

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438
Cell: 1-815-263-8809*

March, 2008

Dear Churches, Friends, and Family,

Public speaking is what furlough is all about. Public speaking is near the top of the list of people's greatest fears, sometimes ranking higher than the fear of death.

I remember speech class in junior high school when, amid our pathetic stammering and staring at the floor, one girl would have a total melt-down. With a flushed face and tears, she would run out of the room in humiliation.

I was a seminary student when I preached my first sermon in the Kenora Bible Church in Ontario, Canada. Throughout our missionary career, they have usually been the first church we visit on furlough and they always get the "rough draft" of what ends up becoming my furlough sermon. To this day, they don't know I can (sometimes) preach.

Did you ever wonder what goes through the speaker's mind in the moments before he stands to preach? Over the years, especially if I was inadequately prepared, some intense prayer would be going up. This furlough I decided to use those few holy moments to think about one person. His name is Paulo.

Paulo is a young African man who had a devastating stroke which left him completely paralyzed on one side of his body. For years he has dragged his broken body to church. Each Sunday he makes his way to the offering box but lacks the muscle control to put his coin into the slit on the top of the box. He goes to the altar for healing and drags his body away when the special prayers didn't work. I have watched his search for human dignity while struggling with the lack of bowel control, abject poverty, and a life without friends. Paulo is a humble man with a kind and gentle spirit. His life is one of desperate need and unbearable humiliation, yet his faith remains in his loving God.

This furlough, as I stand to preach about Christ's love of the poor, I want Paulo to be in my thoughts. Paulo is my inspiration, provides motivation, and is someone Jesus is using to teach me. He represents to me all of God's poor, whom Jesus loves and calls me to serve. Before I begin my sermon I say under my breath, "Paulo, this is for you."

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Wertz USA Speaking Schedule

March, 2008 – June, 2008

(for church location and time contact the Wertzes)

MARCH, 08

- 1 Indianapolis, IN
- 2 AM Indianapolis, IN
PM Worthington, IN
- 9 Winter Park, FL
- 12 Greer, SC
- 13 Knoxville, TN
- 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 AM Kokomo, IN
PM Kokomo, IN
- 15 Markle, IN
- 17 Polo, IL
- 20 New Palestine, IN
- 22 Martinsville, IN
- 23 Indianapolis, IN
- 25 Greenwood, IN -- **Area Meeting**
Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria
- 27 AM Fishers, IN
PM Noblesville, IN

MAY, 08

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

JUNE, 08

- 1 San Jose, CA
- 8 Franklin Grove, IL
- 12 Antioch, 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



ITINERATING UNTIL JUNE

Furlough Half Over

"To a person in love,
the value of the individual
is intuitively known."

Charles Lindbergh

1902 — 1974

Pilot

Today it is four degrees below zero and our travel trailer is parked in deep snow. Yet our hearts are warmed by the love we have experienced from our supporting churches.

Whether flourishing or struggling, our supporting churches across

America have impressed us with their deepening interest and heartfelt concern for the people of Africa and our ministry.

We have been treated with kindness and love beyond what anyone deserves. You have touched our hearts and we will never forget your love.

This furlough year is about celebrating the blessings of God we have received in Africa. We also need to focus on the future. Our supporters have pushed the Gospel forward with prayers and sacrificial giving. So much has been accomplished! Looking to the opportunities ahead, we need more missionaries willing to dedicate their lives and churches willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel. Are we ready? ☩



CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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

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

☺ **Wertz Furlough Info.**

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

Cell: 1-815-263-8809
wertz@joyintheharvest.com

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

☺ **Wertz's Return to Africa**

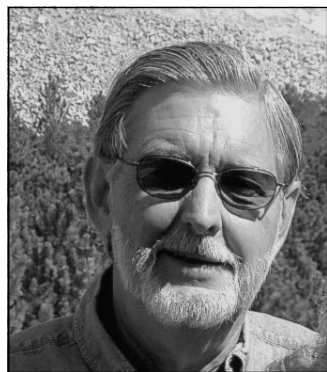
Lowell & Claudia plan, Lord willing, to return to Africa in September, 2008.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

We met Pam Fuller over lunch with a UMW group in New Jersey. She volunteered her husband to design our new ministry center building for free! The next day we met Doug.

Doug has been an architect for 45 years; a member of *Kemble UMC* for 46 years; married to his late wife Caryl for 38 years, and Pam



Doug Fuller

for 8 years; has a blended family of 7 married kids, and grandchild number 18 is on the way. Doug's list of volunteer activities includes *Kiwanis*, *Habitat for Humanity*, and *Bestworks Industries for the Blind* — to name just a few! Thanks Doug, for being there for us, too. ☩



FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE OCEAN

Joy in the Harvest News!

Coming Up

- Claudia Wertz will speak at the *Joy in the Harvest* Women's Retreat on Saturday, May 3, 2008 in Lynwood, IL. Come hear her talk on "Faith to be Faithful". Contact Joan Weaver for details and reservations: 1-219-836-4121.
- **ATTENTION: Former guests to Kigoma!** Mwenge is coming to the U.S.A. We will hold a reception for him on July 6th & 7th. Plan to attend. Everyone is invited. Location and time will be in our June newsletter and details will be posted on our website. Anyone wanting to meet him at O'Hare in Chicago — he arrives on British Air flight 295 on July 2 at 1:55 PM.

Ministry Center Building Project

We are thrilled to be getting the professional design, drawings, and artist rendering of the Ministry Center Building donated. The final drawings are expected to be finished soon and we will put them up on our website.

We have also been blessed by the promise of the metal roof for the building. It includes all the metal roof trusses and metal sheeting — everything needed for the roof. This is a major donation and includes shipping it to Tanzania!

We look forward to the time when this building is a major center for Christian ministry and witness. We estimate we will need to raise \$80,000. to complete the building.

Work in Tanzania Going Well

All the news from Tanzania is upbeat and positive. Our guest houses have been full. One guest, Bill, who is a professional photographer, is taking pictures of the work. We will share some of them with you later.

Our staff has been tending to the feeding center and meeting critical needs of poor people.



The Feeding Center



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where Do We Deliver Items for the Container?

Q. Our church has put together health kits for the container project. How do we get these to you?

(asked in many churches)

A. We have established drop off points in NJ, PA, IN, and IL for items being donated for the container project. Please telephone the contact person to make an appointment and get directions to the drop off location.

Southern New Jersey
(Cape May Court House, NJ)
Dennise — 609-465-7852

Eastern Pennsylvania
(Perkiomenville, PA)
Jack — cell: 610-417-0211

Central Indiana
(Carmel, IN)
Kathy — day: 317-846-9619
evening: 317-846-7481

Northern Illinois
(Naperville, IL)
Jim — 630-904-1033
cell: 312-343-9969

Shipping Address for Donations:

Mr. Jim Myer
1364 Saxon Lane
Naperville, IL 60564

DEADLINE is:

MAY 31, 2008

Please check our website:
www.joyintheharvest.com
for the latest information about the "Container Project 2008".

God bless all who are helping! ☩

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