

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

August 22, 2005

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

I was amazed as I sat in church yesterday. There were many new people. Our small congregation has struggled to gain new members. Without a pastor, our men take turns preaching. It is exciting to watch our men and women growing spiritually but numerical growth has been painfully slow.

I wishfully remember how in Zaire it seemed churches were filled the moment they were built. Tanzania is very different. Churches here need faithful persistence to build up their congregations.

It was soon apparent that the new people were all very poor. That fellow walks with a stick. I know him from "Friday people". He had a stroke and each step is a huge task. He can barely walk. Over there a lady has a withered leg. She needs a stick too. She brought a little girl with her. I wonder if it is her daughter or grand-daughter.

What is going on? Where did all these beggars and street people come from? Some are in rags. Some are Muslims.

Then I remembered our new feeding program. Mwenge had asked if he could use the Land Rover this morning. He must be giving rides to crippled folks so they can come to church. And here they are!

I began studying our regular church members. How is this going to go over? These people are usually scorned and rejected in this society. But there was not a hint of that here. Our members applauded each new visitor. They sang extra loud and rejoiced because they were here. I was so proud to be a part of this church.

Everyone felt the Lord's presence. The lady with the withered leg "danced" for joy when the choir sang. When Mr. Kizunguza, our night watchman, finished preaching the sermon, the altar filled with regulars and visitors. They were together on their knees before their God.

Sometimes the love of Christ just breaks through. I want to thank each of you who have helped build the church and are caring for Kigoma's poor. What a legacy you have created in Jesus name!

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



HUNDREDS OF UM MEMBERS FACE HUNGER

Food Help For Refugees

If people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny.

Thomas Jefferson
3rd president of US (1743 - 1826)

In an emergency action, *Joy in the Harvest* is providing funds for supplemental food for some refugees from Congo.

An estimated 500,000 refugees are still living in camps in western

Tanzania. When the refugees' food ration was recently cut by about one-third, a crisis of hunger followed. A refugee's normal ration is just adequate to sustain an adult. A reduction by one-third resulted in suffering. A plea for help from refugees who are United Methodist members in the Lugufu Refugee Camp was received.

More than 1,000 United Methodist refugees are being helped monthly with this food.

The situation at the Lugufu Camp is especially bad as a policy prevents refugees from planting gardens to raise food themselves. This is not true of other camps.

Please pray for the refugees who long for peace and safety in their countries and want to return home. ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ USA Contact Info.

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

Tel: 1-708-418-1083
usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

☺ Africa Contact Info.

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania
wertz@joyintheharvest.com

☺ Website

www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ Fall Women's Retreat

The ladies fall retreat will be held on Nov. 5 in Lynwood, IL. Contact Joan Weaver at 219-836-4121 for more info.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

We had a wonderful summer with many visitors this year. Our last group of this summer was from the Plattville (IL) United Methodist Church. From softball games to a teaching seminar, to our first ever children's VBS, they blessed many here.

Pastor Donna Trinko, the team leader, was making her third visit



**Plattville (IL) United Methodist Church
Team visits Kigoma, Tanzania**

to Kigoma. She was the first visitor to our work here in 1995 and now serves on our Board of Directors. We loved having this group and so appreciate their help. Back row: Neil Trinko, Dave Bilinski, Middle row: Rev. Donna Trinko, Carol Bilinski, Sherry Steward, Kim Crown. Front row: Jack Bilinski. ☩



IT'S GREAT BEING A MISSIONARY!

God's Love At Work

FOOD FOR KIGOMA'S HOMELESS

Some sleep under a bridge, others in the drainage ditches, most have handicaps and very few friends. Our new program takes them simple but healthful meals three times a week. They also receive a Bible truth, prayer, Christian friendship and human dignity.



REFUGEES GRADUATE FROM BIBLE SCHOOLS



For many years *Joy in the Harvest* has helped sponsor Bible Schools in the refugee camps. Lowell was the honored guest at one of the graduation services this year and presented Bibles to the graduates. These men will soon be our Christian leaders in Africa.

NEW SPEAKER'S BUREAU TO ASSIST LOCAL CHURCHES

Recognizing the need of our American churches to have fresh information and inspiration from the mission field, we have started a new speakers' bureau. Visitors to our work are volunteering to visit churches to share what God is doing in Africa. Contact Steve Moga at 1-630-551-0803 for help with your next missions event.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How About Kimberly and Luke?

Q. Were Kimberly and Luke home this summer? How are they doing? What are they doing? Where are they now?

(asked by a great number of folks)

A. We were very fortunate to have Kimberly and Luke home for this summer. Kimberly came as the internship coordinator and received a grant from her college to cover her expenses. Luke worked for *Joy in the Harvest*



Luke spent endless hours coding the new website. He is a devoted Apple Computer User.

redoing the ministry website and providing all manner of technical assistance. The kids were happy to be able to make it back "home" for the summer. The Africans were thrilled to have them back. They have now returned to Asbury College. Kimberly is entering her fourth year and Luke his second. They almost missed their British Airway flight due to the strike and their luggage still hasn't caught up with them. ☩

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