet. Dale and Ann are farmers raising mostly corn and soy beans. They have been married 52 years and have 2 daughters. ✕



CHICAGO, LONDON, NAIROBI, DAR ES SALAAM

# Wertzes Depart for Africa September 2nd

**Our furlough has come to an end. What a year it was! We drove over 45,000 miles pulling our 19' travel trailer most of the way.**



**Wertzes cleaning "house".**

Our 13 year old Lincoln got us to over 150 churches and break-downs never made us late or miss an engagement. We rented an apartment in Lansing, IL for the in between times. Kimberly and Luke successfully completed their school year doing much of their home schooling in the back seat.

**We were thrilled to see so many of our old friends and to make so many new ones!**

We were treated with such kindness throughout the year. Thanks to all! It was a wonderful

experience for Kimberly & Luke and for us. Our prayer is that our efforts this year will result in more mission interest and assistance for Africans.

**On Sept. 2 we are leaving for Tanzania to begin another four year term.**

We return to Africa knowing God is at work among the people there in a mighty way. We are thrilled to be able to serve Christ as missionaries. We ask for prayer during the month of September as our family returns to the challenges of life in Africa. ✠



**We packed it solid to the doors.**



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Are You In Danger As You Return?

**Q. With the bombing of the US Embassy in Tanzania we can't help wonder — are you in danger returning there?**

A. The sight of our embassy in ruins was distressing to me. I have been in it many times. It was a strong, reinforced concrete building with the strongest steel and concrete fence I have ever seen. To destroy that building the blast must have been incredible. One night I spent hours waiting there and got to know several of the Tanzanian security guards. I assume some of them were the ones killed in the blast.

There is no doubt that Africa is a mess. Our last term with wars in Rwanda, Burundi, and Zaire — and all the refugees — proves that.

As we return to Kigoma we are surrounded by disasters. To the west, across Lake Tanganyika, a brutal war rages in Congo (formerly Zaire). All United Methodist missionaries have been evacuated from that country. To the north fighting continues in the war in Burundi. To the east the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam lay in ruins from terrorist attacks.

The little town of Kigoma in

Tanzania, to which the Lord has led us, has remained peaceful. I believe it will continue to be peaceful. I will never knowingly place my family in danger.

Sometimes evacuations are necessary when the danger is too great. They are Biblical! And God has given us common sense and expects us to use it.

We probably wouldn't choose to live in Kigoma except that God has given us a call and important work to do. Our trust is in Him. We return to do His work and will. And it is a joy to do so. ✠