

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

July, 2009

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Much of my life is spent dealing with walls – real and symbolic. Right now we are building a community center with thick, strong walls made of burnt brick meant to last decades. Walls can provide shelter, protection, and opportunities.

Symbolically, walls can represent strong negatives in our lives; barriers that block our path, thwart our dreams, and leave our goals in shambles.

Right now I am dealing with a wall that seems to be blocking the development of a new hospital. I am trying to figure out how to react. It is an emotional matter because of the devastating implications for the poor who are sick. It is an intellectual matter as I try to apply my abilities to overcome it. It is a faith matter as I wonder why God led me on a path that has a wall blocking it.

One of the things I love about the Gospel is that its truth syncs well with my experiences and reality. The Bible talks about trials, difficulties, picking up a cross daily, and suffering. The Christian is called to a life full of problems. No easy road is promised when following Christ. Walls will be a part of it.

But there is more. The Gospel also speaks of never facing problems alone. It points us to the friend who sticks closer than a brother, and invites us to cast all our cares on the One who cares for us. It teaches that we have a God who is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine. We are told to “take heart”, because Jesus has overcome the world.

In my childhood I watched a TV program about people tunneling under the Berlin wall. Their thirst for freedom drove them to risk their lives to accomplish the near impossible. The program ended with these words, “and by my God, I have leaped over a wall.” (Psalms 18:29) Today that wall is gone.

When the wall is too difficult, when the storm cannot be weathered, when the dream seems impossible, the God of the impossible is still whispering, “take heart”.

Love,

*Lowell + Claudia*



# Joy in the Harvest



THE WAR IN BURUNDI IS OVER...

## Burundi Refugees Heading Home

**“We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but we have only one swift hour, before the sunset, in which to win them.”**

**Robert Moffat**  
1795-1883

Served 54 years as a pioneering missionary to Africa

the war in the Congo brought many thousands more to Tanzania.

**With the last rebel group in Burundi ceasing hostile actions, the last Burundi refugee camp (Mtabila) in Tanzania is slated to close on June 30, 2009.**

We received a “thank-you” visit from the leader of the United Methodists in the camp for our years of helping them. He is returning back to Burundi with the last remaining refugees.

**Refugees from Congo still remain in our area. They are also slowly being repatriated home across Lake Tanganyika. However, no date has been set for the closure of the Congolese camps in Tanzania.** ✕

**Since 1993, it has been our privilege to help refugees who fled into Tanzania.**

The Hutu-Tutsi wars in Rwanda and Burundi, that left so many dead, created hundreds of thousands of refugees. In addition,



### CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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

Tel: 1-708-418-1083  
usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

☺ **Africa Contact Info.**

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

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

☺ **Our Website**  
www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ **The Wedding**

August 8th in Cincinnati, OH our son Luke will marry Kara McNeel. We plan to be there!



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**We were thrilled to have the Doug Calvin family out for a visit. We are thankful that the whole family came. We enjoyed the boys so much!**

Doug started supporting our work as a youngster with his paper route money more than thirty years ago. He and his wife, LaShane, are both pharmacists. Doug is also a



**Doug and LaShane Calvin with their sons: Jacob, Nic, and Jess**

Bible scholar specializing in Old Testament. He taught a week long seminar called “The Old Testament and Jesus.” It was attended by pastors and leaders from all over Tanzania and was highly acclaimed — many saying it was the best they ever attended! We can’t wait to have them all back again. ✕



75,000 BRICKS AND COUNTING...

# Community Center Going UP!

**With generous gifts of funds and expertise, the Community Center is becoming a reality.**

This is the largest construction project that *Joy in the Harvest* has undertaken to date. We are so excited to get this building up and running as it will be a blessing to the Lord's work in many ways.

**We anticipate many ministry projects will make use of the new facility.**

New projects that are expected to use the new facility include:

- Children's Bible club
- Christian lending library
- Recording studio (and radio broadcast station, if we can get the license)



**The walls are three bricks thick with reinforced concrete pillars and ring beams**

Existing projects that will use this building include:

- Women's ministries — giving a place to hold classes
- Computer School — giving us a place to lecture and hold graduation ceremonies
- Compassion ministries — by providing office space

**Construction work is progressing nicely on the building.**

A whole army of people gathered to lift pans of concrete over their heads and up ladders. After many hours of hard work, the recording studio had a floor!

**A container with the roof has arrived in the capital and is in customs. We expect it will arrive in Kigoma soon.**

In October of this year, we have a team of volunteers scheduled to arrive from Texas to help put the roof on the building. It will not be an easy job due to the height of the building.

Please pray for the safety of our crew and visitors who are working on the building. ✕

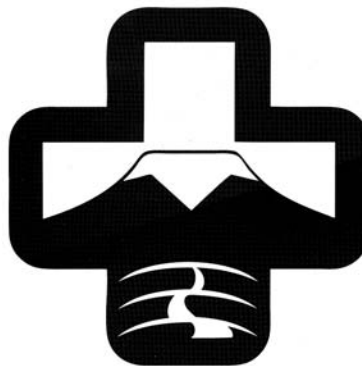


## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# What's happening with the hospital?

**Q. "What is the latest information on the *Medical Center of Central Africa (MCCA)* hospital project?"**

A. At the moment, the news isn't good. We need your prayers for this important project for the poor. We are coming to a critical point with meetings occurring daily. At first, we had full support from the government of Tanzania. Recently, we see that is no longer



**The logo of the *Medical Center of Central Africa***

the case. Subsequent to our application to the Tanzania government for land, a plan to expand the Kigoma port has been revealed. The land needed by the hospital is being considered for use by this port extension. The competing interest in this land is threatening the creation of the hospital. We will know more by Dec. 31, 2009. Please pray for the Lord's will to be done. ✕