

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
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Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Overload. Any pilot can tell you what an overload will do to an airplane. The plane will need more distance to take off and clear obstacles, it will climb more slowly, it has reduced airframe safety margins, and it may have problems with engine cooling. An overload can unbalance an airplane and make it uncontrollable. Overloads generally are not a good thing.

Overloads are sometimes necessary. A small plane needs a large amount of fuel to cross an ocean. A special permit allows overloading it by as much as 25 percent. Bush planes in Alaska are permitted overloads of 15 percent to enable them to carry enough fuel. All safety concerns need to be managed, and those pilots have special knowledge to deal safely with overloads.

An Africa Bishop once remarked that having a work overload is the biggest problem facing missionaries. Africans see what happens when missionaries make a virtue out of doing too much work. As missionaries burn out, their high ideals and dedication can turn into discouragement. Family after family pack up and head home.

Jesus faced overload in His ministry. Crowds constantly pressed Him. The needs were great. He never stopped loving people. Jesus carried to the cross the greatest load of all — the sins of the world. The Scriptures teach us that even the ultimate sacrifice of oneself is meaningless without love.

The mission hospital here is being abandoned by its mission board. Many have found the Lord at this hospital. Thousands of patients have been treated by caring, Christian doctors. Support for this powerful witness is ending because of a new mission “emphasis”. I wonder what happened to cause such a change of heart. I wonder what happened to Christian love.

As I see other important ministries ending, I am grateful to you who so gladly bear a responsibility for the work of *Joy in the Harvest*. Countless times you have lifted a burden from us. Please know how grateful we are to you. Together, with God’s help, let us never lose our love for people. Overloads may cause us to struggle, but we know the One who invites each of us to cast all our cares on Him, because He cares for us.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia,
Kimberly & Luke*

Africa Photo Album



The first class of 51 students begins using the new *Joy in the Harvest* Computer School.



Our Cessna 182, 5H-JOY arrives back home to the Kigoma airport after a lengthy inspection and repairs.



Construction has begun on two new guest houses.



The youth leaders of the Gungu UM Church. Luke (pictured in the middle) was the preacher.



Mwenge with the new Honda motorcycle.

Joy in the Harvest



51 STUDENTS BEGIN USING THE NEW BUILDING

The Computer School Opens!

"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral."

Antoine De Saint-Exupery, 1900-1944,
French Author, Aviator

With a \$5,000 gift from the **United Methodist Foundation of Northern Illinois, Joy in the Harvest** was able to start a computer class in 1999. With the help of American visitors and the visionary supporters of **Joy in the Harvest**, this class grew and has trained

hundreds of Africans over the years. With the completion of the new building, this "class" has become the **Joy in the Harvest Computer School!**

Going from three work stations to twenty-one has greatly increased the number of students we can train. *Tabor UMC* of Woxall, PA provided much of the equipment. Several other donations provided the rest of the equipment.

We offer these classes for free, so everyone is eligible! This ministry is attracting students from government officials to village teenagers.

This school operates for the glory of Jesus Christ. Thank you for making it a reality! ✕

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ USA Contact Info.

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☺ Africa Contact Info.

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☺ Spring Women's Retreat

Will be held in Lynwood, IL on April 24. Contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 or Joan Weaver at 219-836-4121



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST



Terry spent much of his time "in the trenches" doing plumbing.

After 5 years, Terry and Ruth Ann Miller made their second trip to Kigoma. What a blessing they have been!

Terry, a mechanical engineer, designed buildings and installed plumbing in two guest houses. Ruth Ann sorted mountains of used clothes, taught quilting, and did many sewing jobs. They live in Indiana and have 3 married children and 6 grandchildren. ✕



Ruth Ann setting up a clothing distribution center.



NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Blips from Tanzania

Guest House Construction. Two new guest houses are going up. June 2004 is our target to finish the first one. The walls are up and the roof is going on. Come use them!

Airplane back in the air. With a newly repaired engine and thorough inspection finished, 5H-JOY is flying for the Lord again.

Kimberly Wertz in Middle East. She is doing a semester of college with the Middle East Studies Program. She is studying Arabic. Also the history and culture of the region. She has studied in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Evangelism. *Joy in the Harvest* sponsored a week of evangelistic meetings in Kigoma. Thousands attended.

UM Pastors' Conference. Sponsored by *Joy in the Harvest*, the conference was taught by Lowell. The main topics were writing effective sermons and making Sunday worship more meaningful.

Landrover Accident. Our old Landrover was involved in an accident. A mechanic testing the vehicle after repairs struck a motorcyclist and then hit trees. The injured motorcyclist has been released from the hospital and has

almost completely recovered. The vehicles have been repaired.

Distributions underway. Clothing has been given to our workers' families, robes given to choirs and pastors, communion sets given to churches, pens and paper provided to an HIV/AIDS conference, and clothing has been distributed in the prison.

New Motorcycle. The last of the container items has cleared customs. The Honda 250 will be used by our worker, Mwenge.

Youth Week at Gungu UMC. Culminating in a special Sunday service, Luke Wertz spoke on the topic, "Being called by God".



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

I Have Questions About That Photo.

When Claudia's mom, Patricia Wiesner, sent a picture to her friends in the States, it generated a lot of questions.

Q. What kind of fish is it?

A. (by Lowell) It is called a Lake Tanganyika Perch. The scientific name is *Lates Angustifrons*. The local name is Songala. It is the smaller brother to the largest fresh water fish in the world — the Nile Perch. This fish is pretty typical. The Songala can grow over five feet long — but that is rare.

Q. How much did it weigh?

A. (by Patricia) 9 lbs., 4 oz.



Grandma Wiesner with one to write home about.

Q. Where did you catch it? In a river or lake?

A. (by Lowell) Mom caught it in Lake Tanganyika. It is the second deepest lake in the world (4,780 feet) and the sixth largest lake (Lake Michigan is number five). It contains 18% of the world's fresh liquid water.

Q. Did you eat it?

A. (by Claudia) We filet the fish, bread and fry it. It is real good. Nile Perch is valued all over Europe as a delicacy.

Q. What is the name of the plant in the background?

A. (by another missionary) It is called "Angel's Trumpet".

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