

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 364
Lansing, IL 60438
~ 1-708-889-1315 ~*

March, 2003

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Over the years I have developed an interest in Dr. David Livingstone, the Victorian era missionary and explorer. He lived in the 1800's but his influence is felt today. Near our home in Kigoma, Tanzania is the place where the American newspaper reporter Henry Stanley found Livingstone and said, "Dr. Livingstone I presume." In Zimbabwe David Livingstone's bronze statue looks out over Victoria Falls – which he discovered and named for his Queen. Claudia was mugged there. South Africa is where he spent his early missionary career. Our children were born there. In Zambia we drove past the place of his death. We spent that night on the Moffat family farm – descendants of Livingstone's in-laws. In London I have stood at his grave in Westminster Abbey among the kings and queens of the British Empire.

I decided to buy some books written by and about Livingstone and the major characters in his life. A quick search of the internet showed that some of the books can be very expensive. Some sell for more than \$4,000. They are treasures. On E-bay, an internet auction site, I located some of these old books in poor condition and within my budget. E-bay is something that I can do "only in America".

My collection of Africana books is slowly growing and so is my knowledge of Livingstone and his day. He was very human. Bitten by a lion on his arm, he was handicapped for the rest of his life. His personality made him a misfit and failure in many ways. Yet with God's help he accomplished so much. His witness and work for Christ was lasting. Some have credited England's anti-slavery laws directly to Livingstone's writings. There was something in this man that England felt reflected its best values and highest ideals.

Who will be God's next Livingstone? Who, despite weakness and failure, will God use to change Africa and the world in the 21st century? While visiting churches we look into the faces of the children. Am I seeing God's next "David Livingstone"? Will it be from among our children that the Lord of the harvest will call and enable a special person to change their world forever? Are we willing to pray that it may be so?

Love,

*Lowell, Claudia
Kimberly & Luke*

Wertz Speaking Schedule: March, 2003 – April, 2003

(For church location and time contact the Wertzes)

March

1-2 Newburgh, IN
4 Speedway, IN
5 Linden, IN
7 - 8 (AM) Avon, IN
8 (PM) - 9 New Palestine, IN
9 (PM) Fowler, IN
11 Itasca, IL
12 Rensselaer, IN
15-16 Naperville, IL
18 Indianapolis, IN
19 Indianapolis, IN
21 Jonathon Byrd Cafeteria, Greenwood, IN
22-23 Indianapolis, IN
30 (AM) Indianapolis, IN
30 (PM) East Columbus, IN

April

5 Lynwood, IL
6 (AM) Woodstock, IL
6 (PM) Stockton, IL
7 Kent, IL
8 Freeport, IL
10 Lockport, IL

Most of April reserved for packing container

BACK TO AFRICA!

Joy in the Harvest



www.joyintheharvest.com

New Website Up and Running

*Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley, "Rules of Conduct"

Luke Wertz, 17, has been hard at work learning computer languages and programming. He is now leading the development effort for the *Joy in the Harvest* website — www.joyintheharvest.com

The new version of the website has been designed so that it will be easier to update and expand. And the expansion process is underway!

Some of the things we are excited about in Version 3.0:

- Resource section that offers brochures, prayer cards, a video, a display, radio interviews, and help setting up a "faith promise" program for a church.
- Visitor's section that provides much detailed information to make a mission trip to Africa.
- Information and statistics about Africa, Tanzania, and South Africa.
- Information about how to become a Christian and a place to submit your urgent prayer requests.

Enjoy Version 3.0 right now. More great expansions and content to come! ☩

→ CHECKLIST →

☺ Addresses:

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

New Email addresses:

usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com
wertz@joyintheharvest.com

Website:

www.joyintheharvest.com

USA Telephone numbers:

USA office: 1-708-418-1839
Wertz USA: 1-708-889-1315
Wertz USA cell: 1-312-320-3109

☺ **Claudia Wertz to speak at the *Joy in the Harvest* Women's Retreat—April 5, 2003 at Marco's, Lynwood IL**

For information phone:
Melinda—1-708-418-1839 or
Joann—1-219-836-4121



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

The Board of Directors of *Joy in the Harvest* has chosen our new USA office manager — Melinda Bendle. She has been appointed to handle all business matters in the USA. We are thrilled to have her join our ministry team.

After ten years as North American Executive Director, Mr. Darrell Rader, co-founder of *Joy in the Harvest*, decided to



Melinda Bendle with husband Kevin and baby Margaret

retire. Mrs. Melinda Bendle is our new office manager. She is a graduate of Asbury College in Wilmore, KY. She married Kevin in 1997 and their daughter Margaret was born Feb.19, 2002. Before Margaret came along Melinda worked for *Redbook* magazine and Primedia in Chicago. The Bendle family are members of Faith Reformed Church in South Holland, IL ☩



Happening in the USA — to Help Africa

CONTAINER PROJECT UPDATE

Supplies are being donated for the container: used clothes, shoes, eyeglasses, towel & school kits, and a variety of other supplies are coming in. There is room to ship more! Deadline for receiving contributions is April 15, 2003.

We are maintaining an update on what we have and what is needed. Check our website ("front burner") or call 708-889-1315.

Designated financial gifts have been received to cover half the costs of shipping the container.

Thank you to all who are making this project a reality.

PROBLEM FOUND WITH AIRCRAFT ENGINE

A serious problem with our aircraft engine has been discovered. The engine was shipped to MMS Aviation in Coshocton, OH for repairs—they are donating the labor! (Parts are extra.)



Mark Newnham & Gabriel Martinez of MMS with our engine

WERTZES FURLOUGH: 11 STATES THUS FAR.

The Wertz family has put 21,000 miles on their car so far. Traveling in 11 states, they have received a warm welcome from churches and individuals wherever they have gone. This is the first furlough Kimberly and Luke have not been able to visit churches with Lowell and Claudia. Kimberly is a freshman and honor student at Asbury College. Luke, a junior in high school, has been doing his correspondence studies in Lansing, IL

"Thank you" to all who are making this furlough year so special.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will You Be In Danger When You Go Back?

Q. When you go back to Africa, will you be in danger if the US goes to war against Iraq?

A. I cannot predict the future but right now I think it will be safe to return to Tanzania in June. We work at keeping ourselves well informed about political tensions and potential problems. The U.S. State Department sends us advisory warnings via email. We are registered with the American Embassy in Tanzania. More important, we keep close watch on local attitudes and sentiments.



The Wertz family returning to Africa in 1993 after evacuation.

We have friends in our area who are in possession of knowledge and information and they quietly advise us. We work hard to maintain friendships across all religious and political lines. It is simply wise to do these things. I

will not knowingly risk the lives of my loved ones. One of our potential guests asked me how they could tell if it was safe to come to Tanzania. I told him, "If you want my assessment, just see if I am there. I will not be there if I feel the risk level is too great." All of that being said, we live in a dangerous world. Osama bin Laden blew up the American embassy in Tanzania. Political crisis, criminal activity, war and upheaval — we know our witness occurs in a context of human evil and tragedy. We go to Africa with faith in the living and powerful God, not in our circumstance. ✠