



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

December, 1997

Dear Friends and Churches,

We are celebrating the fifth anniversary of *Joy in the Harvest*. Five years of incredible ministry and spiritual blessing to thousands. Some of the highlights from 1997 –

- *Jesus* Movie evangelism presented the gospel to thousands of Africans. Many **decisions** were made for Christ.
- **Refugee ministries** continued. Distribution of Bibles, food, clothing, educational supplies, medicines, and toys blessed many. Our truck transported Zairian refugees from the beaches of Kigoma to camps. It also transported supplies, and clothes for refugee children.
- Construction of the **new mission station** began. Two containers of construction supplies arrived safely with the supplies to build the first three buildings. The missionary residence is up and under roof. After our return, approximately three months will be needed to finish it's construction. The remaining land was bulldozed and is ready for construction.
- Our airplane, 5H-JOY, flew in support of the work of *Joy in the Harvest* and the refugee ministries. We installed a **new engine in the airplane.**
- Our **furlough** and visitation of churches occupied the second half of 1997. It has been a blessing to be back with the people and churches that are making *Joy in the Harvest* a reality.
- *Joy in the Harvest* sponsored two **Women's Retreats.** They have prepared and donated gifts for the destitute elderly in South Africa and health kits for Tanzania.
- Other highlights: participated in missionary **Bible studies**, financial support for **the destitute in South Africa** through *Aid to the Aged*, continued approval by the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability*, assistance to **indigenous Christian ministries** in Tanzania, received a **new computer** to begin a training program, helped support the **Kigoma Destitute camp**, served on the Board of Directors of the **Baptist Hospital** of Kigoma, had a **booth at Purdue '97** Congress of UM Men, and Lowell & Claudia celebrated their **25th wedding anniversary**
- Finances for 1997 are ending in the black. Building program will need about \$40,000 more to complete the mission station.

We praise God for His love. Merry Christmas!

Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly + Luke

Wertzes Speaking Locations (revised as of December 1, 1997)

December, 97

2 Belvidere, IL
3 Shomonauh, IL
4 Triumph, IL
7 Kingwood, TX
10-11 Lansing, IL
14 Milledgeville, IL
14PM Fenton, IL
21 Maple Park, IL
28 North Judson, IL

January, 98

3 & 4 Plano, IL
10 & 11 Bowling Green, IN
11PM Brazil, IN
16 Elmhurst, IL
17 Ramsey, IL
18 Anderson, IN
25 Philidelphia, PA
28 Waterford, PA

February, 98

1 Greenfield, IN
7-8 Batesville, IN
12 Antioch, IL
14 & 15 New Palestine, IN
21 & 22 Fishers, IN
27-1 Indianapolis, IN

March, 98

7 & 8 Lawrenceburg, IN
13 Danville, IN
14 & 15 Newburgh, IN
18 Tulsa, OK
21 & 22 Evansville, IN
22PM Salem, IL
27 W. Terre Haute, IN
28 Noblesville, IN
29 Greensburg, IN (Lowell)
29 Noblesville, IN (Claudia)
31 Martinsville, IN

April, 98

1 Indianapolis, IN
4AM Lansing, IL
4 & 5 Indianapolis, IN
9 Greer, SC
12 Sarasota, FL
14 Orlando, FL
16 Decatur, GA
19 Markle, IN
19PM Marion, IN
22 Maple Park, IL
23 New Albany, IN
26 Corydon, IN

May, 98

2 Terre Haute, IN
3 Indianapolis, IN
3PM Attica, IN
10 Erie, IL
16 & 17 Downers Grove, IL
24 Crawfordsville, IN
31 Downers Grove, IL

June, 98

7 Greenfield, IN
14 Haddonfield, NJ
28 Palos, IL

Joy in the Harvest



OVERWHELMED WITH YOUR KINDNESS

51 Churches Visited — Furlough 1/3 Over!

"... your organization has faithfully exhibited a commitment to excellence and accountability with the criteria for ECFA membership..."

ECFA is proud to count your organization among those setting the example for integrity in non-profit ministry"

From a Nov. 10, 1997 letter to *Joy in the Harvest* from the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability*.

Pulling a 19 foot travel trailer most of the time, we have covered 12,000 miles through 13 States. One third of our furlough year is complete.

We love visiting our supporting churches! We so appreciate all of you who have made us feel so welcome! It's been wonderful.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest* is honored to have as our Chairperson of the Board of Directors the Reverend Joe Fort. Joe displays an excellence in leadership and Christian spirit that is rare and highly valued by everyone involved in this ministry.**

Joe is now serving his fifth appointment. He is Senior Pastor of the 4,000 member Kingwood United Methodist Church in

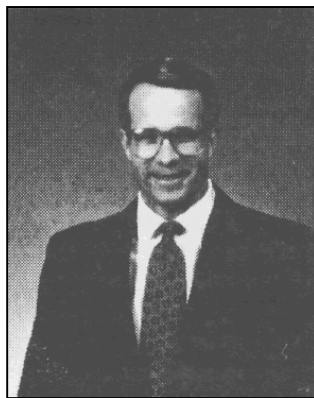
Because we are visiting our churches as a family, while in the USA our children are using the same "home schooling" course they use in Africa.

They are real troupers doing much of their schooling in the back seat of the car. We had two "field" trip days — one at Gettysburg and one to see the Statute of Liberty.

Life in the trailer is crowded but convenient.

The trailer is now in storage for the winter. We will miss not having all our "stuff" right with us as we travel.

It's not too late to get on our calendar. Feel free to contact us and we will do our best to arrange a date. God is doing exciting things in Africa! ☩



Rev. Joe Fort, Jr. — Chairperson of the Board of Directors

CHECKLIST

* **Mailing Address:**

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

An envelope is enclosed as a convenience for those wishing to make a financial contribution.

* **Wertzes USA Address Information.**

P.O. Box 364
Lansing, IL 60438.

Tel: 1-708-474-8303
Fax: 1-708-474-9768

E Mail:
LowellWertz@Juno.com

northern Houston, TX. In 1991 he spent 2 weeks in Luena, Zaire with the Wertzes. Joe and Margaret have been married 14 years and have 4 children: Joe III, Ben, David, and Leslie. If your church is in the south central U.S.A. and you would like a missions presentation about *Joy in the Harvest*, contact Joe at 1-281-358-2137. ☩



JESUS SAID "YOU ARE THE BRANCHES"

Glimpses of God's People at Work

LARGE TURNOUT FOR FALL '97 WOMEN'S RETREAT

With the theme of "Serving Our King", the Fall '97 Women's Retreat was the best attended retreat we ever sponsored. Seventy women heard Claudia Wertz tell the story of God's faithfulness to her family in Africa. UM Pastor Harlene Harden and Lorelei Verlee also did major presentations. Health kits were prepared for shipment to destitute Africans. Don't miss another retreat! The Spring '98 Women's Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 1998. Contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 for details.

PRAYER SUPPORT STRONG

People have told us they are using the listing of speaking locations & dates from our last newsletter as a guide to praying for us. How wonderful! That's a great idea.

Luke and Kimberly put the magnets on the back of our picture prayer cards. It has been a wonderful experience for them to see our prayer card on many refrigerator doors as we are in homes during our travels.

The Wertz family & *Joy in the Harvest* depend on your prayer support. Thanks to all who uphold us in prayer.

JESUS MOVIE EVANGELISM CONTINUING

On the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month Lowell telephones the *Joy in the Harvest* staff in Tanzania. *Jesus Movie* evangelism is continuing and bearing fruit. The report from the latest showing indicates that twelve decisions for Christ were made. Of those twelve, four were Muslims.

We have been able to fully fund the evangelism effort in Tanzania for the entire length of the Wertz's furlough year. God bless each of you who have made this possible.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

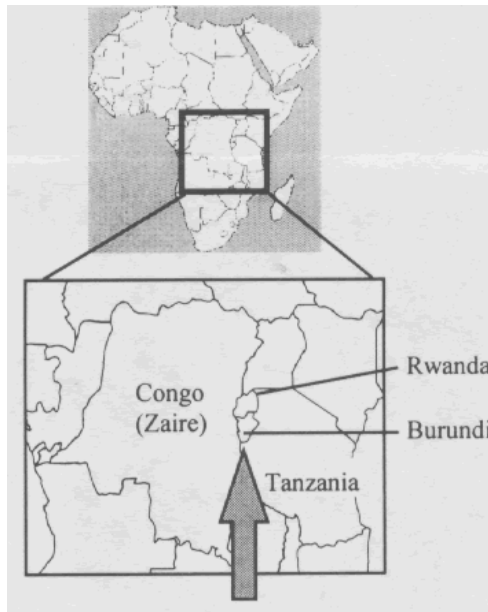
What's the Latest News From Africa?

Q. What is the current political situation in your area?

A. We continue to follow press reports and info from friends.

Tanzania — remains stable and the Burundi and Zaire refugee camps continue to operate. Refugees from Rwanda have all gone back. Defensive military buildup in the Kigoma area continues due to the military threat from Burundi.

Congo (Zaire) — the new strongman government killed up to 20 renegade soldiers in the capital. 20 to 42 lashes given to



Wertz Home in Africa

110 journalists for meeting with the opposition. UN investigation of alleged killing of thousands of Rwanda refugees stalled by government. Outbreak of Congo pox disease reported in the north. **Burundi** — fighting continues on the border with Tanzania. 100 rebels killed in the southern province. Tutsi minority (14%) control the government and Hutu majority (85%).

Rwanda — Hutu rebels killed 290 while trying to free imprisoned comrades. Estimated 15,000 rebels are based in the north. Tutsi government denies massacring up to 8,000 Hutus civilians. ✕