

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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March 21, 2007

Dear Friends, Churches, and Family,

Four years is a significant amount of time. Four years can get you a college degree, personal computers will triple their power, and the number of Muslims will increase 2.4%. Health issues affect one's view of time. Commenting on his heart surgery, Bill Clinton remarked, "Republicans aren't the only ones chanting, 'four more years!'"

In June we will be finishing our seventh term as missionaries. Our first term we moved into an abandoned house, I became a bush pilot, and we fought a cholera epidemic on the Congo River. Our second term saw the birth of our children and the martyrdom of my friend, Stan Ridgway. In term four we evacuated Zaire and lost our possessions. The fifth term *Joy in the Harvest* was founded and our ministry in Tanzania began by helping refugees from the Rwanda and Burundi genocide. Term six had many construction projects including our house and a church. That term Claudia got mugged at knifepoint in Zimbabwe and I got robbed at gunpoint in South Africa.

This term my daughter got married. Two guesthouses, a church, and the computer school were built. There were evangelistic campaigns, seminars, youth ministries, boat ministry, Bible distributions, and preaching and teaching. Several of our supporters went to be with the Lord, including my father. Our visitors – what a blessing! And who can forget the college interns?

What memories of this term will remain even as others fade? This term God gave me a new concern for the poor. It began last furlough while gathering supplies for the container. Then God spoke to me from the pages of Scripture showing me His compassion for the poor. This past four years He has used Friday people, street people, refugees, and destitutes to teach me and bless me. God sent volunteer medical teams to provide help for them and provide the most meaningful experiences of my missionary service. God changed me and I am grateful.

Earlier in this term, I appealed for funds and you responded. Thousands of poor people have been helped, lives saved, and souls redeemed. God uses the love of His people to accomplish great things. For all you have done, for all you have made possible -- thank-you!

We plan furlough to begin in August. I must get sermons ready. We need to gather pictures and artifacts, and get new prayer cards made. We look forward to seeing you! Together we will give God the glory for these four years.

Love,

Lowell & Claudia

Joy in the Harvest



FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED...

Furlough Begins This Fall!

"Your joys in life will be as meaningful and extensive as your commitments... our purpose and fulfillment will never be found in ourselves."

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw
This Day with the Master

Furlough is coming — a time to visit our churches and friends. We are excited to see you!

It is hard to believe that another four year term of missionary service has passed since we visited our churches. So much has happened and we are looking

forward to sharing it with you in person.

We will be speaking from August 2007 through June 2008. We will try to accept as many invitations as possible. We would love to see you.

Here is our preliminary plan for the times to visit different areas. More states will be added as needed. **Aug (07):** IA, Canada, WI. **Sept:** TX, AL, KY, TN, OH. **Oct:** PA, NJ. **Nov:** PA, NY, MI, IL. **Dec:** IL, IN, KY. **Jan (08):** IL, IN. **Feb:** IL, IN. **Mar:** FL, IN. **Apr:** IN. **May:** IL, IN. **June:** IL.

If you or your church would like a visit, please email Claudia (wertz@joyintheharvest.com) to book a date. Hope to see you soon! ☩



CHECKLIST

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☺ **Our Website**
www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ **2006 Ends in the Black**

Supporters digging deep in December lifted *Joy in the Harvest* to end the year with balanced books. Thank you and God bless you!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

We have been enjoying a wonderful time with three special ladies. *Joy in the Harvest* is so blessed by our visitors.

Megan Lowden is a British lady who has lived in the USA for forty years. This is her first trip to central Africa. Marilyn McNamara is from Iowa. She was here last year and is back to



Megan, Marilyn and Pat

help again. Both Megan and Marilyn are nurses. They have been interviewing, gathering information, and photographing the recipients of our Street People feeding program. Claudia's mom, Pat Wiesner, is out for her eighth visit. All three ladies have been such a blessing to us. ☩



LORD WILLING...

It's About to Happen!

In Brief...

- Claudia Wertz to speak at the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp as the United Methodist refugees from the Congo celebrate "Women's Day".
- *Joy in the Harvest* is providing sponsorship for the "Easter Revival" in the city of Dodoma, Tanzania. Pray many will come to know the Lord!
- Our sports ministry (HIV/ AIDS education) will hold its annual soccer tournament in May and June. We expect 25 teams to participate.
- *Joy in the Harvest* is standardizing its office computers to Apple laptops.

Feeding Center Building Going Up!



Our street people feeding program is meeting critical needs. A visiting American surgeon remarked that the street people looked adequately nourished. Three good meals a week is making all the difference! The new center, called "Kim's House" has been dedicated to God and is getting its grass roof. We are now averaging 170 people per meal.

Joy in the Harvest Women's Retreat — An Annual Event.

Retreat number 26 will be starting a new tradition. The Women's Retreat will now be a once-a-year spring event. So mark your calendar because you don't want to miss it! May 5, 2007 starting at 9:00AM at Benny's Place in Lansing, IL

As seen on TV!

With documentaries featured on PBS and the History Channel, former missionary, Deanna Treadway, will present "Simple Living" — lessons from adventure living in the Canadian wilds. Special music, food, fellowship, fun! For information and reservations, contact Joan Weaver at 219-836-4121



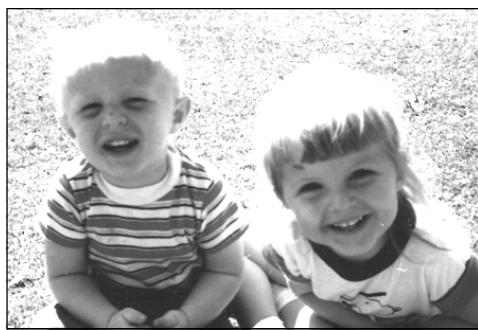
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Empty Nest

Q. How are you guys coping with empty nest syndrome?

(asked by a long time friend via email)

A. Being so far away from the kids is the biggest single sacrifice we have had to make in our missionary career. It was difficult for us this past Christmas. Even though Kimberly is now married, we miss not being able to spend time together with her and Daniel. Luke is a junior at



**Luke and Kimberly
— wasn't that just yesterday?**

Asbury College. We realize we have it better than the missionaries of long ago. We are thankful for computers that enable us to communicate often. Our family will be re-united in August as our furlough begins! But we know a new chapter has started in our lives. Can furlough still be fun without the kids along? It will seem very strange to see only Claudia and myself on the new prayer cards. (Maybe we'll just use the old ones...) ✠

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