



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

December, 1998

Dear Friends and Family,

It's Christmas time and as soon as I finish this letter we are putting up our decorations. The kids are urging me on. No doubt about it — Christmas is an exciting time at our place.

*Joy in the Harvest* is six years old this month. We have seen the One born in a simple manger changing hearts and lives through the work of this ministry.

Babies are very important in Africa. One tribe will not bury the body of a woman who hasn't given birth.

I could see the despair in her eyes. The African lady asked for my help in arranging a medical exam. She didn't have any children.

Today, after talking with the doctor, I had to gently give her the bad news. She would never have children.

With great dignity and composure she sat and listened. Without saying a word tears formed in her eyes and ran down her cheeks. She dabbed at the tears with the corner of a cloth. My heart broke. Her hope for a child was gone.

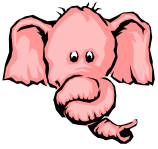
The manger held the Hope of the world. No one need despair. The King of kings has come to us as one of the "least of these". In Him our life is forever.

God bless you this wonderful time of the year. Together, let's make this coming year the best ever.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly & Luke*

# Joy in the Harvest



CHICAGO-LONDON-ENTEBBE-DAR-MWANZA-KIGOMA

## Hello Africa — We're Back!

*Prayer is the most important work  
in the Kingdom of God...*

*Our first task is to get the workers  
whom the Lord desires for the  
various tasks in His vineyard...*

*there are people here at home who  
should have been missionaries...*

*We should have prayed...*

**Prayer** Ole Hallesby (1879-1961)

**Weary from the trip, but with great excitement, we arrived back in Africa to begin our sixth term of service as missionaries.**

On the flight from Chicago to London, Kimberly's braces "broke". We were able to locate an orthodontist in London and get them fixed. Air Tanzania

cancelled all flights to Kigoma so we had to arrange for a mission plane to take us the last leg. Arriving home we discovered some problems. No electricity. It is unbelievable how dirty a house can get in one year! Our roof developed a couple of water leaks, too. We had employee troubles and had to dismiss some workers for stealing. I was called to the police station when someone falsely accused me of building on their land. It was an interesting first week home.

**Despite problems, we believe this term will be our best ever. Construction is going full speed ahead. New employees are working extra hard. Never before have we had so many opportunities to reach people for Christ. Thanks for making our return possible.** ☩



### CHECKLIST

✳ **Address:**

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

Gift envelopes are available on request. We were unable to include them in our Christmas letter this year due to weight limitations for international letters.

✳ **Considering visiting us in Africa?**

A comprehensive manual, Information for your Africa Mission Trip, is available by contacting:  
Mrs. Carolyn D'Amico  
154 Moriches Middle Is. Rd.  
Shirley, NY 11967  
Phone: 516-924-8557



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**When *Joy in the Harvest* needed a new member for the Board of Directors we turned to Carolyn D'Amico, a former missionary to Tanzania. We are thrilled to have her skills and insights on our leadership team.**

For 10 years Carolyn and her husband (a pastor) led a home cell group ministry in New York. After his death she served three years as a missionary to



**Mrs. Carolyn D'Amico**

Tanzania. There she met the Wertzses and helped teach *JOY's* evangelism seminars. Now in the USA, she is serving as a church secretary. Carolyn is handling the lending out of our manual, Information For Your Africa Mission Trip. She thanks the Lord for His faithfulness, loving care, and provision for all that is needed in every situation. ☩



# News Update from *Joy in the Harvest*

## CONTAINER ARRIVES IN KIGOMA

The container shipped in July from Lansing, IL has just arrived! After months of prayer and expectation the container arrived in Dar es Salaam, cleared customs, and was sent by rail across Tanzania to Kigoma. Since arriving back we have received many requests for assistance. Refugees, the sick, the hungry — young and old— are waiting for the distribution of supplies. Our pastors' families have needs too. The container will bless thousands this Christmas. God bless you for giving in the name of Christ.

## GUESTS ARE COMING! SHOULD YOU?

The first guests of this new term are arriving the first week in December to help with construction and distribution work among refugees and the needy. The Millers from the UMC in Plano, IL are making their first trip to Africa. They will be followed in January by a pastor from Indiana, Claudia's mother, and a pastor and layman from Texas. Have you considered planning a trip to visit Africa and help with the work of *Joy in the Harvest*? The welcome mat is out in Tanzania for you!

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

We have resumed construction on the missionary residence & office. Plastering, ceilings, and windows are done. Electrical, plumbing, and door fitting are underway. Completion is in sight.



**We are seeing progress everyday.**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



# Questions American Kids Ask African Kids!

We were thrilled to get a packet of 84 letters from the kids (ages 11 to 14) at Indi-Co-So Sports Camp. Many of the letters were directed to African children. We thought you'd enjoy knowing what questions American kids have for African kids. The answers are ours on behalf of the African kids here.



**Kimberly & Luke with kids' letters.**

**Q. How are you?** (Asked by 16 kids)  
A. Muzuri (translation: Fine!)

**Q. Do you play sports?**  
A. Yes! We play football! (soccer). Why do you call your

sport "football" when you handle the ball with your hands?

**Q. Have you ever heard of WWJD or FROG?** (What Would Jesus Do? and Fully Rely On God)  
A. No.

**Q. What is the temperature in Africa like?**

A. Near the equator it is in the thirties year round (Centigrade that is, eighties in Fahrenheit).

**Q. Do you have any pets?**

A. We love small dogs as pets. Big dogs eat too much.

**Q. How did the Congo get its name?**

A. Two countries in Africa took their names from the Congo River. The river's name is from the tribe that lives along it — the Bakongo or Kongo tribe. Now all the people in those countries are called "Congolese".