

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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December 2021

Dear Friends,

Our first Christmas in Africa we had only one cassette of Christmas music – *The Walton's Family Christmas*. Old Grandpa Walton gave a little talk on it and said,

“What could an old man wish for? Maybe you think I would wish to be young again. I don't want that. Being young is a painful thing. Being young and in love to boot, which most young people are, is even more agony.”

Christmas in Africa is the definition of supply chain problems. No Amazon, no Walmart, no Macy's. Simple gifts, often handmade, find their way under our tree. My attaché still carries the name tag my daughter made for me when she was a little girl. My kids loved the annual Destitute Camp Christmas party. Some traditions get into your soul.

I may not be as old as Grandpa Walton, but I would love to gift some 'life advice' to my four grandchildren. (This will not be their only Christmas present – I'm not that old!) Three things.

First, **value truth**. Honor it. Live by it. Commitment to truth will make you a substantive person. Many abuse it, twist it, and lie thinking it to their advantage. Truth has a supernatural property. If you try to lock it up, it comes under the door and through the keyhole. Jesus said He is the Truth. Truth is indisputable facts. Someday you may sit on a jury to judge another person. Let truth be the only thing that matters.

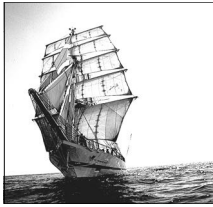
Second, **enjoy God**. He loves you and wants the best for you. Love the things He loves, and run from that which He hates. When Truth sets you free, use your freedom to love your Maker. Love His creation. Love being the center of His attention.

Third, live in the present but **work for eternity**. Only one life will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last. Invest your life in God's forever.

Merry Christmas to all! With much love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest®



Back To Tanzania!

“A ship in harbor is safe — but that is not what ships are built for.”

John A. Shedd
1859-1928

American author and professor

Hello, Africa! We are back!

Covid slowed us down. For a time we had to harbor in a 27 foot travel trailer in America until we could get the risks under better control, as we were considered at high risk.

God called us to be missionaries. My call came after a summer mission trip to Africa 52 years ago.

Ten years of preparation later, we left for Africa knowing that was where God wanted us to be. It has been 42 years since our first arrival and we still know Africa is God's will for us.

When God calls, He wants your head as well as your heart.

The missionary life is not easy. Risks are always a part of it. As a pilot I risked my life many times to save lives. Risks need to be thoughtfully managed.

Our return this time carries higher than normal risks. We ask for your prayers. But our hearts have faith in the One who is faithful. We have the Good News of a Savior, born in a manger, that needs to be shared. ☩



CHECKLIST



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Gift Envelope Enclosed

Your gift accomplishes so much.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Mr. Mwenge Muyombi accepted the role of Africa Director of *Joy in the Harvest* during the pandemic. He is doing a fantastic job.

When we arrived at the Kigoma airport after three days of travel, my good friend Mwenge was not there to greet us. Instead, he had taken a two day road trip (during



The custom-made tower from Kenya being unloaded at *Joy in the Harvest*.

rainy season I might add) to the Kenya border to get our new radio tower cleared into Tanzania. The following day he arrived, followed by a truck from Kenya, with our new 157 foot tall tower for our new radio relay station at Kasulu. Mwenge is the best at getting paperwork issues resolved. It is fair to say that there would be no *Joy in the Harvest* without this outstanding worker for Christ. ☩



God Is At Work!

The Container Arrived!

The container from America to Tanzania arrived in good shape. (Remember our last container fell off the train!) It cleared customs in Dar es Salaam in record time and we received exemptions from duty payments. 16 tons of vital supplies for the ministry, including the equipment for the new radio relay project, is safely here. The supplies have been unloaded into the Community Center. Nothing remained in the USA this time.



The Pandemic Didn't Stop These Things!

- Monthly support for refugee pastors
- Radio JOY – on air 24/7
- Computer School - 4,600+ graduates
- Help churches with construction
- Weekly Youth Meetings
- Weekly Widows Meetings
- Destitute Camp - Handicapped Care
- Feeding Center for the Hungry
- Friday People in Crisis Program
- Guest Houses Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Prevention—Soccer
- Helped building classrooms
- Evangelism –open air events
- Teaching Pastors
- Bible Studies
- Community Center
- Ministry to Refugees
- Training Seminars
- Housing for the Poor
- 45 Staff Jobs (supporting families)

Again, Our End of the Year Message From Mindy

Our part-time office manager, Melinda Bendle, works from home and asked me to include a few reminders, again, in this newsletter.

1. We can accept and liquidate stock gifts. You benefit by letting us liquidate stock gifts. Call me at 708-925-6681) to find out more.
2. Get gifts postmarked this year, by Dec. 31, to get tax credit in 2021. Last minute gift? Use our website with *Just Give* button.
3. Use Smile Amazon, and make *Joy in the Harvest* your charity. JOY gets a small amount from Amazon. Every penny helps!



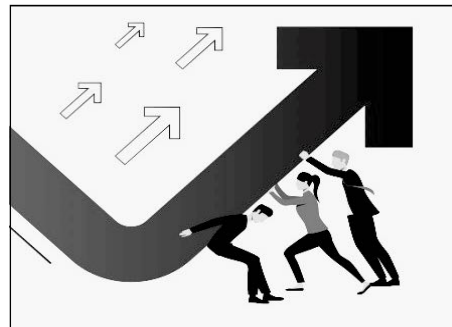
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Are JOY's Finances?

Q. In your Oct. newsletter, you mentioned JOY was in the red. How are the finances now?

—asked by several

A. Covid seems to have affected everyone in some way. One way it affected us was it cut our USA furlough speaking in half, as churches closed. We also saw a decline in income caused by the pandemic, which was certainly understandable.



Praising God For You

After we mentioned the problem in our last newsletter, we saw an AMAZING thing happen. Gifts

started arriving in response. It was a very moving experience for us. We have never felt more loved. We saw your deep commitment to the ministry of *Joy in the Harvest*. So many of you did not want *Joy in the Harvest* to be a Covid fatality.

The special giving lifted our finances almost out of the red. God bless you for what you have done! God is so good. ☩

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