

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

September, 2003

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

I had stolen Kimberly's window seat. As I sat peering into the blackness of the African night, I could not remember how many times I had made this flight from America. We were scheduled to arrive in Tanzania an hour after sunrise.

A mere dot had grown into shades of blue and red. The first rays of dawn were becoming the most vivid display of color I have ever witnessed. But I could not see Africa, for the light had not yet reached the continent.

It had been a year since I left Africa to go on furlough. I moved closer to the window to get a glimpse of the place which God had called me to so many years ago. This trip to Africa was different; different than when I was thirty and full of excitement. My parents had been hospitalized many times this past year. My kids are growing up and going off to college.

That speck of light soon transformed the eastern sky into blazing colors. It was an overpowering beauty – the kind a person experiences only a few times. Yet still no Africa.

I stared at the blackness underlying the Creator's kaleidoscopic canopy. I waited for Africa to come into sight. My Africa is filled with barefoot children, refugees, sickness, hunger, and the spiritually lost. It was still night for them.

I could see a little bit of an outline. Was it a hill, or just a cloud? As the sun continued its upward climb, the shape of a mountain came into view. It was Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. Only its upper reaches were lit. I could see Africa -- but only its heights. Africa's dawn was descending from on high.

Psalm 65 says, "Where morning dawns and evening fades, you will call forth songs of joy." God was showing me Africa as I had never seen it. When I looked I couldn't see sickness, wars, and suffering. I saw splendor that spoke of His glory and His promise for a new day yet to dawn.

When God brought me back to Africa this time, He painted a very special "welcome home" sign.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



AFTER A ONE YEAR FURLOUGH

Welcome Back to Africa!

*“Without friends,
the world is but a
wilderness.”*

—Francis Bacon

As we cleared customs in the airport in Dar es Salaam, leaders of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania gathered to greet us.

Right in the airport we had a time of prayer and singing together. The next morning we boarded the 45 seat airplane for the last 650 mile leg of the trip.

As we landed in Kigoma our friends, workers, and church members were waiting for us.

It was the kind of welcome that makes you glad you are back. And our new Land Rover, which had just arrived the week before, was waiting like a chariot to take us home. The dump truck went in front of us — filled with singing people. The front gate of our house was covered in flowers and had a large “Welcome” sign on it. A large group gathered in our front room to sing and pray.

The church held a reception for us.

We made speeches, ate, and had a good time. They served peanuts, hard boiled eggs, bananas, and bread. Cold sodas — a real treat — were also served. We received a live chicken and fresh eggs as “welcome home” presents.

It is so good to be back! ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ USA Contact Info.

Joy in the Harvest
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☺ Africa Contact Info.

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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☺ Website

www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ Fall Women’s Retreat

Will be held in Lynwood, IL on November 8th. Contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 or Joan Weaver at 219-836-4121



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Joy in the Harvest is blessed to have an outstanding leadership team. Our Board of Directors and Administrators take seriously their responsibilities to make *Joy in the Harvest* a mission organization that is both honoring to Christ in the way we do our work and effective in proclaiming Christ in Africa.



**The Joy in the Harvest
Leadership Team**

The members of our Board of Directors have a wide range of backgrounds and bring a great

deal of expertise. Our Board members include a teacher, the head of a construction company, a retired electrical engineer, a pastor, and a former Africa missionary who is now working as a mission secretary. The Lord has brought this team together to provide the necessary leadership so that *Joy in the Harvest* may accomplish its goal of making Christ known to the peoples of Africa. ☩



THE WORLD IS THEIR PERISH

Glen & Myrna Beck Honored

Rev. & Mrs. Beck of the Southern Indiana Annual Conference have been honored for their work of promoting missions.

Glen has been heading up the "Mission Interpretation" program of his Annual Conference. Many years ago on a mission trip to Haiti he had his heart broken for "the things that break the heart of God". Since then God has used Glen and Myrna to accomplish great things all around the world. Glen has been presenting the "Faith Promise" method of supporting missions in churches. Many churches have responded wonderfully so that Christ may be known by all.



Presenting checks from Wertzes & New Palestine, IN UMC. (Rev. Glen Beck, President Brian Donley, Rev. Lowell Wertz, Rev. Paul Perry)



In recognition of Glen & Myrna's service to Christ, a special endowment fund has been established in their honor at John Wesley College of High Point, NC.

Proceeds from the fund will enable college students to make mission trips. Any individuals or churches wishing to contribute to this fund may send their contributions to:

**Beck Mission Scholarship Fund
John Wesley College
2314 North Centennial Street
High Point, NC 27265**

Glen has served on the *Joy in the Harvest* Council of Advisors for over ten years. ✕



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Was Everything Upon Your Return?

Q. How did you find things after being away for a year?

A. (by Claudia) In a word- GREAT! I have never returned from a furlough to find everything in order. Our head worker kept thirty employees working and paid. The mission work continued while we were gone. Our home was clean and in perfect condition and the yard is beautiful with new plants and flowers. I kept waiting for the bad news and it never came! We are grateful to the Lord for our workers. We feel with this excellent staff great things can be accomplished for Christ's kingdom.

Q. What is the news on the container?

A. The container has been shipped and is due into Dar es Salaam on Aug. 25, 03. The container will need to clear customs in Dar before it can be sent by train to Kigoma.



Wertzes arrive home in Africa

Q. What are Kimberly and Luke's plans?

A. **Kimberly** was able to come to Tanzania for the summer and has been teaching African children and visiting with her friends. She has returned to the USA for her sophomore year at Asbury College. **Luke** is a home schooler using the Abeka video school. He is entering his senior year of high school this fall. He is the local computer expert and within minutes of our arrival in Kigoma, people were trying to get him to fix their computers! He is planning on attending Asbury College next year.

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