

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

March, 2002

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

As I got out of the car he walked up and pulled out the gun. The pistol, only inches away, was pointed right at my heart. I stood facing my assailant -- eyeball to eyeball.

He was about 45 years old and very nervous. Disguised in a blue coat worn by laborers and gardeners in South Africa, he was apparently just walking around looking for a victim. In broad daylight at 3:30 on a Friday afternoon -- he found me.

He demanded my money. I handed over my small bag containing my money, credit cards, passport, and licenses. I felt the quicker he got what he wanted the better were my chances of survival. With a half smile he turned and hurried away. I could identify him and was fortunate not to have been killed.

I realize how blessed my life has been because feeling unsafe is strange for me. Many of the world's people live in daily fear. Africa has many places where war and crime leave people feeling vulnerable, terrified, and helpless.

After the September 11th attack on America, German Chancellor Schroeder pronounced, "Today we are all Americans." In a single phrase he wonderfully expressed his sympathy, solidarity, and humanity. As an American I will never forget that he, and so many others, stood with us in our time of national pain.

Christians stand with those who suffer and are in fear. Our message is Jesus, the One who gives comfort and salvation. Our method is the love of the One whose cross says, "Your suffering is now mine." Our goal is to be like Christ -- the living example of the Golden Rule.

Christ will never stop loving the world's people, for whom he died. Christ's mandate for us to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel" is needed today more than ever. Christian missionaries, schools, orphanages, and hospitals express a clear message, "In Jesus name, we stand with you in your need."

Thank you for hearing Christ's call. Thank you for where you stand.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest

THREE YEARS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE



Let's Help the Destitutes Again!

"... remember
the
poor ..."

James, Peter, & John
(Quoted by Paul in Galatians 2:10)

Three years ago this month, we wrote asking for 38 contributions of \$100 each to provide a year of care for one of the 40 destitutes at the Kigoma Destitute Camp.

We were thrilled when over \$8,000 was given for this need. With careful management these funds were stretched to cover three years of care. Every day since you gave, the destitutes have had their needs met and more! The death rate in the destitute camp was sharply reduced. God bless you!

The funds you donated for this need are almost gone so it is time to ask for your help again.

We have 40 people living at the Destitute Camp. These handicapped folks have no family to provide care. Blind, crippled, leprosy victims, unable to provide for themselves, these are among the neediest and poorest on earth.

A \$100 gift will provide medical care and basic provisions for one destitute person for one year.

Will you join us in making a special gift to meet this need? We need 38 additional gifts to provide care for all the folks in the camp for another year.

Any extra funds received will be used for the destitutes. ✕

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ Address:

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

Africa E

Mail:wertz@africaonline.co.tz

☺ Women's Retreat

The *Joy in the Harvest* Spring Women's Retreat will be held at Marco's in Lynwood, IL on April 13, 2002. All women welcome! Come and have a great day!

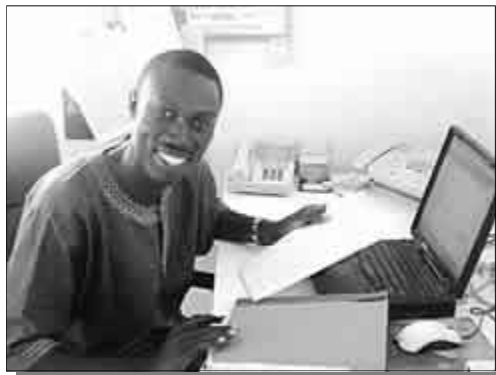
For information & reservations contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 or Joan Weaver at 708-836-4121.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest* endeavors to keep track of every cent entrusted to the ministry. Our part-time accountant, Rutta, does our Africa record keeping and is an important part of this ministry. Amid computer crashes and bank errors, his bright spirit keeps our office a great place to work.**

Rutta has been working with *Joy in the Harvest* since 1998. He is 34 years old and is a professional



Vallence T. Rutakyamirwa

Tanzania government accountant. He holds advanced audit and accounting certifications from the U.K. and Tanzania. He is married to Leticia and they have two boys, Allan Clinton (7) and Justice Devine (3). Rutta is a Christian and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He serves his church as chairman of the "Community Small Group" program. ✕



GOOD THINGS GOING ON

News From The Mission Field

Refugee Camp Welcomes Wertzes



In February the Wertz family made a visit to the Lugufu Refugee Camp in Tanzania to visit refugee members of the Congo UM Church. We were their first visitors in six years. It was a great day of singing, preaching, and worshipping the Lord Jesus

Ministry Center "Site Preparation" Nears Completion

A grader has completed the leveling of the new *Joy in the Harvest* Ministry Center site. Work on the security walls and drainage system is nearly finished. A 33 foot diameter grass-roofed peyote has been built. We plan to dig the foundation trenches for the first building soon.



Furlough is Coming! Sept 2002 — April 2003

Another four year term of service is almost complete. *We plan on dividing our speaking between this furlough and another in two years time.* It is better for the work in Africa for us not to be away for a year.

Claudia is handling all speaking dates for this furlough. Contact her via e mail at — wertz@africaonline.co.tz or via airmail letter — **P.O. Box 1344 Kigoma, Tanzania.**

Looking forward to seeing you!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are You Still In South Africa?

Q. Just wondering if you are still in S. Africa? We've been praying for you! Do hope you can be home for Christmas! (asked by a Pastor in PA)

A. In our last newsletter we told how we decided it best to leave Kigoma temporarily. Working in a Muslim area, we were unsure what the reaction would be if the U.S.A. bombed Islamic Afghanistan. Since our family had already planned on going to South Africa during November, we pushed our

departure date up and headed south before the bombing began.

Claudia and I stayed in Johannesburg while the kids went to stay with their Grandma and Grandpa Wertz in Florida. Their trip to the States had been arranged before September 11.

We are happy to report that no major incident occurred in Kigoma. By early December we felt it safe to return so we enjoyed the holidays at home in Kigoma. This was a real answer

to prayer and we so appreciate all of you who prayed for us.

It is our impression that, in the main, the Muslims here understood the necessity for the U.S.A. to act in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of Sept. 11

We are back at work in Kigoma finishing out this current 4 year term of missionary service. It is great to be back. Lord willing, we look forward to spending many more years serving Him here in Tanzania.

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