

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

September 2017

Dear Friends,

Before becoming a missionary, I thought I knew what it was going to be like. A masters degree in missions, my Aunt and Uncle were missionaries, and my two trips to Africa gave me a false sense of confidence. Of course there would be many difficulties, but God's help would be there.

Life can be unbelievably difficult for everyone – not just missionaries. Messages I receive from friends struggling in the USA make you want to cry. Harsh realities find everyone, everywhere. But is mission life somehow different?

Watching CNN's coverage (via satellite) of Harvey and Irma, we saw mandatory evacuation orders issued with the warning "There will be no 911 service available!" Then I realized that I have lived without 911, or being able to call the police, or having access to hospital emergency rooms for 37 years.

Would wild animals, wars, snakes, and malaria be problems? Would loneliness, deprivation, and perhaps not having children be my sacrifices? But God has blessed me. God's grace has flooded my life. Besides, nothing we do can be called a sacrifice when compared to the sacrifice of the cross.

So what is the hardest part? The answer is -- **evil**. It can wear you down, steal your happiness, and almost overwhelm you. Some days I get up and fighting evil consumes the entire day. We can only face those days with God's help – that's for sure.

Two weeks ago we received an official letter from the government ordering us to immediately stop feeding children. For thirteen years we have fed the hungry -- over a half a million meals. There is no good reason for their decision. They just want us to give them the money. Yeah, over my dead body.

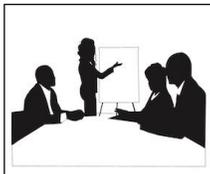
Many meetings later, we are still trying to get that decision reversed. Empty tummies and sad faces are being turned away. Perhaps we will get the feeding center reopened, but the constant stream of evil, injustice, and opposition never stop. I know there are far worst evils in this world than what I am facing. But evil is the hardest part of missions for me. Romans 12:21 gives us God's encouragement and strategy: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



WHEATLAND SALEM UMC BRINGS

Advanced Leadership Training!

**A boss says
'Go!'
A leader says
'Let's go!'**

E. M. Kelly
or
Harry Gordon Selfridge

We were thrilled to host a mission team of eleven from Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church of Naperville Illinois.

This church has been a bedrock of support for our ministry. On this

trip they participated in every aspect of the many different ministries of *Joy in the Harvest*.

As a part of their mission trip, their pastor, Dr. Jen Wilson, as the main teacher, presented a four day advanced Christian leadership training event.

Some of the topics covered included: discouragement, criticism, resistance, ambition, honor, innovation, inspiration, and seasons of leadership.

Over 230 pastors and bishops from many denominations, soaked in the teachings for four solid days. The delegates expressed how important they found the teachings, and showed a very real sense of appreciation. ☩

CHECKLIST

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Finances Slump A Bit!

Red Ink is back — summer is always tough. Let's pray for strong end-of-the-year giving.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

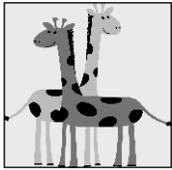
Christian radio station KSBJ in Humble TX has come beside *Radio JOY* with training, advice, and help. Heidi Jones is the Director of Mentoring and Jon Hull is the Senior Director of Mentoring at KSBJ.

Jon Hull came on his second trip to Kigoma in July. This time he brought along his wife Karen, Gregg and Shelly Sharp and



Jon Hull (glasses and beard) with the Radio JOY staff — holding certificates of completion for his training course.

daughters Brynli and Kate, Mike Roth, and Danielle White. Jon came to teach our staff about moving the station from using pre-recorded programs to doing some on-the-air live programs. Jon has spent his whole adult life in broadcasting and his lectures were pure gold. We loved having this **whole team**. Thank you, Jon, and all of KSBJ! Come back soon! ☩



News!

Special Prayer Requested for Fourth Free Medical Clinic for the Poor

I am requesting special prayer for our upcoming Free Medical Clinic. A team of doctors, nurses, and volunteers are coming from the Kingwood UMC in Texas. The Clinic will be held from Oct. 30 through Nov. 6. Our last Clinic, three years ago, treated over 1,500 patients, including free medicines. More than 3,000 desperately sick people could not be seen and broke down our gate trying to get in. Over 200 people came to Christ during the last Clinic. Please ask God to help us and give us His wisdom and grace. And ask God to help the desperately ill.

Community Center Dedication



On July 16 we held a dedication service for the *Joy in the Harvest* Community Center. We had held off having the service hoping that Pastor Scott Field could attend. He was used by God to make this Center possible. At his request, with his former church having its mission team in Kigoma, we had a service dedicating the building to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Mwenge Got Married!

It was the biggest celebration that Kigoma has ever seen! Hundreds of people came to share in the happiness of the wedding of Mwenge and Janet at the Mwanga United Methodist Church on July 29. A fantastic reception was held at *JOY*.



Mr. Mwenge with his new bride, Janet.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When Is Your Next Furlough?

Q. Our church is having its mission conference and we are wondering if you be available?

- asked by several churches

A. We hope to start our next furlough church speaking in the fall of 2019. The heavy workload here means we are needing to extend this term of service beyond the usual time. Also, Claudia has



Wertzes on Furlough, April 2013.

been advised she might need a shoulder replacement. She will

get a further evaluation to know for sure. If she needs surgery, she will need a recovery period and physical therapy. We must allow time in 2018 if that happens.

We are so looking forward to being with our churches and friends who are making the work here possible. We will have an exciting report to bring you as so much is happening. We are very grateful to you all! ✠

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