



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



December, 2005

Dear Friends, Churches, and Family,

I wanted a real live pony for Christmas. Even though as a child I lived in suburban Chicago, in a house with a small yard, I dreamed of my very own pony. It was Christmas and anything was possible. But the pony never showed up.

Now a pony under the tree would be a nightmare and a nasty joke. Yet the memories linger of that excitement and tinge of disappointment about Christmas mornings long past.

I still have dreams about Christmas. I ask, "What would my best Christmas be like now?" Christmas time is full of miracles and my dreams now require miracles.

My best Christmas starts with my Christmas present. I would want every person I love to be in one place and to be with them. The great distance and separation would vanish. I would be able to spend time with those I love.

What about presents for others? Only the best! Knowing God, the happiness of love, calming peace, purpose and meaning for the soul. Their needs and wants would make my list, too. The new iPod is nice, but so is inner contentment, and a future filled with unexpected challenges and blessings.

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They stood at an empty tomb, unable to enjoy the moment. The manger was a distant memory. Its significance lost in three horrible days. They were overwhelmed with disappointment, confused, and tormented with the thoughts of life without the One they loved. But the Father was not confused. The manger was not forgotten. The promises of Christmas were being fulfilled. And they still are...

In the fullness of time my Christmas present will arrive -- announced with a trumpet and shout -- my gift arriving by special delivery.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia  
Kimberly & Luke*



# Joy in the Harvest

GIVEN IN JESUS NAME



## Your Christmas Gifts for Africa

**Where charity stands watching  
and  
faith holds wide the door**

**the dark night wakes  
- the glory breaks -**

**Christmas comes once more.**

**Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)**  
Preacher and composer of  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**The supporters of *Joy in the Harvest* bless Africans all year long with their generosity. This Christmas your gifts are making a difference for many people. Here are some of the ways:**

- Proclamation of Jesus Christ by our evangelists
- Funds, soap, and kerosene for the orphanage

- Thatch for widows' huts
- Christmas gifts for the destitute aged in South Africa
- Bible schools, libraries, food, and clothes for refugees
- Meals for the homeless
- Building the first UM church building in Dar es Salaam
- Help for many churches
- Christmas celebration, meal, and gifts for Destitute Camp
- Christmas bonus for our Tanzanian workers
- Medical care for the poor
- Clothes given to the needy
- Bibles for many
- Sponsorship of Christmas soccer tournament for the region's youth
- Hospitality with our new guest houses

**Merry Christmas to all of you from Africa! Thanks for helping so many folks here.** ✕



### CHECKLIST



#### USA Contact Info.

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#### Africa Contact Info.

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#### Website

www.joyintheharvest.com



#### Envelop Enclosed

Our "once a year" envelop is enclosed as a convenience for those wishing to become a supporter or to send us a note.



### WORKER FOR THE HARVEST

**On October 13, 2005 *Joy in the Harvest* lost one of its key people to a stroke. Our loss is heaven's gain.**

His friends called him "Orv". Married to Ruth for 64 years, they raised six children who love the Lord. In 1969 he bought my first ticket to Africa and 11 years later he packed our 35 trunks when Claudia and I



**Orvis Wertz, 1920—2005**

left for Zaire. He took many work trips to Africa totalling 3 years of his retirement. He helped launch *Joy in the Harvest* and designed the Kigoma mission station. He shipped tons of supplies to Africa to keep God's work going. He was my example, encourager, friend, teacher, and hero. He was my Dad. ✕



WRAPPING UP A GREAT YEAR

# What's Happening?

## CONSTRUCTION OF NEW KITCHEN AND PAVILION

Because of rain, dust, and local hostility, we decided to build a simple kitchen and pavilion for our feeding program of Kigoma's homeless. The new kitchen will make it easier to prepare the food and the new pavilion will enable the homeless and to eat protected from the elements and with some privacy and dignity.



## STATESIDE VOLUNTEER NEEDED



**Needed:** A volunteer in the States to do purchasing and the packing of boxes for Africa. Shopping would be at places like Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot. Also, you would receive delivery of items purchased on the internet. Packed boxes will then be sent to visitors coming to Tanzania. Full training will be provided. If interested, please contact us right away!

## FIRST CONGO REFUGEES RETURNING HOME

The first group of Congolese refugees to be voluntarily repatriated by the UN and Tanzanian government left Kigoma on Nov 10, 2005. Boarding the world's oldest passenger ship, *Liemba*, 480 refugees were taken back to Congo. An official government ceremony gave them a proper send-off with speeches and music.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



## Who will take up your work after you?

**Q. Do I sense a major paradigm shift? ...is JOY going to expand its permanent staff? Who will take up your work after you?**

K.H., Rock Hill SC

A. First, Claudia and I have no plans to leave the field nor do we have any retirement plans. However, we would like to see this mission continue after we are gone. As a faith mission we

know the ministry's future is in the Lord's hands. If *Joy in the Harvest* is to continue, several things will be necessary. These include an effective board of directors, good administrators, a committed African staff, an adequate support base committed to the Lord's work, and additional missionaries to carry on the work. Most of these things are already in place. As to adding more missionaries, we will be looking to

the Lord as to the "who" and "when" of that happening. For a small mission it will be a very big step. Our board is just beginning to develop an application and screening process.

From this ministry's inception, we believed God had special work for us to do. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see this mission work continue in the future? ✕

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