

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

September, 2001

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Technology is providing great tools for God's work. Airplanes, radios, and computers are now everyday tools for mission work.

Small mission organizations, like ours, are only able to exist because of computers. Computers help us to do the legal documents, reports, correspondence, accounting, and payroll work that once required a large staff. Computers get office work done at reduced costs.

Computers are also being used to help people in Christ's name. In Africa the depth of the poverty is astonishing. Some are surviving on a thin edge between life and death where even five dollars can make the difference. Being computer literate can bring employment and a way to provide for one's family. Many want to learn computer skills but lack the opportunity and money to get an education.

Joy in the Harvest's computer class is open to all and is free of charge. When I teach, I see eager students hanging on every word. These students know this education can lift them out of poverty. Our waiting list has grown long. People now appeal to my wife and kids to use "their influence" to get them into the class.

When Jesus walked the earth He cared about people. He helped them in practical ways as well as spiritually. *Joy in the Harvest* wants to follow His example. His love is all encompassing and has the power to change hearts and lives forever.

I was headed to my Landrover after the computer class graduation when an older couple asked to speak to me. Their neatly pressed worn clothes and beaming smiles showed this was a big day for them. With a sincerity I have felt only a few times in my life, they expressed their gratitude. "We just watched our child graduate. This is our second child to graduate from your class. We cannot begin to tell you what this means to us and to our family..."

I pass their gratitude on to you -- the ones who are making this ministry possible. And to theirs, I add my own. May God bless you.

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Joy in the Harvest



www.joyintheharvest.com

Announcing Our New Website

“The world needs Christ more than it needs skills. It will not accept Christ unless we offer it help with these other things. But if we give skill without character, we make the world only more powerful to do itself harm.”

Frank Laubach,
1884-1970, *Linguist in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.*

With the donated talents of Jason Maxwell, our new website is up and running. Jason will be the website administrator, too. A dream of several years has finally be realized.

Although still under construction, we are thrilled with our new home page and we are looking forward to

adding a variety of information, prayer requests, and news in the coming months.

It is our hope to make the website a useful tool for mission chairpersons, pastors, and the supporters and prayer warriors of *Joy in the Harvest*.

We are already receiving interesting feedback and suggestions for how to improve the website. We welcome your comments and suggestions on how to make it more useful. Come visit the website and drop us an e-mail message. Then visit us periodically in coming months and watch the website grow.

Our new address is:
www.joyintheharvest.com
The endings .net and .org will also work. Visit us soon! ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ **Address:**

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

Thanks to everyone making this ministry possible!

Africa E-Mail Address:
wertz@africaonline.co.tz

Website:
www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ **Fall Women's Retreat**
The theme will be “Clothed in His Glory” to be held at *Marco's* in Lynwood, IL on October 20, 2001. All women welcome!

For information & reservations contact Sandra Shelby at 708-895-2897 or Joan Weaver at 708-836-4121.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

In June we were privileged to have Jason and Jessica Maxwell as guests of *Joy in the Harvest* for two weeks. This was their first overseas trip. It thrills us to see young adults catching the mission vision and volunteering to use their skills to further God's work.

Jason works as a internet website designer and volunteered to build a website for *Joy in the Harvest*.



Jessica and Jason Maxwell

Jason has been involved in the internet industry for four years. Jason and Jessica have been married one year. They decided to make a trip to visit the mission work in Kigoma to help in the planning and construction of the new website. Jessica works as the manager of a photo studio at JCPenney. They are members of the Zion United Methodist Church in Hampshire, IL. ☩



THIRD GRADUATING CLASS

Fifty-Six Students Graduate From Computer Class

With funding given several years ago by the *Northern Illinois United Methodist Foundation, Joy in the Harvest* began a pilot program to train six students on the use of computers.

From our first class, four graduates became computer teachers for our computer school (and another student entered the ministry).

Our second class of thirty registered students produced twenty graduates. Several found employment after graduation using their new skills.

This, our third class of eighty registered students, has produced fifty-six graduates. Several of



The graduation ceremony was attended by several hundred people. Claudia and Lowell received a matching African dress and shirt from the students.

these graduates have also secured employment using their new computer skills. Two have been hired by the Baptist Hospital in Kigoma to begin a computerized record keeping system.

The waiting list for our class has grown to over 560 names. Some students are coming from distant cities to attend.

The class is provided to the students without cost. We view our class as a way to show the love of God to people in a practical and useful way. We welcome students without regard to religious affiliation.

With so many applying, we are working to improve the program.

We are trying to streamline the training curriculum and hope to add some more computer equipment. Our thanks to all of our contributors who are making this project possible! ✕

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



How are Kimberly and Luke doing?

Q. We received your new prayer card. The kids have grown. What is new with them?

—composite from many comments and questions.

A. Luke (16) is in his sophomore year. He rides a quad (4-wheel motorcycle), plays guitar, and enjoys readings books about

computers and the stock market. He also helps many missionaries, aid organizations, and nationals with their computer problems.

Kimberly (17) is in her senior year. She hopes to apply to Asbury College next year and is trying to arrange to take her SAT and ACT exams. She has many Tanzanian Muslim friends, and

has a weekly children's ministry using puppets and flannel graphs to teach Bible stories to African children.

Both our children have been home schooled using a Christian correspondence video program. They are planning to travel to Florida to visit their grandparents in November. ✕