



*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
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December, 2006

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Christmas stockings by the fireplace are not a tradition in Africa. But a long time ago I received a special gift from the mantle of an African fireplace. I was a teenager on a mission trip to the deep bush of the Congo. The fireplace was an old oil drum stuck in the mud wall of the house. A single board served as a mantle and held the missionary's Bible.

The large Bible contained hand written notes and I stayed up all night reading them by candle light. They fascinated and moved me. Spiritual observations, thoughts, and cryptic sermon outlines took me on a journey through the spiritual life of the missionary who had, so many times, risked all for God.

Evidence of the missionary's problems were all around me. Crashed airplanes, wars, the truck going off a bluff and crashing into the lake, an African killed in a hunting accident, financial problems, church problems -- the list was endless. It is no wonder the missionary told me that a call to missions is a call to heartache.

But I did not find broken-hearted missionaries. I found missionaries who were more than conquerors. Their spirits soared. They were filled with joy and it bubbled out and was magnetic. They were fun! Maybe the notes in this Bible will help me to understand...

Thirty seven years have passed. God called me to be a missionary. I served in Africa, beside the missionary, for a dozen years. This year the missionary went home to be with his Lord. Along the way he gave me this secret... and I share it with you as a special Christmas gift.

The neglected people of this world are important to God. There is no cry too distant or person too lost. Don't worry too much about yourself. His love and power are greater than evil and wars. Tie your life to God's purposes. You can do His work. Those of kindred spirit will help. Some people may oppose you. In all of this, you share in the experiences of Jesus. And your reward will be great.

Our love this Christmas,

Lowell & Claudia



Joy in the Harvest



THANK YOU

2006 - One Great Year!

*"This time,
like all times,
is a very good one,
if we but know what
to do with it."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

What did it take to make 2006 a great year? Doing good on an increasing scale and reaching more people with the love of Christ!

COMPASSION ASSISTANCE

Refugees: bicycles, clothes, food, funds, sewing machines.

Handicapped Destitutes: renovation of the Destitute Camp, food, clothes, needed supplies, medical care. **Street people:** three

meals per week, clothes, medical treatments. **People in crisis:** medical treatments, food, clothes, funds. **Vision impaired:** operations to restore sight, reading glasses, over 750 people helped. **Sick People:** over 1,000 received free medical treatments and operations. **Job training:** computer school trains its 750th student, girls learning to use sewing machines. **Hospitality:** dozens of guests have enjoyed the Kitley & Calvin guest houses. **HIV/AIDS Prevention:** through our sports program and funds for treatments. **Schools:** construction assistance for two local secondary schools, school uniforms for poor children. **Orphanage:** funds, soap, kerosene, clothing, food. **Village:** Helped construct a road to create access. **Destitute Aged in South Africa:** funds for food, gifts at Christmas.

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☆ CHECKLIST ☆

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Christmas Gift Envelope

As a convenience, we are enclosing a gift envelope for those who may wish to contribute financially to this ministry. We appreciate and need your help!!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

In September ten people from the Aldersgate Renewal Ministries of the United Methodist Church came to Kigoma to present seminars.

It was wonderful to have the team back. For half of the members it was their first trip to Africa, while the others had been to Kigoma three years earlier. A seminar, "Local Church Leadership", was



Ted Newton, Audrey Newton,
Maryanne Ditter, Bob Butler, Frank Billman,
Al Smith, Rachael Billman, Rich Fetzer,
Peggi Billman, Jim Meyer

held in Kigoma for leaders of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania. Then the team held a "Life in the Spirit" seminar in the Burundi Refugee camp for 750 United Methodist refugees. We had the seminar manual translated and one thousand copies printed in the Kirundi language, which is spoken by the refugees. We thank God for these wonderful Christian friends and the witness they shared. ☩



TOO MUCH TO REPORT

2006 - A Great Year!

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SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE

United Methodist Church: We constructed a new church building in the capital of Tanzania, gifted another church building in Kigoma to the UMC, hymn books, Bibles, funds, held a three day national seminar on local church leadership. **Other Churches:** gave construction help to several congregations. **Refugees:** two day seminar on Old Testament book of Zechariah, four day seminar on the Holy Spirit, sponsored other seminars, Bibles, tarps for roofing new church, sponsored Bible Schools for training refugees in five camps. **Destitute Camp:** Christ preached and decisions made. **Preaching-Teaching:** sermons and teachings given, communion administered, youth work is growing. **Evangelism:** Sponsored open air evangelism meetings, "Jesus Movie" evangelism. **Street People:** a five minute Biblical teaching presented at each meal.

Friday People: presented the way of salvation through Jesus each week.

Computer School: Gospel message given at each graduation ceremony.

Women's Retreats: sponsorship of two spiritual retreats held in IL.

Boat: villages visited.

OTHER BLESSINGS

In addition to ministries for others, we received so many blessings. The new Land Cruiser met a great need, the joy of the wedding of Kimberly Wertz and Daniel Harrison, the many guests who enriched our lives, a dedicated Board of Directors, and faithful Christians supporting this ministry.

2006 has been blessed by God

Thousands received help, many grew in the grace of Jesus Christ, and some found the Lord as their Savior. What a Year! ☩

Ken Enright with the Lord



Ken Enright, my uncle, was instrumental in my becoming a missionary. He and Lorraine were missionaries in Africa for over 50 years. Ken went to be with the Lord on June 9th. He was buried in Africa. Ken was a pilot, pastor, pioneer, and rugged individualist. He loved his Lord, family, church, and the missionary calling. I am grateful for his life and his willingness to mentor me. ☩



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What does it cost to feed the street people?

Q. How much does it cost to feed the street people each week?
(asked by a visitor)

A. The street people feeding program is our newest "compassion ministry". Starting in 2005, it was developed more fully in 2006. Three afternoons each week our Land Rover collects the handicapped street people of Kigoma. Others, who are able to walk, also make their way to "Kimberly's Site" (named in honor of my daughter).



Serving up thirty dollars worth of rice and beans.

On this site we have constructed an African kitchen, a pavilion, an outhouse, and shower facility. Huge pots of rice and beans, along with occasional greens and fruits, are prepared by our staff and served to the hungry. Each person gets a heaping bowl and every bit is devoured. We average over 100 street people per meal. Many AIDS orphans and other street children are among those being helped. Right now it costs about \$30 per day (\$90 per week) to provide the food for this ministry. ☩

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