

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

Friday, March 4, 2000

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Friday afternoons the large group waits in my yard. Refugees, widows, the sick, the hungry -- all needing help.

People come every day, from early until late, to arrange for their Friday "appointment". Pastor Luka meets with them, receives their letters, hears their problems, and makes notes.

It is important for a missionary to be accessible. It is also important to keep some semblance of normalcy for my family. Friday afternoons are reserved just for people needing help.

"My legs were cut off in a train accident and my artificial legs are 27 years old and wore out." "My house blew over and I have no where to sleep." "I am a widow with 7 children and no food for them. Please, my children are starving." "I am in great pain (while showing me a swelling the size of a basketball) and have no one to turn to, please help me."

Poverty translates into human suffering. I see the diseased skin, the blind eyes, those who haven't eaten in many days, crying children and those too sick to cry, and people who crawl to see me.

I begin praying before my meetings. I pray all during my meetings. Not because I am holy but because I am overwhelmed. I need God's help -- just as my Friday people do.

Jesus said that as we help the "least of these" we are serving Him. Fridays are holy days. Days of great privilege and honor. Days to be confronted by our common humanity, days to mourn and be disturbed, and days to find secret happiness that God is using you to make a difference.

Fridays are days to be thankful. Thankful for the ones in America who have put funds into my hands, in Jesus name, for just this moment.

*Love,
Lowell*

Joy in the Harvest



SALVATION THEOLOGY EMPHASIZED

“Evangelism Conference 2000” a Success

“We have all eternity to tell of victories won for Christ, but we have only a few hours before sunset to win them.”

~ Anonymous ~

Joy in the Harvest held its first conference for evangelists. “Evangelism Conference 2000” attracted delegates from many churches all over Tanzania.

Over 65 delegates and guests attended a six day conference in Kigoma. The conference focused on the work and theology of evangelism. Each day started at 7:00 AM and ended at 8:00 PM with worship.

Each delegate was provided travel, housing, and meals. They received a new Swahili Bible with a

concordance and a gift pack of items to make the conference more enjoyable.

A six person missionary and African leadership team, representing five different denominations, provided great teaching and preaching. Topics ranged from practical considerations about evangelism to truths concerning salvation.

The delegates expressed great enthusiasm for the teaching they received. Worship times and the music were fantastic.

At testimony time at the end of the conference many evangelists shared how the week had impacted their lives and how they renewed their commitment to fully serve the Lord. ✠

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Address:**

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Lansing, IL 60438

Africa E Mail address:
Wertz@MAF.org

Our deepest thanks to all, who through their contributions, are making the on-going ministries of *Joy in the Harvest* possible.

☺ **Women’s Retreat Scheduled for April 1, 2000**

“He Hears Our Prayers” is the theme for the Spring Women’s Retreat to be held in Lansing, IL on April 1.

Don’t miss this one! Contact Sandra Shelby for more information and registration.

Telephone 1-708-895-2897



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

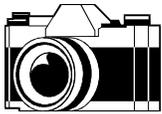
Joy in the Harvest’s “Evangelism Conference 2000” was honored to have as our main teacher the Reverend John Rowse. John, an Anglican minister, is a missionary serving with Scripture Union.

John taught our delegates over 26 classroom hours of salvation theology. He tackled one of the big misconceptions among Tanzanian Christians — that if you sin, even as a believer, you



Rev. John Rowse

lose your salvation and are not going to heaven. John led an intensive study of the Scriptures to help many come to a sound Biblical understanding of God’s saving love and grace. John and his wife Kay live with their 18 year old son, Timothy, who has Down syndrome. Their home is in Mbeya, Tanzania. His email address is jkrowse@MAF.org ✠



IF A PICTURE IS WORTH...

Recent Snapshots



Conference Attendees with their certificates of completion.



Laying the foundation for a new church being built in Gungu, Tanzania by our construction crew.



“Evangelism Conference 2000” delegates in a teaching session.



Over 35 Students are enrolled in Computer Training Classes taught by *Joy in the Harvest*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



“Lighter Side” Questions

Q. Is your house air conditioned? (asked by a friend of our visitor)

A. Only when you open the windows.

Q. What kind of an animal is a “pot hole”? (a child asked about our Sept. newsletter)

A. A tire eating, spring breaking

monster that is a close cousin to the “chug hole”.

Q. Do you make up questions for your Question and Answer column? (asked by a relative)

A. Nope — they are all real.

Q. Dad, why can't I get my driver's license if the local officials don't care that I am

only 14. (asked by Luke after checking with local officials, printed by permission)

A. Over my dead body.

Q. Can we get an extra 22 lbs. baggage allowance per ticket for free? (Lowell asked local airline officials)

A. “Sure, why not?” they replied.

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