

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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Dear Friends,

Prayer is a great mystery to me. Never really having studied it, I was amazed by a *Wikipedia* article. It seems that for all of history and before, people have been praying. Prayer takes on hundreds of forms. One of Jesus disciples said, "Lord teach us to pray". Jesus taught prayer by example and with words.

My parents were relatively new Christians, but they were strong in their faith. We prayed at every meal and often before a long car trip. My father's prayers revealed a humble and worshipful spirit in the man I loved so much.

One of my earliest prayers was when my mother helped me pray to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior. My prayer as a young child opened the gate of heaven and set the course for my life.

My prayer life has been all over the place. In my youth I cried myself to sleep many nights praying for my grandfather's salvation. Another intense prayer of mine happened as a brand-new pilot trying to land on a narrow African dirt strip in the middle of a huge storm. With no forward visibility, I prayed at the top of my lungs screaming over the sounds of the engine and rain. The Holy Spirit filled the cockpit and the landing was perfect.

My mother used to say (playing off of Einstein's famous thought, "there is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole") that "there is no such thing as an atheist with a belly ache". Maybe, for me, there is no one answer about how and when to pray. I find myself reluctant to pray for my own health issues. I feel God knows and I can just trust Him completely. Sometimes I am in a constant state of prayer, praying my way through my day and life.

If the roots of our spiritual tree are faith, then prayers must be the flowers -- beautiful and divine. Prayer communication with the Father is welcomed by Him and a comforting reassurance to us. We pray because we need and love God. And He wants to hear from us. Our prayers are heard in heaven.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest®



JOY Prison Ministries Advancing

“I can work for the Lord in or out of prison.”

Charles Colson (1931-2012)

Nixon's lawyer & “Hatchet Man” who served time in Federal Prison. Became a Christian and founded *Prison Fellowship International*. He was awarded 15 Doctorates and the “Presidential Citizens Metal”.

In my first year as a missionary in Tanzania I tried to start a prison ministry. It was blocked.

However, over the years we have done a variety of things including distributing Bibles in the prisons.

JOY currently has involvement with five prisons.

Approved Tanzanian pastors are permitted into the prisons to have devotions and use correspondence courses. JOY recently donated 65 mattresses to prisoners sleeping on the floor. The government is encouraging other organizations to donate as well.

Galcom Ministry is providing 750 solar, fixed frequency radios for the inmates of the three prisons in Radio JOY's listening area! They will be arriving with our guests coming in August.

The Gospel of Jesus is reaching some of the most spiritually needy people in Tanzania. ☩

CHECKLIST

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WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Don and Sarah Reed are two of God's choicest people.

Starting in ministry in 1985, they became full time missionaries in 1989 when they founded *Open Door Enterprises*. Their emphasis is to involve youth in mission work and to support other mission groups with big projects. *Open Door Enterprises* put the roof on our Community Center building.



Don and Sarah Reed of Open Door Enterprises.

Don is an expert water well driller and has imported professional grade equipment to do the job. They have drilled water wells all over the Kigoma region, including at our house and ministry site!

Joy in the Harvest has worked with the Reeds for many years. In addition to working in Tanzania, they have work in DR Congo and in Brazil. We treasure their friendship. ☩

Update

Updating You

Violence in DR Congo Causing Refugees to Flee to Tanzania

A fresh outbreak of violence in DR Congo is creating a new wave of refugees coming to Tanzania.

The USA has given nine million dollars to increase food aid for refugees in Tanzania. Due to the Ukraine war, and a new influx of refugees, food rations for refugees was cut by 30%, and then down to 50%. The *World Food Program* has struggled to provide enough food to meet the need.

Joy in the Harvest has had a relationship with refugee pastors in the camps for over 30 years. Our small scale help has been appreciated and a blessing to them.

Finances

Our General Fund is in the red.

We are facing the twin challenges of inflation and the division of the United Methodist Church.

Over 95% of our church support comes from the UMC. As churches and members are disaffiliating from the UMC, we are receiving many messages indicating an end to our support or it being reduced. Some UM churches are terminating support for all overseas missions.

We know this is God’s mission work and He is able to provide. If our individual supporters can help us at this difficult time with extra giving, we will be so grateful.

Finally Finished in Court!

Winning a “three to nothing” verdict at the Tanzania Supreme Court after 25 years, we thought our land case was finished. But no. An application to extend time to appeal that ruling was filed and tied us up for another two years.

In the last month the court ruled for us to take possession of the land (and tear down the building) and denied their application for extension.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Achievement goals for the next year?

What would you like to achieve in the next year?

— asked on a church form required to support our ministry

A. In general, I do not like to project or publicize future plans. Africa, as well as other circumstances, have a way of changing your plans. And sometimes so does God! I usually focus on the present and near term. But, here goes... with a big Lord willing!



Foundations being constructed for a new apprenticeship training center. More info in our next newsletter.

- We plan on having three church work teams come to Kigoma to help.
- Claudia is going to have a knee and shoulder replacement in the USA.
- We are planning to see the construction completed of a new apprenticeship training center. It will focus on metal and wood working education.
- Keeping JOY’s many projects strong and moving forward. ✕

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