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June, 2003

Dear Friends and Family,

With departure deadlines pressing in, we had put in another long day. Sitting down to dinner at 9:00 PM, the conversation turned to producing the newsletter. “What should we say in the newsletter?” I asked. Someone said, “Whatever you do, stop talking about material things and put something spiritual in it!”

This got me to thinking about the relationship between the spiritual and the material. While packing more than 20 tons of supplies for Africa, your perspective can become focused and narrowed (if not buried alive). Had I gotten off the track?

We struggle with the tension between the spiritual and material. The early Christian disciples dealt with the issue when a woman anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Shouldn't it be sold and the funds given to help the poor? But Jesus saw this gift as more than an item of great monetary value. It came from the giver with a special “love from the heart”. The disciples missed the deeper spiritual value of the gift. It was an act of worship and Jesus declared it would be remembered for all time.

How does God view our gifts and our giving? How does God view this container? Jesus said gifts given to the poor are the same as gifts given to God. (Matt. 25) God loves the cheerful giver. God is looking for a generosity of spirit — an attitude of love. This adds immense value to things. This kind of giving is an act of worship.

When the Apostle Paul saw churches that were suffering in deep poverty demonstrate generosity through their giving, he was deeply touched. He said, “they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.” (2 Cor. 8:5) When we give gifts as an act of worship and love, we give ourselves to Christ. It is His will and pleasure for us to worship Him this way.

It is my prayer that as *Joy in the Harvest* ships this container of supplies to Africa, we will be mindful that to our Father it is much more than “stuff”. As these things are distributed in Africa, may these gifts be symbols that give witness and testimony as to what Christ means to us. May they carry a clear message about our loving Savior.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Container Project Photo Album



Joy in the Harvest



Back to Africa in June

Furlough Is Over—It's Been Great!

"The mission of Jesus was a mission of compassion... Again and again we read in the gospels that Jesus was 'moved with compassion'... And out of that compassion for people in need, He acted. He preached the gospel, he taught the people, he fed the hungry, he cleansed the leper, He healed the sick. All this was part of His mission. He had not come to be served, but to serve."

John Stott, *Authentic Christianity*

Speaking from September through April, this has been a "short" furlough for us. We still managed to get to 77 churches and spoke over 160 times. We drove over 30,000 miles and took a few flights as well.

Still, we are acutely aware of all

our churches and supporters we weren't able to visit this time. Please forgive us. We promise to try hard to see you next time!

The welcome we received everywhere we went was just fantastic. We were treated in royal fashion — the church dinners, being guests in folks' homes, so many kind words and such great interest shown — it simply could not have been better. There is no way to adequately say, "Thank you!"

You have been such a blessing and encouragement to us. As we return to Africa we know that our friends and family are supporting us with their prayers. Our prayer is that through all of our lives Jesus Christ will be honored and glorified in Africa. ✠

→ CHECKLIST →

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☺ Announcement coming in our September newsletter.

Watch for an article about the establishment of a special mission scholarship fund in honor of Glen & Myrna Beck. Also, more information will appear on our website soon.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

When the cars, mini-vans, and trucks started rolling in with donations, Jim Shelby was there to receive, sort, inventory, pack, weigh, and then load them into the container. The container project would not have been a success without Jim's extremely hard work. We will always be grateful to him.

Jim is a retired AT&T installer



Jim Shelby unloading a truck of donated supplies.

and now spends part of his year in Florida and part in Illinois. Everyone likes working with Jim. His brilliant sense of humor can make the most awful job enjoyable. His favorite things are: TV – Walker Texas Ranger & West Wing; Food — Spaghetti; Music—Country; Recreation— going to old car shows. He has been married to his wife Sandra for 35 years and they have three married children and two beautiful granddaughters. ✠



Three Blessings — Three Answers to Prayer

CONTAINER PROJECT: SHIPPED TO AFRICA

An outpouring of generosity filled a 40 foot container. We even had a little left over! Tons of supplies are on their way to Africa. Each item will be a blessing to some special person. Thank you and God bless you all!



The container ready for shipment to Kigoma, Tanzania

AIRCRAFT ENGINE REPAIRED

Our Cessna's engine has been repaired by Missionary Maintenance Services. It is in our container on its way back to Africa. The repair bill came in less than expected! Thank you MMS!



Our Continental O-470s aircraft engine on the MMS test stand.

NEW LAND ROVER ARRIVING

Mwenge, our chief worker, reports the new Land Rover is scheduled to arrive in Tanzania on May 22 from Great Britain. He will be traveling to Tanzania's capital, Dar es Salaam, to process paperwork. The Kigoma District Commissioner has already signed the tax exemption papers.



File photo from Internet. Soon our photos will be of the real thing!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What Is Your Hope For The Work?

Q. As you head back to Africa, what are you planning for the work this next term?

— asked by a Pastor from Indiana.

A. First, more of the same! Being convinced of the importance of each project, our hope is to see them develop and become more effective. For example, in the container we shipped are more than twenty computers. This seven-fold increase in our equipment used at the computer school will mean that we can help more students to acquire computing skills. Many of the donations in the



Your contributions will mean so much to so many.

container will enable us to advance our current work projects. Refugees, destitutes, and the poor are about to receive blessings from this container. We are excited about continuing

construction of the mission station. A new airplane hangar, getting a guest house up, and finishing the computer school are all planned.

We are praying to know the Lord's guidance in the area of children's Sunday school work, an International English Speaking church, and housing for poor people. We are also looking at additional vocational training opportunities. We anticipate a major new effort by our evangelism team. In all these things, our motto and prayer is, "... so they may know Jesus..." ✠