

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 364
Lansing, IL 60438
1-708-474-8303*

September, 1997

Dear Friends and Churches,

We love furlough! We want to see you!

Our schedule is on the back of this page. If you or your church is not on it, we would love your invitation so we can arrange a visit with you.

God has been doing great things in Africa and we want to share with you the excitement of today's missions. We are happy to make a maximum effort this year.

While the schedule looks busy, there are many weekdays open. We are happy to do mission presentations, men's breakfasts, women's meetings, or just get together for a cup of coffee.

If you see we will be speaking in your area and you would like to attend, please call us (1-708-474-8303) for church and time information.

Since 1979, Lowell and I have enjoyed traveling from church to church pulling our travel trailer. I think the wildest furlough was when Kimberly and Luke were ages one and two. I carried a Dust Buster in my diaper bag for cleaning the floors after "carry-in" dinners in the church basements. This furlough we'll be coming with our 13 & 12 year olds who are excited about Africa.

We are very grateful to you -- our supporters -- who enabled us to get to Africa, and have upheld us through the hard times and the joys. God bless you. Because of you God's love has touched many hearts.

Looking forward to seeing YOU!

Love,

Wertzes Speaking Locations (as of Sept. 1, 1997)

September, 97

6 - 7 Steelton, PA
10 Johnston, PA
11 Derry, PA
13 - 14 Cross Roads, PA
15 & 18 Zelenople, PA
21 Hampshire, IL
24 Crystal Lake, IL
26 - 28 Montgomery, AL

October, 97

3-5 Sandy Lake, PA
6 Venango, PA
8 - 9 Franklin, PA
10 Madison, PA
11 - 12 Mt. Pleasant, PA
15 Kansas, IL
18 AM Wheaton, IL
18 PM- 19 Hanover, IL
19 PM Stockton, IL
22 Crossroads, TN
24 Vandalia, IL
26 Naperville, IL
29 Woodstock, IL
31 Elyria, OH

November, 97

1-2 Elyria, OH
2 PM - 3 Mansfield, OH
7 Sayville, NY
9 AM Collingswood, NJ
9 PM Morristown, NJ
16 AM Rensselaer, IN
16 PM Greenwood, IN
22 Amboy, IN
23 Kokomo, IN
30 Elgin, IL

December, 97

4 Triumph, IL
7 Kingswood, TX
10 - 11 Lansing, IL
14 Milledgeville, IL
21 Maple Park, IL

January, 98

3 - 4 Plano, IL
10 - 11 Bowling Green, IN
16 Elmhurst, IL
18 Anderson, IN
25 Philadelphia, PA

February, 98

1 Greenfield, IN
7 - 8 Batesfield, IN
14 - 15 New Palestine, IN
21 - 22 Fishers, IN
27 - 28 Indianapolis, IN

March, 98

1 Indianapolis, IN
7 - 8 Lawrenceburg, IN
14 - 15 Newburgh, IN
21 - 22 AM Evansville, IN
22 PM Salem, IL
28 - 29 Noblesville, IN
29 Greensburg, IN
31 Martinsville, IN

April, 98

1 Indianapolis, IN
4-5 Indianapolis, IN
12 Sarasota, FL
19 Markle, IN
25 - 26 Corydon, IN

May, 98

3 Indianapolis, IN
16 - 17 Downers Grove, IL
24 Crawfordsville, IN

June, 98

7 Greensfield, IN
14 Haddonfield, NJ
28 Palos Heights, IL

Joy in the Harvest



NINE MONTHS ON THE ROAD

Furlough 97-98 Begins

"Just remember not to let all those nice things people say about you go to your head — you know they aren't true!"

Advice to Lowell on the eve of his first furlough, by **Rev. Ward Williams**, now retired UM Missionary — recounting same advice to himself on the eve of his first furlough by a senior missionary.

On our way home from Africa we were able to stop in London to see some of the sights.

Our children are the perfect age to soak in all the history — or that was what I thought anyway. I was enamored by the British Museum, the Gallery, and Westminster Abby. Kimberly

loved Leads Castle and Luke loved Sega World with its 6 stories of video games. Claudia kept finding the gift shops.

Our furniture survived 7 years of storage and we have set up an apartment in Lansing, IL.

Volunteers from the First UMC of Woodstock, IL moved our furniture from the barn loft into a rental truck and Darrell & Marlene Rader drove it to Lansing. The apartment was set up in just one day!

We spent 2 weeks with both sets of our parents in Canada. We are now getting our travel trailer ready to use.

We hit the road in September and we are so excited to see you. Pray with us that God uses this year to His glory. ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ Mailing Address:

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

Thank you for your support of the work in Africa & USA.

☺ Wertzes USA Address Information.

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

E Mail:
LowellWertz@Juno.com



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Trusted workers increase a missionary's effectiveness. Help with daily chores frees missionaries to do other tasks. We are pleased to introduce Baba Dastan, who for the past four years has been our cook.

In a place where all water must be boiled and filtered, and food preparation and hygiene in the kitchen is a serious medical



Baba Dastan

concern, Baba Dastan has proven himself worthy of our trust for the past four years. Visitors have all expressed their appreciation for his sparkling clean kitchen and good cooking. While we are on furlough he is serving as one of the guards providing vital security for our house and the construction supplies for the new mission station. ☩



JESUS IS KING

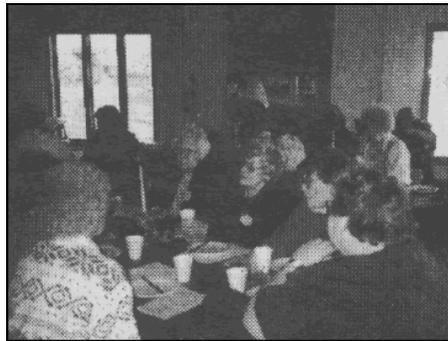
Women's Retreat to feature Claudia Wertz

The theme of the *Joy in the Harvest* Fall '97 Women's Retreat is "Serving Our King".

Claudia Wertz will be the main speaker at the fall retreat. Claudia says, "For four years I've been watching the video tapes of the Women's retreats wishing I could attend. This will be my first retreat and I am excited about being there. I hope other 'first timers' will come too".

There will be other special presentations.

Lorelei Verlee will be presenting an original musical drama about Esther. Marjorie Clark will be the featured soloist.



Ladies at the Spring '97 Retreat. Great food, fellowship, speakers, music, and "hands on" project.

Gift kits made at the Spring Retreat arrived in South Africa and will be used as Christmas presents for the destitute elderly.

This project was such a success that a mini-project of assembling health kits for needy Africans is planned for this retreat. If possible (not mandatory), women are asked to bring a bath towel to donate. Other items have already been donated.

The date is October 18, 1997,

at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, IL from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. (Lunch included) Free bus transportation from Lansing, IL provided. Cost is \$25. Contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 for reservations. If you can't make this retreat call to get on the mailing list for future retreats. ✕



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What's Happening in Kigoma During Furlough?

Q. What is the situation with *Joy in the Harvest* in Kigoma, Tanzania during your furlough? Does the work continue or have you suspended the projects?

A. Some of the projects have been shut down and others are continuing.

For example, we have halted construction of the new mission station. Experience has shown that we have no one to make the many decisions Lowell was called to make daily. Also, the prospect of serious accidents with the dump truck or work

sites was a concern. Some of our workers are now guarding our home and the construction sites because crime is a problem.

Our airplane, 5H-JOY, is in Dar Es Salaam being taken apart for its "once every four years" major inspection.

Our evangelism team is continuing its outreach. September will be a major effort in a strong Muslim area. We are pleased to have strong African leadership to carry forward this project.

Finances & Furlough

Continued financial support of the ministry during furlough is crucial. Fixed expenses still need to be paid. 15 full time workers in Africa continue to receive their salaries. Any reduction in expenses in Africa is offset by increases in the USA. We expect no reduction in overall expenses during this period. Also, we need to purchase and ship supplies & equipment while in the USA.

Remember to pray for us and *Joy in the Harvest* this year! ✕