

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania*

September, 2008

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

What a furlough! We wanted to get to every possible speaking invitation. The road was 14 months and 43,000 miles long. It held many challenges and blessings. Now, by the grace of God, we are headed back to Africa.

The road we traveled crossed paths with many people. Seeing others living out their lives of faithfulness to Jesus was the greatest blessing of this furlough. We saw parents getting their kids to save coins for missions, a senior citizen working full time to be able to make significant financial contributions, a young family using their business skills to generate money for the Lord's work, and people praying earnestly for the spiritually lost and the poor.

Some have responded to God with a heartfelt commitment that results in personal sacrifice and joy. I love being around such people. They know what they are about.

C.T. Studd, the famous missionary said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." Sacrifices being made for the Lord are real. But they are the paving stones to a place of great joy.

My eighty-two year old mother flew from her retirement home in Florida to Illinois to say goodbye. The "goodbyes" are getting harder. Somehow she fractured her spine and was in great pain. I accompanied her back to Florida to spend a week helping her and making arrangements for her care. She needed help getting out of a chair. At one particularly painful moment, she wrapped her arms around me and said, "Lowell, don't leave me." She knows I would not go back to Africa if she needed me.

I watched in the following days as she gathered herself, making great effort to learn how to overcome her pain and get out of a chair. With determination and courage, her altar of sacrifice was learning how to tend to her simple needs so her son would return to Africa. She was doing this for the Lord.

Because others, in the core of their souls, are determined that Jesus Christ be the Savior of many -- we go forward. We are grateful for all you do for Jesus' sake.

*Love,
Lowell + Claudia*

Joy in the Harvest



OUR CONTAINER OVERFLOWTH

Two Containers Shipped!

What the heart
gives away
is never gone ...

It is kept
in the hearts
of others.

Robin St. John

Wonderful donations for Africa came pouring in from all over America. The quality and quantities exceeded all expectations. We rented 12 public storage garages and processed tons of supplies.

The donations included 30,000 dehydrated meals, baby clothes, used shoes, eye glasses, tools, office supplies, new lawn mower, school supplies, towel kits — the list goes on. Important construction and new project supplies were also included.

It was impossible to get everything into one container. We purchased two 40 foot long, extra high containers. They were packed very tight and in the end, only one Coleman cooler didn't fit in.

May God bless each of you who gave supplies and funds to make all of this happen. Please pray these containers through their long journey, customs clearance, and safe arrival in Kigoma. ☩



CHECKLIST

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☺ Wertz's Return to Africa

Lowell & Claudia begin another term of missionary service in Africa on Sept. 17th



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Darrell and Marlene Rader were honored at a dinner held by the leadership of *Joy in the Harvest* on Sept. 5, 2008.

Darrell was a co-founder of *Joy in the Harvest* and served as the North America Executive Director from 1992 until 2002. The dinner held at *Teibel's*



Darrell and Marlene Rader with Lowell and Claudia Wertz

Restaurant in Schererville, IN honored them for a decade of mission service. Darrell visited us in Zaire in the early 1980's. Delightful stories were shared about our "early days" together in Africa. The Raders are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. ☩



WHILE WE WERE ON FURLOUGH

Great Things Are Happening!

Mwenge Visits America

Mr. Mwenge, *Joy in the Harvest's* chief of staff in Tanzania, was met at O'Hare airport by a crowd of our former visitors. Much loved by his American friends, two receptions and several dinners were given in his honor. He visited Chicago's sites, ate pizza, and even helped with the container project. His favorite of all was the Dollar Store. He loved his two weeks in the USA!



Mwenge arrives at O'Hare Airport in Chicago to a big welcome!

Medical Meeting Births New Hospital Project

More than 50 people came from all over the country to the Medical Meeting held in Lansing, IL on July 7, 2008. Representing many professions, God brought a talented group together to consider the medical needs of the poor in central Africa. A steering committee has been formed and an effort is beginning with the goal of building and staffing a major new medical center in Africa. Volunteers, finance, networking, and many miracles will be needed. We believe every Christian should have a role in helping the millions of poor without good medical care. We are praying that you will be willing to be used by God in this project. Please pray.

Ministry Center Construction Begins

The Ministry Center that has been on our mission station "master plan" for 15 years is now becoming a reality. Designed by architect Doug Fuller, it will provide the facilities for a wide variety of ministries including a library, conference hall, office space, and a broadcast studio. Critical construction supplies for the building have been shipped in the containers. 50 truckloads of rock have been hauled to the site for the foundation. The roof has been promised by a ministry in Texas and major funding has been indicated by a church in Illinois. We praise God that this building is becoming a reality and will bring glory to Jesus.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will You Be Having Visitors?

Q. "When you go back to Africa, will you have visitors coming out?"

A. Yes! Having visitors has been an important part of our ministry for 28 years. Visitors have helped the work of *Joy in the Harvest* in many significant ways. We already have visitors scheduled to come from Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Information on our website



Visitors helping distribute used clothes to orphans

(www.joyintheharvest.com) will help visitors plan their trip. Also, a visitor's calendar shows what dates are open. We encourage people to come out and participate in the ministry. Everyone with willing hands and heart can be used by the Lord. Anyone hoping to come out on a mission trip should let us know as soon as possible so we can hold your dates and coordinate the use of the guest houses. ✠

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