

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

March 2024

Dear Friends,

Does life have meaning?

Steve Jobs of *Apple* fame said, "happy people need to feel their work matters and that their contributions help achieve something important." But he wasn't sure anything outlasted earthly life. Jobs said, "I'm about 50/50 on believing in God. I really want to believe that something survives, that maybe your consciousness endures." If it does not, then nothing really matters.

During graduate school, while preparing for the mission field, we stayed in the homes of many Jewish families taking care of their children. They did not believe in an afterlife. Their life's ultimate meaning was someone would remember you after you were gone. A Jewish man once said to me, "If only I could believe what you believe -- that I could be with my children forever."

As a missionary, I see people turn to Christ and find meaning, purpose, and joy. I get to see it here in Tanzania through the work of our staff, and *Radio Joy*, and all the work that is done in His name. You who support this work make it possible for people to have Christ!

Harshness of life for many Africans is their reality. They have few luxuries, no expectations of a long life, and few ways to advance themselves. Their precious children are often taken by death at an early age. Africa's poor are just trying to survive.

Yet, when visitors come to Kigoma they always marvel at the joy the Christians have in their worship services. We always hear visitors say, "We need this joy in our American services!" Christ brings them real hope and real joy. Jesus gives every person, regardless of life's circumstances, meaning and purpose. And joy is the result.

Jesus, who called children close to Him, is the Good Shepard caring for His sheep, the Light of the world, the Truth and the Way. That is the Jesus we serve, obey, and love. We must introduce Him to everyone, everywhere.

Because Jesus makes the eternal difference, it is our privilege to present Him in love to all, and persuade them to accept Him and His salvation. That is the joy we have working in God's harvest.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest®



Speaking Furlough Starts In August

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked."

Bernard C. Meltzer (1916-1998)
Radio talk show host whose advice program, "What's Your Problem?" aired between 1967 to 1993.

It is time to plan our USA speaking furlough later this year. Its been too long since we have seen you!

Our last furlough began in September 2019 and was cut short

by the Covid epidemic. The furlough before that one was cancelled when we were obligated to get *Radio JOY* on the air within a year as a condition of our license.

Believing in a division of labor, Claudia will be doing all the scheduling.

If you would like us to visit your church, please email Claudia at wertz@joyintheharvest.com

Also, we will be making a special effort to visit as many individual supporters as possible.

We plan on using our travel trailer so we will not need any housing.

We are so excited to see you and share what God is doing through JOY. See you soon! ☩

CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

Phone: 708-925-6681

usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

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Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

New Website!

www.joyintheharvest.com

Facebook

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



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Elisheba Andrea Nijnyene has worked for *Radio JOY* for six years. She is a journalist, presenter, and our marketing manager.

She describes herself as "a born again Christian young woman." She is 32 years old and a graduate in Mass Communication from *Tumaini University* of Dar es Salaam. She says about her job, "It was not easy because I didn't



Elisheba and Claudia recording *The Word of God* program. Short Scripture passages are aired 10 times a day.

know much about the job being fresh from college. I am grateful to *Joy in the Harvest* for giving me the chance to grow."

Elisheba, along with doing other programs, is a presenter of the *Good Morning Kigoma* show. She provides laughter and information to her listeners. She is the Swahili voice of our newest program — *The Word of God*. She is a rising celebrity. ☩



Three Exclamation Points!

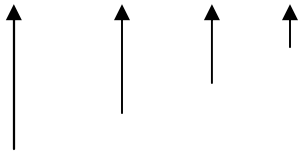
Announcing Our New Website!

Pastor Lee West has put in many hours to develop our new website.

Our old website was dated and stale. We needed a new and fresh website to help communicate information about *Joy in the Harvest* and God's work in Africa.

I think it is both beautiful and fun. Check it out and let us know what you think. Suggestions are always welcome.

www.joyintheharvest.com or www.joyintheharvest.org



Black Ink for 2023!

For me, it is simply a miracle.

After a year of living with red ink in our ministry, enduring stress, making many decisions in faith, we ended 2023 in the black!

Individuals, digging deep and giving sacrificially, got us into the black. **Every gift was critical.** We cannot thank you enough. My spirit soars every time I think of how God used you to turn red into black. Please know how much we love each of you who went over and above, in a great show of love. Thank you, on behalf of many, many Africans and Claudia and myself. Your investments are paying eternal dividends. God is using you in wonderful ways!

NO Visible Cancer!

After seven months of chemo therapy, with awful side affects, our USA office manager Mindy Bendle successfully finished the chemo treatments. The post chemo MRI shows NO visible cancer remaining. God has answered our prayers. Thank you for praying for Mindy. She is not done with it all yet, but this is extremely good news!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What States Will You Visit On Furlough?

What states will you visit on furlough?

— asked by fellow missionary

Claudia will be in charge of our furlough speaking schedule. It is an almost impossible job but she always tries to accept all invitations. Right now, here is our plan when we come to the USA in July. First, we will take time to get our camping trailer ready to hit the road.



Furlough, winter 2020

In August we will start our visits in IL. The beginning of Sept. we start in MI and then we travel to NY, NJ, PA, and OH. In Dec. we will visit AL, GA, and FL. January we plan to visit TX & OK. Then February through May we will be in IL, IN, WI, IA, NC, VA, and anyone else we missed or who wants to meet with us. In June we will pack and close up the camper to return to Tanzania, Lord willing. ☩

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