

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

March 10, 1999

Dear Friends and Churches,

Have you ever wondered about how a newsletter gets written?

For two months I mulled over what to say. For two days I poured over the computer to do the “white sheet”.

Mom Wiesner then reads my first copy. She is so kind as she tries to explain that she doesn’t understand what I am trying to say – but it really is me – my guts and heart!

Claudia, my editor and chief, gets my first draft. She moans, and begins scribbling all over it. Soon the lofty and elegant language is gone. “Guts are so messy.” Grudgingly I have to admit that most of her “suggestions” are right and my tome* goes on a diet. “You are going to have to make the font size so small that people will need a magnifying glass to read it,” she says. “We have got to cut it down.” Then she cuts too deep and we start negotiating this word or that phrase..

Finally, executive decisions have to be made on the last few “differences of opinion”. We are late. Everything is done. Then Kimberly picks up the letter and starts reading it out loud. She can hardly keep a straight face. Soon her voice is betraying her reaction – it is too corny. “Missionaries beat this stuff to death. Nobody is going to read that. It will be scanned and pitched. Tell a funny story and draw a point. That’s what people like.”

Somewhere in the pit of my soul I know Kimberly is right. How can a freshman in high school know so much?

“You can’t start over,” Claudia protests. “There isn’t time.” I keep thinking about how slow the mail is and the March date on the letter. Will people receive it in April? Will it be an old newsletter before it is read?

“Give me one more hour,” I said as I head off to the computer. Something funny that you can draw a point from? Where am I going to find that?

Nope, it can’t be done. There is nothing funny going on right now. So I’ll just send it out like it is. I hope that people might get the point I am trying to make despite the fact it is “boring, unreadable, and preachie”. I wonder if the Apostle Paul had this problem?

Love in Christ,

*editor’s note: no one here except Lowell knew what this word meant.

Joy in the Harvest



THE NEEDIEST NEED US

Care for a Destitute for \$100

“Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them.”

Mother Teresa

Soon after our arrival back to Kigoma two things shocked me.

First, the Kigoma Committee for the Poor, which we helped start, had lost almost all its members. Due to job transfers and other causes, there were only three of us left.

Second, I was shocked how many at the Destitute Camp had died since we left on furlough.

Without finances, the committee was unable to provide medicines or care for the destitutes. To

address this crisis, the committee is appealing for \$100 gifts to help us care for one destitute person for one year. The \$100 will provide medical care, basic needs like matches and soap, and pay for an attendant to work in the camp. In the case of a child, it will also provide school fees.

There are 40 people in the Destitute Camp — most have leprosy, are blind, or have other severe handicaps. Several children of destitutes live in the camp.

Would you like to join our family in adopting a destitute person? We need to underwrite 38 more people. If more than 38 sponsorships are received the extra funding will be used to make much needed improvements in the camp. ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Mailing Address:**

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

Tanzania E Mail address:
Wertz@MAF.org

God bless each of you who are giving to make this ministry possible.

☺ **Joy in the Harvest Spring Women's Retreat.**

To be held in Lansing, IL on April 17, 1999. Claudia's mom will be sharing about her 3 months in Africa. Contact Sandra Shelby at 1-708-895-2897 for more details. Don't miss the blessings!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

We are thrilled that God is blessing us with guests. Our first guests of this term were Terry and Ruth Ann Miller. We will always be indebted to them for all the help they gave us during their visit.

Terry and Ruth Ann are from the Plano UMC in Plano, IL. They spent the month of December working with us in Kigoma.



Terry & Ruth Ann Miller with Mwenge and Wertz family

Terry is the chief engineer for Plymouth Tubing Company and Ruth Ann is the mission chairperson at their church. Terry installed the plumbing at the new missionary residence and Ruth Ann helped Claudia with correspondence, sewing, and unpacked & organized supplies from the container. We enjoyed spending Christmas with them. ☩

Smile!

IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS

Great Things Are Happening!

Joy in the Harvest's work is going forward — full speed ahead! With so much going on, a condensed report is necessary.

Guests. Terry Miller: construction, plumbing. Ruth Ann Miller: assisted Claudia. Marti Troyer: tiled bathroom & kitchen, taught seminar. Joe Fort: preaching. Jerry McQueen: taught computer class. Patrica Wiesner: Kimberly & Luke's grandmother. All: a blessing.

Refugees. Provided three UM churches in the camps with roofing, timbers, nails — one church seats over 1,000. Paying refugee pastor to minister in



The Gungu United Methodist Church greets American guests.

camps. Distributed hundreds of eyeglasses.

Evangelism. Sponsoring *Jesus* movie evangelism in villages. Distributed Swahili Bibles.

Sponsored leadership seminar.

Construction. Missionary residence is finished outside and nearly finished inside.

Destitute Camp. Three distributions including pots & pans, clothing, food, shoes, soap, kerosene. Decisions for Christ made at Christmas service.

Methodist Church. Distributed choir robes, preached and taught. Seeking plot to build new church.

Generator. Purchased a new 5kw Lister diesel generator.

Kimberly & Luke. School year going great. Learning piano & guitar. Luke starred as Archangel Michael in Christmas play. ☩



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are Your Guests in Danger?

Q. With the recent killings of American & British tourists in neighboring Uganda, we wonder how dangerous is it for your guests?

A. No person wants to be exposed to unnecessary danger. Life everywhere contains risk and danger. Everyone practices "risk management". People are the most comfortable when they have an understanding of the risks and are able to take steps to minimize them. When traveling outside of our own nation and culture we usually feel vulnerable. We are very aware of "that which we don't know". Some are reluctant to make a



Our airplane is a safety factor.

mission trip for this reason. While it is always good to respect the risks involved in any trip abroad, it is important to know that with information and guidance the risks are generally very manageable. We do not

intentionally place guests in high risk situations. When we feel that the risks are too great for guests, we change the plan or cancel the trip. Many of our guests have told us that they found their trip to Africa a wonderful, worthwhile, and even life changing experience. God becomes very real to us when we step out of our comfort zone and depend more completely on Him. Lots of common sense and faith in God are essentials in Africa. God always takes care of His children. Don't leave home without Him! ☩

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