

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

April, 1995

Dear Friends and Churches,

Language. Swahili. I wanted it so bad I could taste it. Tanzanian Swahili is very different from what we spoke in Zaire. Claudia said, "Let's go to language school."

We sent the money for the January month-long course. Then the promotional literature arrived. It said:

- **The area has a high frequency of malaria. We don't provide mosquito nets.**
- **Bring candles because of power cuts.**
- **There is no hot water.**
- **Meals are of rice, potatoes, and cooking bananas.**
- **It is very hot and humid.**
- **The reddish soil at the school stains clothes.**
- **You will experience a great deal of stress and culture shock.**
- **You will need a sense of humor.**

They put the school in the best light possible!

Students? They poured into the place from all over the world -- educators, missionaries, doctors, and aid workers. Many were inexperienced; many were seasoned veterans. One couple were in their sixties. My small group had Catholic priests from Italy and Spain and a Pentecostal from New York. The fellowship and interaction was fascinating.

Health? I felt sure all necessary health precautions would be taken. Claudia found 1/2 inch of mud at the bottom of her water glass at lunch. When I made an inquiry in the kitchen, they told me not to worry about it! Soon everybody had diarrhea. Many of the toilets were not working. Our toilet worked -- thank goodness -- but was infested with centipedes.

Food? About like they described it. The gruel served at breakfast is served in Tanzanian prisons.

Stress? When our Landrover went to town, 14 people packed in. Luke's weekly Magic show (same tricks every time) was always standing room only. The last day of classes ended early just so he could do his magic show again!

Swahili instruction? Absolutely first rate. We studied from 6:00 AM to midnight. Five hours a day of memory drill work. *Intense* is the word to describe it.

It will take us at least four months of intensive study to get up to speed with Tanzanian Swahili. We are continuing our Swahili studies at home.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



FIRST LANDING IN KIGOMA

“Spirit of Joy” Flying for the Lord!

“We say that God could use even menial things like airplanes if they were dedicated to reaching the lost. Our responsibility is to harness aviation to the needs of the mission field.”
 ---Nate Saint
 (pioneer mission pilot to Ecuador, martyred by Auca Indians)

On March 16 the “Spirit of Joy”, with it’s new Tanzanian registration 5H-JOY, touched down on the rain soaked airstrip at Kigoma, Tanzania.

The journey of over 8,000 miles begun by volunteer pilot Jim Bone at St. Louis, MO ended when Lowell shut down the engine at Kigoma to the sounds of African hymn singing, prayers, and the reading of Psalms. Members of the *United Methodist Church* and other churches came

to celebrate the arrival of the aircraft. This is the only airplane based at Kigoma on the extreme western side of the country.

5H-JOY was already at work for the Lord when it flew the last 700 mile leg from the capital, Dar Es Salaam to Kigoma.

With the ferry tank removed, the plane was able to haul supplies and fragile equipment for church work that would not survive transport by road. Our District Superintendent was the first passenger.

It was Lowell’s first flight in two years. “Before flying to Kigoma I flew for a couple of hours with an instructor to make sure I remembered how. Fortunately, I hadn’t forgotten. The airplane flew beautifully.” ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Our Mailing Address:**
Joy in the Harvest
 P.O. Box 496
 Lansing, IL 60438.

We appreciate every letter.

☺ **Ladies — There’s still Time to Register.** April 29 is the *Joy in the Harvest* Spring Women’s Retreat at the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton, IL. Contact — Linda Trout, 708-474-5696
 Ruth Wertz, 708-474-2354

☺ **Amateur Radio Update**
 Station 5H3OW worked 90 stations in 13 countries since Dec. We follow the schedule published in our Dec. newsletter when I am in Kigoma. (We were gone much of the time.) Thanks to all who contacted us.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Grace Beezie serves as a Director and Treasurer of *Joy in the Harvest*. Her heart is that of a soul winner. Her husband Bob serves on our finance committee. We are fortunate to have them as decision makers and leaders within this ministry.

Grace and Bob Beezie have been married 32 years. Starting in 1967, they built a highly successful pet



Grace Beezie

care business. They have raised three adopted sons— Daniel, David, and Matthew. Grace has served as president of her church Women’s ministries, a member of the missions committee, president of the local PTA, and as a counselor at a Crisis Pregnancy Center. She accepted Christ as her Savior and Lord in 1967 and has since won many to the Lord. ☩



MILESTONE EVENTS

News of the African Church

TANZANIA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ORGANIZED

On Sunday, Feb. 19 in Kigoma, Tanzania, the very first members of the UMW in Tanzania were inducted. Claudia helped present the new members with the official pins and yellow scarves.



United Methodist Women
of Tanzania

SIXTY FIVE STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM JOY IN THE HARVEST CLASSES

A celebration that included a fish dinner, showing the *Jesus* movie, and a Bible memory verse competition, marked the graduation festivities in December of the Evangelism and Discipleship classes. 65 students received certificates of accomplishment from *Joy in the Harvest*. During the courses, several hundred people were won to the Lord and discipled by these students. (By the way, the two memory verse champions won a ride in the 5H-JOY.)

Bishop Ngoy Wakadilo With The Lord

Bishop Wakadilo died on Dec. 11, 1994 in Zaire of an apparent heart attack. Bishop Wakadilo ordained Lowell as a UM pastor in 1980, and since then they worked together to develop and strengthen the church in Zaire and Tanzania. Bishop Wakadilo was the ecumenical leader for all Protestant churches in Shaba, Zaire. His untimely death has left a leadership vacuum in the North Shaba and Tanganyika Annual Conferences.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



“Why Was the Airplane Delayed?”

Q. In your last newsletter you expected the airplane to arrive in December. Why was the airplane delayed?

A. A single engine flight to the other side of the world can be a real adventure. Over the Atlantic ocean one of the engine ignition systems failed. Using the remaining system, Jim Bone was able to reach the Azores Islands. It took a week to get the replacement part to the Azores. On the next leg over the Atlantic the other ignition system failed. Jim made it to Spain using the

newly installed replacement. Three more days to get the replacement to Spain. On takeoff from Spain the propeller struck something. The damage, discovered in Italy, necessitated



Painting the New Registration

replacing the propeller. Leaving the plane in Italy, Jim returned to the USA for Christmas while Darrell Rader located and shipped a new prop. In February Jim, his wife Lonnie, and American mechanic Sam Bosley flew to Italy to get the plane back in the air. With a new propeller and Lonnie as co-pilot, Jim flew on to Dar Es Salaam without further incident, arriving Feb. 21. It took Lowell a month in the capital to get the plane Tanzanian registered and approved for operation. Thanks to all who worked so hard. ☩

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