



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



December 2022

Dear Friends,

It's almost Christmas! It is a time of wonder and miracles. Every December I write our Christmas newsletter and usually a column in it lists many of the projects and ministries of *Joy in the Harvest*. To me, it is a list of the miracles of God.

Christ teaches us about real faith in Matthew 6:6: **“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”** God wants our relationship and faith in Him to be real.

I'd like to share two experiences where God required faith from me. *Joy in the Harvest* had \$3,000 in the bank when we arrived in Tanzania. A few weeks later, ten thousand starving refugees walked into Kigoma. I knew what God wanted us to do. In faith, we used all our money to buy food for the refugees.

There is always a part of you that feels scared when you are on the ragged edge of faith. But another part of you knows something very good is happening. My faith had grown and I believed God could provide everything we needed.

One December, the ministry was in the most debt we ever experienced. Mindy contacted me and said the red ink was now deep red. I was disheartened as many needy people were waiting on me to help them right then. As I left our house to go meet with them, Claudia said, “Don't spend money we don't have.” I prayed as I drove there, not knowing what to do. The Lord spoke to my heart -- “I have called you to be my missionary. Go and do your job.” In faith, we helped them with money we didn't have. The next message from Mindy was incredible. She said something strange was happening. The Post Office box was filled with gifts like never before! We ended that year in the black.

Living in faith is not a license to be stupid, but a requirement to do God's will. From our first arrival in Tanzania with six boxes, to this vibrant, impactful ministry -- God rewards weak, stumbling, humble faith. And He will reward your faith also. Look at the baby in a manger and with faith you will find all you will ever need.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



2022 — A Very Good Year!

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

C.S. Lewis 1898-1963
Professor of literature, writer, and theologian.

We started 2022 in Africa after being stuck in the USA because of Covid. A good start to 2022!

The big project of 2022 was the construction of a new radio station on a mountain top about 2½ hours from our home. Its successful launch

opened up hundreds of thousands of new potential listeners to *Radio JOY*.

We are trying to get our mailing list onto email. We are about half way there!

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Our dear friends hosted a party and gave us wonderful gifts.

Claudia had knee replacement surgery and is doing great.

All the projects and ministries of *Joy in the Harvest* have blessed many people.

We thank God for a great 2022. As we return to Tanzania, we look forward to Christmas in Kigoma with daughter Kimberly, her husband Daniel and children Eva and John. ☩



CHECKLIST



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<https://web.facebook.com/JoyintheHarvestKigoma/>



Gift Envelope Enclosed

Your gift is vitally important.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

As a teenager and new Christian, Claudia was spiritually mentored by Charles and his late wife Robbie McWherter.

Charles McWherter serves on the Board of JOY. For nearly 65 years, he headed up *Staalsen Construction Company* in Chicago. He has served Christ on



Mr. Charles McWherter brings many decades of expertise to *Joy in the Harvest*.

many boards and advised many organizations including *New Life Community Church, Pine Trail Camp, Conservative Baptist Association, Galilee Baptist Church, Denver Theological Seminary Board, Youth for Christ, and the Conservative Baptist Home Missions Board*, to name a few. We are honored to have him in a critical decision making position for us. We are blessed by his wisdom, love, and daily prayers for us. ☩



God's Blessings

JOY Ministry Overview

Shorts

The New Land Cruiser!

After months of waiting, the new Land Cruiser was delivered by ship to Dar es Salaam. Two of our workers, John and Muyombi, were dispatched to get the vehicle and drive it across Tanzania to Kigoma. It is now safely sitting in my yard, waiting my arrival to put the *Radio JOY* stickers on it. I want to make sure they are straight! This is a huge blessing!



- Monthly support for refugee pastors
- Radio JOY, two locations – 24/7
- Computer School - 5,000+ graduates
- Help churches with construction
- Weekly Youth Meetings
- Weekly Widows Meetings
- Destitute Camp - Handicapped Care
- Feeding Center for the Hungry
- Prison Ministry
- Help for People in Crisis
- Guest Houses Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Prevention—Soccer
- Helped build classrooms
- Evangelism –open air events
- Teaching Pastors
- Bible Studies
- Community Center
- Ministry to Refugees
- Training Seminars
- Housing for the Poor
- 60 Staff Jobs (supporting families)

- Mindy's reminder: We can receive stock gifts and you may benefit; for 2022 tax deductions gifts must be made by Dec 31; last minute gifts can be made online on our website.
- Our rebuilt boat, *Safini*, is ready for launch.
- Our rough start in America is over, with truck and trailer repairs complete.
- We need to hear from everyone on our mailing list. Would you like email or paper versions of the newsletter? If you responded: THANK YOU! If not: **please let us know.**



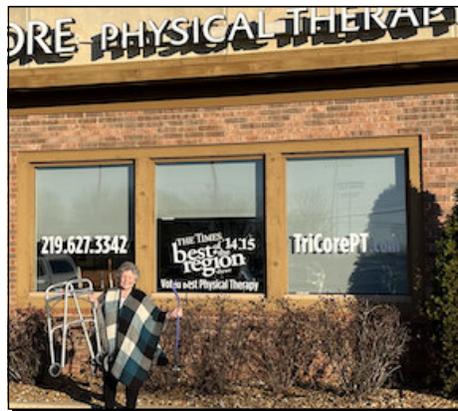
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Is Claudia Doing?

Q. We have been praying for Claudia with her surgery and rehab. How is she doing?

—asked by dozens

A. As you know, Lowell & I came to the states so I could have knee replacement surgery. Both of my knees are arthritic. The surgeon would not do both at once so we started with the right knee. I must admit, the first two weeks after surgery were very painful.



No longer needing a walker or cane, Claudia is making progress getting back her range of motion.

But I felt the power of so many people praying for me. I used a walker the first 2 weeks, then a cane for 2 days, but now I am doing well without them. Physical therapy is three times a week and is going very well.

My goal is to be home in Tanzania for Christmas. I'm happy to report, Lord willing, we'll get to Tanzania on Dec. 13th. Thank you for your prayers!



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



We wish to thank each one who is making the work of *Joy in the Harvest* possible through their financial support.

Please make checks payable to: *Joy in the Harvest*



Enhancing Trust

Joy in the Harvest is a member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability*.

IRS tax deductible not-for-profit Organization number is: 36-3858898



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IN THE HARVEST

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