

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
PO Box 496
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September 2023

Dear Friends,

For over 30 years, at the end of each stateside furlough, Claudia and I would pack a forty-foot shipping container full of supplies and donations for the ministry in Tanzania. Many of you donated items. Some of you even came and helped us pack those containers.

Often, we were entrusted with tools and some shop equipment. I always hoped we could have a vocational training center but there never seemed to be a good time to start one. We were always busy with other projects.

Last year missionary Don Reed asked me what my plans were for those containers. I replied that one day I wanted to make them into a training center for woodworking and metal working. He said he could get the containers moved and put a roof on them.

With financial support from Don's ministry, *Open Door Enterprises*, and the Kingwood Methodist Church of Texas, building a shop seemed possible. We had a beautiful walled in area for the construction. Don, a team of eight volunteers from Texas, JOY workers, and even missionaries' teenagers attacked the challenge with a vengeance. Two weeks later, the building is done!

The programs of training in the trades and Christian discipleship are being developed. Coupled with vocational training will be Christian discipleship training. Each student will have a pastor assigned to them. There is something holy about developing a sense of craftsmanship as an act of worship. We are open for your suggestions and ideas!

My father spent his life working for the U.S. government Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. I learned the importance of helping people learn a trade. There is pride and value in being able to earn a living.

We have seen the blessings of God when people with vision and commitment come together.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



The new *Joy in the Harvest* Apprenticeship Training Center was donated and built by Don Reed of *Open Door Enterprises* and the team of eight from *Kingwood (TX) Methodist Church*.



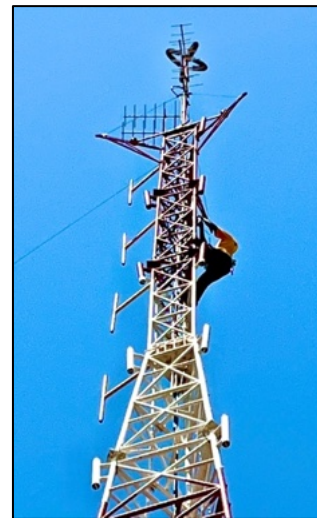
New colorful table clothes for the Community Center. Thank you ladies!



The Annual *Livingstone Memorial HIV/ AIDS Prevention Soccer Tournament* had 52 teams compete this year.



Our Chairman of the JOY Board of Directors, Steve Moga, shows how to serve three hundred and fifty hungry kids and elderly adults.



Radio JOY's new broadcast antenna. Hundreds of thousands are able to hear the Gospel.

Joy in the Harvest®



Teams Make Significant Contributions

“Individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work ...”

Vince Lombardi (1913-1970)

Head coach of the Green Bay Packers from 1959 to 1967. Never had an NFL losing season. Perhaps the greatest coach of all time. The Super Bowl trophy is named after him.

After a long dry spell due to Covid, we were so happy to have two teams visit us this summer.

Six friends from the Naperville, IL area came in July and we had a

great time. All but one had been here before. Distributing fishing kits in villages along Lake Tanganyika was so much fun.

They worked long hours making new table clothes for the Community Center.

The original ones made by Susan Vance years ago were worn out.

A team of eight from Kingwood Texas came in August to build the new Apprenticeship Training Center!

The team was a mixture of first timers and old friends. Working with Don Reed, they worked hard and accomplished the near impossible in getting it done. We now have a new, impressive building for a new ministry. ☩

CHECKLIST

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WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

***Joy in the Harvest* is pleased to announce the appointment of a new full time missionary — Pastor Lee West!**

Lee has been in full-time Christian work for most of his adult life. He is married to Missy, his college sweetheart, who will continue her work in



Pastor Lee West
Joy in the Harvest New Missionary

Washington D.C. for *Alliance Defending Freedom*. Lee brings a wealth of experience and skills to JOY. He is well versed in the digital world and is expert in inter-personal and group relationships. He is working on an update of our website, and will be bringing teams to Tanzania. Lee will be available for speaking events at churches in the USA. Invite him! We are excited that God has called Lee to this ministry. ☩



Always Something New

Radio JOY Gets Repairs and Upgrades

Three big radio projects had to be done before we leave for the USA.

- A new broadcast antenna was installed at our main tower in Kigoma. Hopefully, this one will be less prone to lightning damage.
- Our studio link antenna needed repair and the transmitter needed replacement. While we were at it, we painted the tower, changed the light bulbs, and replaced the tower bolts.
- The automatic diesel generator install at the remote relay tower was completed.

Finances

Our General Fund is still in the red, but we are so heartened by those who gave special gifts to help out! We pray that God will bless you for your kindness.

We know that *Joy in the Harvest* is God’s work. And we know God is able to provide. We have seen many miracles in the past 43 years as missionaries in Africa. We have confidence in the One who has called us and led us here, according to His will.

Claudia wanted me to add a note to the anonymous giver. She can’t send you a thank-you, but we are thankful to you. God knows who you are and He can thank you for us.

Mailchimp Resolved

Mailchimp, our email service, was driving me crazy! As we began the process of switching (as many as possible) from paper newsletters to email, we needed an email service to keep our newsletters out of folks’ junk mailboxes. I really struggled and felt pretty defeated. However, our new missionary, Lee West, jumped on the problem and in a few short weeks had it fixed.

Lee, and his team of volunteers, are calling churches who didn’t let us know their preference — paper or email. The telephoning is working great and our gratitude to both the volunteers doing the calling and the churches who are responding.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When Does Claudia Get Her Knee Replaced?

When is Claudia’s next knee surgery?

— asked by so many

One knee finished, one to go. We head back to the USA for her knee replacement surgery that is scheduled for Sept 25.

Her first knee replacement went very well in October, 2022. They told her she needed both knees done and they would have done the next knee after 90 days.



October 24, 2022

But Claudia wanted to be home for Christmas. The first couple of weeks after surgery were painful but she responded well to physical therapy. With teams coming to Tanzania, I wasn’t sure we could wait almost a year for the next surgery. But Claudia made it! I will be happy to see her out of pain.

Prayers are appreciated for her. And for Lowell, too! ✕

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