

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

October, 2000

Dear Friends and Churches,

Grandparents are important! My Dad turned 80 years old this summer and so we wanted our kids to spend time with them in Canada. We returned stateside for two months. One month to do work for *Joy in the Harvest* and one for vacation. Kimberly and Luke spent 6 weeks with Grandpa and Grandma in Canada.

“How’s the fishing?” I’d ask on the phone. “Nothing.” was the reply. My Dad has fished his whole life and if he says “nothing” it is for real. “They’re just waiting until I get there,” I’d jokingly say.

When Claudia and I arrived in Canada I couldn’t wait to go after the walleye. I had bought a few special lures. Luke, Grandpa, and I sailed off into the sunset in Grandpa’s new boat -- ready to do battle with slimy critters. Much to my surprise, they started hitting. And for the next several evenings, anyway, walleyes were our reward.

Jesus loves fishermen. He sought them out and they were his best friends. He loved their grit, their patience, and that mystical something that happens to them when a big one is caught. Fishermen are humble and proud all at the same time. There is something especially honest about fishing; yet fishermen sometimes struggle with honesty.

Jesus called fishermen to fish for men. He calls all of His friends to fish for men. There is nothing like catching a big fish, unless it is closing the net of Christ’s love around a lost fisherman.

Lake Tanganyika beckons -- its fish and its fishermen. My Dad taught me how to love both.

*Love,
Lowell*



Joy in the Harvest



LOCALLY DESIGNED AND BUILT

A New Boat for Lake Tanganyika

The soul is the ship; the world the sea; the bliss beyond the distant coast; hope resting on faith — the anchor — which prevents the vessel being tossed to and fro...

... The soul clings, as one in fear of shipwreck, to the anchor, and sees not where the cable runs, where it is fastened; she knows it is fastened behind the veil which hides the future glory; if only she hold on to the anchor, she shall in due time be drawn in where it is, into the holiest, by the Saviour.

Fausset's Bible Dictionary

For eight years we have been living on the shore of the 5th largest lake in the world without means to access its water or the people living in villages along its shore. That is about to change!

Lake Tanganyika is 45 miles wide, 420 miles long, and it is the second deepest fresh water lake in the world at 4,720 feet.

The original idea of a smaller recreational fishing boat for Lowell & Luke grew into this design to also serve as a tool for evangelism to the isolated fishing villages.

We decided to build a boat large enough to handle rough water. The boat is 28 feet long and 9 feet wide; it is much like the boats of Jesus' day. An African hardwood called Muninga was used to construct it. Above the boat we are building a frame to hold a tarp to shade the boat from the tropical sun. Twenty K-Mart life jackets and a bilge pump were purchased. ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Address:**

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

Africa e-mail Wertz@MAF.org

Thank you for your faithful giving that enables this mission to serve Christ in Africa.

☺ **There were three babies in the picture of Claudia's crocheting class in our last newsletter.**

☺ **Lowell survived kidney surgery in South Africa.**

After the failure of lithotripsy to shatter a large kidney stone, Lowell had micro-surgery to remove it. Many thanks for the prayers and also the help of our South African friends and doctors.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest* has several construction projects underway. Our construction supervisor is Alex Bigirwa. His years of experience and gentle personality make our construction work a pleasure.**

Alex has an extensive educational background with a certificate from Cambridge, a certificate in fisheries and a diploma in Marine engineering. He has served as a



Baba Alex Bigirwa

District Natural Resources Officer and Regional Fisheries Officer. He has served as an instructor at two Fishery Institutes in Tanzania. He is married to Maria and they have nine children. Alex's years of experience as both a supervisor and teacher are evident. For four years he has worked patiently with our construction guys teaching them correct construction methods and work practices. ☩



SHUTTERBUG AT WORK

From Our Photo Album



The new church at Gungu is ready for its metal roof.



This cement was provided by an extra gift from a church in New Jersey.



We haven't decided on a name for the boat yet. Any suggestions?



It took 30 men to get the hull to our yard for final fitting of the interior.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



What Is Your Greatest Need?

Q. What is the greatest need you have at this time? (question from a Missions Chairperson, Indiana)

A. Prayer support for this work is always at the top of our "needs" list. However, I believe the intent of this question was to focus on how someone could help the work in Africa in some specific way through giving.

Our mission operates from a general fund and all but a few special designated expenses are met out of that fund. When people contribute to JOY the money goes into the general fund and they are supporting every aspect of the work. If someone wanted to do something extra, however, I can identify one special need we have right now. It is for cement. Cement costs \$7.50 per sack (no

ready mix concrete trucks out here). Cement is used for bricks and mortar, foundations, and floors. We need many bags to keep the construction of churches, the ministry center, and other projects going forward. Special gifts for cement will mean we can get much needed facilities finished more quickly. May God bless each contributor to this mission.

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