

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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Kigoma, Tanzania*

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Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

When I came to Africa I didn't specifically come to minister to the poor. I had no special love for the poor. It was just another African reality. I shed no tears. I didn't know much about the poor and I certainly wasn't attracted to them. I came to Africa in obedience to a calling from God. I was interested in pursuing that which had ultimate importance. Poverty wasn't on my priority list.

When I discovered the Bible's clear teachings about the poor, my point of view changed. God shouts to us in the Scriptures -- He is on the side of the poor! The teachings are so clear and so strong on this subject that I concluded it is impossible to be a good Christian, impossible to please God, without being concerned with the poor.

God rails against the mistreatment of the poor. He demands their rights. He defends their cause. He threatens all who take advantage of them. He expects kindness to be shown them. He warns against stinginess toward them. He commands His people to be generous, to lend freely without interest, and to never forget the poor. He totally identifies with the poor. How you treat them is how you are treating Him.

Why are the poor such a priority to God when earthly wealth is but dust? Why are the poor given such attention by God? Aren't all people equally important to God? Why would God divert me from my "important work" to also help poor people?

How quickly I forget. I am a poor person. My spiritual poverty motivated Christ to leave the most honored place in heaven. In Bethlehem, God became one of earth's poor for me. And I became rich.

God is not indifferent to spiritual or material poverty. To neglect the poor is to neglect Christ Himself. Those living without life's necessities have a special place in His heart. Those suffering the sting of poverty's injustice will find Jesus is their friend. And Jesus isn't afraid to ask us to help them.

We feel called to do more for the poor here in central Africa. It will only be possible because you are called by the same Savior, too. Together we share His promises. Together we will share His blessings.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly + Luke*

Africa Photo Page



The Burundi Refugee Camp is so vast our United Methodist pastors had a transportation problem. Six bicycles were donated to help them get around.



Our boat developed bad leakage. It was beached and then turned from side to side to re-plank and re-calk the bottom.



The Kigoma Destitute Camp received a facelift. All buildings were cleaned, repaired, and painted. New foam mattresses were provided for the residents.



The "First" United Methodist Church of Dar es Salaam when under construction.



Grass for thatching poor people's huts being loaded on our Land Rover.



Sewing machines were donated to the youth group. Training classes have begun to teach the girls how to make primary school uniforms so children can go to school.



Joy in the Harvest



SMALL CONGREGATION REJOICES

New UM Church for Tanzania!

*"If Jesus Christ be God
and died for me,
then
no sacrifice
can be too great
for me
to make for Him."*

C.T. Studd 1860-1931
missionary to China (10 years),
India (6 years) and Africa (21)

proclaiming the Prince of Peace.

The Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania asked *Joy in the Harvest* to fund and construct this new church building.

The UM congregation in Dar is small and could not afford to build their church. However, Dar is 650 miles from our base in Kigoma. *Joy in the Harvest* sent our accountant and the head of our construction crew to Dar to provide leadership for the project. The church is now finished and awaiting dedication.

We wish to thank those who provided the special funding and all the supporters of *Joy in the Harvest* for making this new church building possible. ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

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☺ **Website**
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☺ **Spring Women's Retreat**

The spring Women's Retreat will be held on Sat., May 6, at *Benny's* in Lynwood, IL. Contact Joan Weaver at 1-219-836-4121 for more info.

The capital city of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, has a new church.

Dar es Salaam's name means "the haven of peace". This city of nearly three million people has its first United Methodist Church



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Our last two groups of visitors have all been ladies! The first group of three ladies from Kokomo, Indiana were followed by a group of four ladies from Illinois and Iowa. They were a blessing to the Africans and to our ministry.

The Indiana team visited a refugee camp and donated six



Cindi Myers
Patty Cohee
Carol Campbell

Marilyn McNamarra
Karen Fink
Mary Rudd
Shirley Solberg



Seven ladies who made a difference!

bicycles for refugee pastors. They also worked with the Kigoma UM youth group and gave them sewing machines. The Illinois/Iowa group supervised the renovation of the destitute camp, did sewing projects, and helped with computer work. Many thanks to these wonderful ladies. ☩

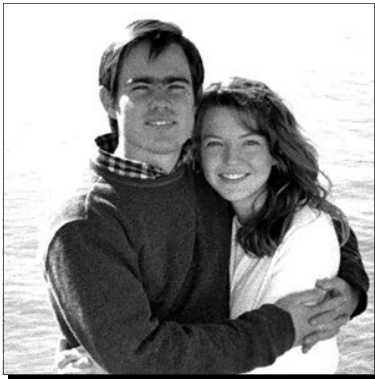


GREAT TIMES IN AFRICA

The Buzz in Africa!

Kimberly Wertz and Daniel Harrison to be married in Kigoma!

Kimberly Wertz and Daniel Harrison are to be married at the Gungu United Methodist Church in Kigoma on July 22, 2006. Daniel was raised on the mission field in Zaire and France. They anticipate living and working in the Middle East.



Land Cruiser Fund Started



The need for a new vehicle for the ministry has resulted in some significant gifts toward the purchase of a new four wheel drive vehicle. The new fund is still lacking about \$9,000. to reach its goal of \$32,000.

The Land Rover purchased in June, 2003 is still doing great but our old Land Rover purchased in 1993 is in sorry shape and it is not safe to make road trips in it.

Joy in the Harvest Soccer Tournament Great Success

The first annual championship tournament for Kigoma had sixteen teams competing to have their name inscribed on the *The David Livingstone Memorial Trophy*. With half of all Tanzanians under the age of 16, it is a great way to develop a relationship with the youth of our community. The team called the "Bees" won the title for 2005.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What Does a Swahili Bible Cost?

Q. How much does a Bible cost there and how would we get the money to you?

(asked by JOY supporter)

A. We purchase Swahili Bibles in quantity to get the best prices. Our price for a small Bible is \$3.50, large Bible without concordance \$4.25, and large Bible with concordance \$5.25 Funds can be sent via the USA address and please designate the gift "for Bibles".



Tanzania young people "earn" a Bible by completing a study of the book of Proverbs.

Q. Will you be at Kimberly's wedding reception in Naperville, IL on Aug. 12, 06?

A. Yes, we are planning on being there. We hope to see many of you at that time!

Q. How many students are attending the Bible schools in the refugee camps?

A. This year we have about 75 students in diploma programs.

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