

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

June, 2000

Dear Friends and Churches,

The old Muslim lady was poor and frail as she told her frightening story. Three walls and the roof of her house collapsed in the rainstorm. Only the wall next to where she had been sleeping had not fallen. If it had she would have been killed. She has no family, no money, and now no place to sleep.

This woman touched my heart. We have cement blocks. How difficult could it be to build her a house? Four walls and a grass roof. It would take two trips with the truck, two workmen, and two days. It would cost — maybe fifty dollars.

As I was leaving on a three week trip, I gave a quick set of instructions to our construction guys. A few days later, while on the telephone with Claudia, she started giving reports about the “new construction site”. “What new construction site?” I asked.

Upon my return I found our guys had expanded my idea — considerably. They explained, “*Joy in the Harvest* is building this house. Our name is painted on the truck that it is hauling the supplies. Everyone knows what we are doing. It has to be good.”

They did good. The house had three small rooms with a veranda, a metal roof, cement floor, shuttered windows and a lockable wooden door. The old lady was the happiest in all of Tanzania.

I couldn’t get upset. They were right. This was more than a house — it was a house with our name on it.

These guys taught me something about heaven, too. Jesus is preparing a place for me. Jesus is putting the excellence of His Name on my place in heaven. Its magnificence will be something to see — it is in His Father’s house. I’ll be the happiest guy in heaven.

Then I realized, Jesus is also preparing me. He is building me. Because He entrusts me with His Work and Name, I am being made better. As a Christian, wearing His Name, I am under construction. Let’s together fulfill His trust in us.

Love,
Lowell



Joy in the Harvest



WITH DONATED YARN

Women Crochet and Learn about God

*She prayed while she worked,
while she made as many as a
hundred quilts a year for
missionaries, while she rolled
thousands of bandages for medical
missionaries until the wee hours of
the morning...*

*So we would call our mother
immediately when our world
started to fall apart — because we
knew that her hotline to heaven
never shut down.*

*Evelyn Christenson
What Happens When We Pray For
Our Families*

African ladies. All these ladies know how to crochet but don't have the means to buy yarn at the market. With the gift of yarn from the USA, these ladies are able to meet together for a time of enjoyment, fellowship, and to make a blanket. These blankets become prized possessions for the ladies and each lady receives a certificate of achievement.

Each class session has prayer, Scripture reading, and a time of reflection about the importance of God in their lives.

African women have heavy work loads caring for children, growing food, and meeting their families needs without any modern conveniences. These classes and the blankets they make mean so much to them. ☩

The ladies of *Joy in the Harvest's* women's class have finished crocheting their blankets.

With yarn donated last furlough, Claudia has started classes for

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Address:**

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

USA & Africa E Mail
address:Wertz@MAF.org

Many thanks to all of you whose gifts make the work of *Joy in the Harvest* possible.

☺ **Wertz's traveling to USA & Canada in Summer**

For part of July and August we will be visiting family and attend a *Joy in the Harvest* board meeting. We won't have a telephone because we'll be in our trailer but you can contact us at the above e mail and postal addresses. Our furlough for visiting churches will be the fall, 2002



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest* is pleased to have Pastor Francis Wage as a friend and worker. Like the Apostle Paul, he works to support himself so he can be in ministry. He is a faithful servant of Christ in Tanzania.**

Francis was one of the first members of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania. He was one of the first two Tanzanians to be ordained a United Methodist



Rev. Francis Wage

pastor. Francis is 59 years old, is married, has 3 sons and a daughter. He has been a Christian for 40 years. Because his congregation is small and doesn't have much money, Francis needed part-time work to help support his family. We employ Francis to ride on our dump truck. Francis makes sure all matters concerning the truck's operation and financial issues are accounted for and proper. ☩

SMILE!

CAMERA BUG BUZZ

More Snaps from Africa



Claudia's Crocheting Class — can you find the babies in this picture?



The walls are going up on the new church building in Gungu, Tanzania.



The "Cornerstone" of the Church.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Did You Always Want to Be a Missionary?

Q. Did you always want to be a missionary? (question from New Jersey)

A. Lowell's Answer —
As a young teenager I was involved with missionaries through a hobby of amateur radio. At age 19 I made a summer mission trip to Africa and then felt God wanted me to be a missionary. That was 1969.

I began preparing by attending a Christian college, married Claudia, and then went to Seminary. We made several more mission trips but after 10 years of preparation, at the ages of 29, we became missionaries to Africa. That was in 1980 — 20 years ago.

A. Claudia's Answer —
After I gave my life to the Lord

I wanted to do whatever His plan was for my life. Lowell and I started dating at Trinity College in Deerfield, IL. I knew Africa was in his plans— he had a definite "call". I was always open to becoming a missionary but "the call" came on my wedding day when I said, "I do". That was 1972 and I've never regretted either choice!

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