



*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438*



Christmas, 2007

Dear Friends, Family and Churches,

I never decry commercialism at Christmas time. In Africa, I miss the lights and festive decorations. Having experienced cities that don't decorate for Christmas, the drabness doesn't lend to the spirit of celebration. My vote is for more Christmas decorations and gift giving. Bring them on!

I love beautiful Christmas decorations, I just don't like having to put them up. As a kid I dreaded the job of putting the tinsel on the tree, one strand at a time. When no one was looking I would toss on a handful of tinsel, but I always got caught and would have to redo it. I would freeze in the bitter cold climbing a ladder to decorate the outside of the house with lights. We would almost kill ourselves putting loud speakers on the chimney so we could play Christmas music outside. But once the work was done and the lights were on, the smell of smoke from our fireplace and our Christmas music filling the neighborhood — that was special.

Today, one Christmas decoration means the most to me. In the states, just weeks after surviving the destruction of our mission station in Zaire, I bought the biggest Christmas ornament I had ever seen. It is a large shiny silver ball with frosted continents making it into a world globe. Hanging across the top is a metal ribbon with the words, "Peace on Earth". Those three words expressed the deepest yearning of my heart. Each Christmas in Kigoma I hang it on a string from the ceiling fan in our living room. I do so with a prayer to the Prince of Peace for our world.

Claudia, a woman who can make any place a home, came out of the dollar store with a colorful stained glass candle holder that says "JOY". My favorite decoration may be 6,000 miles away in a box, but our trailer has Christmas decorations.

Jesus loves business people. Many of His disciples were commercial fishermen and He used His miraculous power to help them make money. He removed business from the temple to keep it a "house of prayer" for **all people**. He succeeded. Santa is in the mall and not the church. The business world needs to stay in its own proper place but it is not evil.

The baby born in a manger to a poor family is the central figure of human history. His birth shouts the message that God is with us. May the whole world be ablaze with the lights, gifts, joy, and celebration that the Savior has come to us.

Merry Christmas,

Lowell + Claudia

Wertz USA Speaking Schedule
January, 2008 – June, 2008
(for church location and time contact the Wertzes)

JANUARY, 08

6 New Albany, IN
13 AM Greenfield, IN
PM Muncie, IN
16 Munster, IN
20 AM Naperville, IL
PM Manhattan, IL
23 Evergreen Park, IL
27 Platteville, IL

FEBRUARY, 08

3 Batesville, IN
10 Downers Grove, IL
17 AM Woodstock, IL
PM Freeport, IL
22-24 Indianapolis, IN
25-26 Tulsa, OK
27 Seymour, IN

MARCH, 08

1 Indianapolis, IN
2 AM Indianapolis, IN
PM Worthington, IN
9 Winter Park, FL
12 Greer, SC
16 Linden, IN
19 Franklin, IN
29-30 Indianapolis, IN

APRIL, 08

3 Hampshire, IL
6 AM Zionsville, IN
PM Indianapolis, IN
12 JOY Board of Directors Meeting
13 Kokomo, IN
17 Polo, IL
20 New Palestine, IN
22 Martinsville, IN
23 Indianapolis, IN
25 Greenwood, IN -- **Area Meeting**
Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria
27 Fishers, IN

MAY, 08

3 Lynwood, IL -- **Women's Retreat**
4 Indianapolis, IN
10-11 Wilmore, KY -- **Luke's Graduation**
15 Anderson, IN
18 AM West Terra Haute, IN
PM Brazil, IN
25 Erie, IL

JUNE, 08

1 San Jose, CA
8 Franklin Grove, IL
15 Plano, IL
18 Itasca, IL
22 Palos Heights, IL
28 Stockton, IL
29 Hanover, IL

If you would like to be on our calendar, email Claudia at wertz@joyintheharvest.com



Joy in the Harvest

FURLOUGH UNDERWAY



“On the Road” for the Lord

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”

Helen Keller, 1880-1968

First deafblind person to graduate from college.

We have covered 18,000 miles towing our travel trailer since August!

America has great roads and we get to travel many of them visiting our churches and friends. This is the first time we are full-time in an RV for our whole furlough.

We purchased a used pickup truck on the internet to pull our 24 foot Sunline travel trailer.

Because of the trailer, we are able to accept more speaking engagements than usual. This is a maximum effort furlough. If your church would like to get on our calendar, please email us soon. We are enjoying visiting those making the work of *Joy in the Harvest* possible! ✕



Please pray for us during this important year.



CHECKLIST



USA Office Address

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Lowell & Claudia Wertz Furlough Address

(please send mail through the *Joy in the Harvest* address listed above)

Wertz Cell: 1-815-263-8809

e-mail address unchanged:
wertz@joyintheharvest.com



Annual Gift Envelope

It is included with this newsletter as a convenience for those wishing to contribute.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

It takes many people working for the Lord to make *Joy in the Harvest* a reality. Jim Meyer, with his time and talents, helped make this furlough possible.

Jim is a member of the Wheatland Salem UMC in Naperville, IL. While on a visit to Kigoma, he offered to help us with furlough preparations. His home became



Jim Meyer

our delivery point for internet purchases. After our arrival in the USA, Jim commuted many hours and worked many long days to prepare the trailer for cold weather, winter living. Because of his work, we can accept more speaking engagements and visit more churches. Many thanks, Jim! ✕



MINISTRY ON TWO CONTINENTS

Mission News Snippets

Furlough is a Blessing

Since we began our travels in August, we have spoken in 13 states and Canada. From New York to Texas and points in between, we have enjoyed being back in our churches and they have blessed us with their love and kindness at every turn. It is great seeing our friends and supporters again! We plan to continue our church visits through June 2008.



Don't Forget — Container Project 2008!

Are you gathering donations yet? In the summer of 2008 we plan to ship a container of needed supplies to Tanzania. Our last newsletter (Sept. 07) was a "needs list" of items for this container. (You can find it on our website or you can email or phone us to ask for a copy.) This is a wonderful chance to help the ministry of *Joy in the Harvest* and the Africans we serve. More information will be coming in our spring and summer newsletters. Don't wait until then to start collecting items to donate and funds to help with the shipping. Our thanks to all who have expressed their interest in helping with this project.

Ministry Center Building: Our Largest Undertaking

The construction of a ministry center on our mission station site in Tanzania will be the largest construction project we have ever attempted. We estimate \$80,000. in special donations will be required to build it. This building will provide a place for women's classes, graduation ceremonies for the computer school, seminars & conferences, office space, and a lending library. An architect is donating his services. We also have a pledge of the roof for the building. For over ten years we have dreamed of such a facility for ministry. Please pray that if it is the Lord's will, we may see it built and used to His glory.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is The Work In Africa Continuing?

Q. Is the work in Africa continuing while you are on furlough?

A. Yes it is. Almost all the projects and programs of *Joy in the Harvest* are continuing under the direction of the acting Africa Director, Mr. Mwenge. The excellent African staff we have developed over a fifteen year period are demonstrating the importance and success of our apprenticeship training program.



Lowell & Jim installing a heavy duty electrical system on the trailer.

Q. Can you stay warm in that trailer?

A. The coldest weather we have experienced so far is 9 degrees. We have been very comfortable keeping the trailer at a tropical 80 degrees. We have installed extra insulation, special equipment, a de-humidifier, and holding tank heaters. Most of the winter will be spent in Illinois and Indiana. Finding open campgrounds may be a bit of a challenge, however. We are praying for a mild winter.

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