

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

December, 1999



Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Gift giving! Our kids can't contain their excitement — Christmas morning, with its presents, is not far away. On Tuesday we are planning the Christmas party for the destitute camp. Small gifts of soap, towels, and other little things make life more bearable for these folks. It just wouldn't be Christmas without presents.

God loves to give gifts. Gifts are expressions of His love for us. He pours blessings out on the righteous and unrighteous. These gifts come from His love, not our worthiness.

The most prized gift we can receive is the gift of eternal life. Because of His sacrificial love, Christ's followers are going to live forever! That baby in the manger, that Savior on the cross, and that empty tomb make eternal life possible for you and me. Nobody can appreciate Christmas like Christians! We know what it's truly all about.

God's gift of eternal life is offered to everyone. God's expansive love requires it. That is what missions is about — taking the good news of eternal life, through Jesus, to those who haven't heard. World missions celebrates the meaning of Christmas every day.

As we focus on the new year and the new millenium, it is with a sense of great excitement and urgency. People are spiritually needy. God is at work! His love is touching hearts and changing lives. He asks us to be a part of His work and blessing. Join with us, again, in committing to His love, His Son, His cause, and to His followers yet to be.

Merry Christmas,

Joy in the Harvest



SUPPORTING EVANGELISM TO THE AGED

Women's Retreat Gives Christmas Presents

*We don't claim that Christianity is true because it works. No, Christianity works because it is true.
Jesus Christ is the Truth.*

Paul Little

Since the founding of *Joy in the Harvest* seven years ago, the Women's Retreat has been an active part of its ministry.

Meeting each spring and fall, the *Joy in the Harvest* Women's Retreat has gathered women from all over to meet in Illinois to be blessed and be a blessing. In recent years they have done a project at each retreat. Recently they collected and donated thousands of small communion cups for Africa. Because of the many communicable diseases

found in Central Africa, sharing cups is not a good idea. This project was a real blessing. Other projects have included seeds, towel kits, and gifts for the poor. These projects have provided an opportunity for involvement in world missions by the women and many children.

This fall they collected and donated small Christmas presents for the destitute aged in South Africa.

South Africa's Aid to the Aged founder, Rev. Walter Maasch said, "Thank you... (for) a major share in the joy communicated to these poor old people as they enjoy the delights afforded to them through these gifts and the love of that Ladies Group over the waters." ☩



CHECKLIST

✧ **Address:**

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

Gift envelopes are included for the convenience of those wishing to contribute.

✧ **E Mail Woes**

Our hard drive crashed and we lost our e mail program.

When our e mail was forwarded to us in South Africa, no addresses came with the messages.

Drop us an e mail to help us rebuild our directory. Our apologies to those who didn't get a reply to their message.

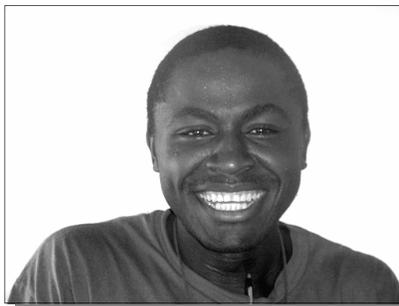
Our address:



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest's* day to day operations has been blessed by a young man who has proven to be a faithful worker and outstanding Christian. Mwenge Ngoy Muyombi is the son of Rev. Muyombi who was the founder of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania.**

After his father's death in 1996 it looked like Mwenge's family would have to return to Zaire.



Mwenge

Zaire was in war and Mwenge asked if JOY would have a position for him. He has been a tremendous help to our ministry ever since. At only 25 years of age Mwenge is our "Timothy". He is also the leader of the young people at his U. M. Church. Mwenge is not married yet and says, "Its no emergency." He has a twin sister who is married to a UM Pastor. ☩



Claudia Mugged At Victoria Falls

It had been nineteen years since our last visit to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Kimberly and Luke had never seen the Falls. The beauty and power is as awesome today as when David Livingstone first saw them in 1841.

At the same time our hearts were heavy remembering a young medical student, John Morris.

Nearly 10 years ago John came to visit us in Zaire and then traveled on to see the Falls. Somehow, he fell into the Falls and lost his life. His body was recovered days later and only after the wrong

body had been shipped to his parents in the USA.

Tossing a flower into the Falls, we said a prayer of thankfulness for his memory and life.

While standing at the great bronze statue of David Livingstone overlooking the Falls, the kids wanted me to go to another observation point with them.

Claudia remained behind at the statue. A man with a knife came up to her and demanded our handbag containing money, credit cards, passport, and driver's licenses.

Claudia refused and when he

threatened her again with the knife she screamed. He threw her to the ground and grabbed the handbag and ran. Two men gave chase and eventually the criminal swam out to an island in the river above the Falls.

The police came with a canoe and a dog and apprehended him.

Our handbag was lost in the river. Claudia had minor cuts & scraps but thankfully she was not seriously injured.

I am amazed at how swift justice is in Zimbabwe. The next day Claudia and I testified at his trial in court. ✕

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

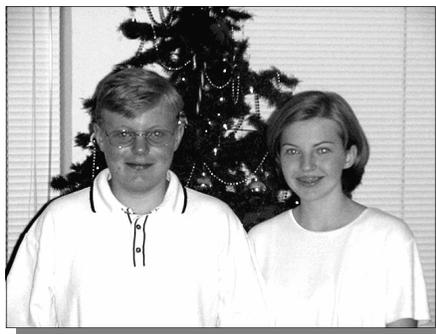


Do the Kids Miss the States at Christmas?

Q. Do Kimberly and Luke miss the States at this time of year?

A. Kimberly's Answer:

I miss the malls! Christmas shopping in the middle of Africa can be a little tricky! But I love Kigoma. This is home, so this is where I want to be at Christmas time. We have lots of special traditions, which include decorating the house, Mom's famous snowball cookies, singing Christmas carols at missionary Bible study, and calling family in America. The



Luke (14) & Kimberly (15)

missionary kids put on a Christmas play for the community, and we camp out on the beach every New Year's. It's also the beginning of mango season, which is something I look forward to. So although we miss family (and shopping!), Christmas

in Africa is special and we love it.

A. Luke's Answer:

Yes and No. I've lived in Africa most of my life and feel very at home here. My relatives, however, are in the States. It is always great to go to the family Christmas party, have a traditional talent show, and the white elephant exchange. I wouldn't say that I feel "homesick", since Africa is home, but I do miss my relatives in the States.