



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

Christmas, 2009

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

Christmas is coming! It is coming to the entire world.

Memories of childhood presents and Santa Claus, combine with an adult understanding of God's decision to be with us, and fill us with anticipation of what such a God will do next!

The God of history, who sent His only Son that first Christmas, is not done yet! He is the God of the future, and **we** are the objects of His love.

Today my daughter called from America. The baby she and her husband are expecting in March is a girl. Imagine, my little girl, who I once held in one hand – will be the mother of a tiny girl herself. Imagine, me a grandpa! That thought is still taking time to absorb.

Who is this child who is coming but not yet here? How can this tiny baby evoke deep emotions -- this child I love, but do not yet know. What will she be like? Who will she be like? She will be like her Creator. Made in His image. Carrying with her, every moment of her life, the imprint of His goodness. She will be loved and will be able to love, because the One who created her is love.

In a manger long ago, a mother wrapped Jesus in cloth and as she looked at Him, her heart filled with love. The Christmas miracle was that this special baby was not made in her image, but she was made in His image.

Christmas brought Him to us. He tells us to go to the entire world so all may know that Christ came for everyone.

Love,

*Lowell + Claudia*

# Africa Guests' Photo Album



Assembling the heavy steel trusses.



Working 23 feet in the air on top of an 18 inch wide wall.



A homemade crane is used to lift the trusses into place.



Can you find our four visitors in this picture taken in the refugee camp?



# Joy in the Harvest



ON TOP OF 23 FEET HIGH WALLS

## Community Center Gets Its Roof

Snowflakes melt alone -  
but together they can be  
traffic stoppers!

Teamwork allows  
common people to attain  
uncommon results.

Volunteers aren't paid,  
not because they are  
worthless, but because  
they are priceless.

~~ Anonymous ~~

### The new community center received its roof in October!

After months of delay in Dar es Salaam, the container holding the roofing materials arrived by train just before the volunteers from Texas flew in to start the work. We just got the walls done and the cement was still drying around the mounting plates when the teams

from Texas began raising the huge steel trusses into place. While Texans worked the steel, teams of Tanzanian men and women kept pouring concrete for the ceiling of the radio studio and laying bricks for the gables. The place buzzed with dozens of people working as hard as they could.

**The steel roof weighs more than 25,000 lbs. and is 46 by 142 feet in size.**

The job had its challenges. Large brackets had to be fabricated, welding and cutting were done, and additional steel purlins had to be shipped in from the Congo. The hot tropical sun reflected off of the gleaming metal, cooking the volunteers trying to fasten it down.

**Thank you so much for your hard work and sacrifice!** ☩



### CHECKLIST



#### USA Office Address

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

website: joyintheharvest.com



#### Lowell & Claudia Wertz Africa Address

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

e-mail address:  
wertz@joyintheharvest.com



#### No Christmas Envelope

They were sent in our October special appeal. The above USA address will work fine if you wish to send a gift. We appreciate your help so much during this difficult time!



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Led by Dr. Purvis Harper, a pediatrician, the nine man team from Kingwood, Texas came to help put the roof on the new community center.

An oil field worker, a dentist, businessmen, a geologist, a computer expert, and even a pastor all put their professions aside and became "roof raisers"



The "Raise the Roof" Nine Man Team from Kingwood United Methodist Church

for ten days in October. They assisted Don Reed of *Open Door Enterprises* and his team, who donated the roof. This job required faith. The walls were 23 feet in the air, and 18 inches wide. They said, "We had to get out of our comfortable boat, like Peter, and walk narrow, high walls, to serve Jesus." ☩



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD...

## News in Brief!

### JOY's First Ever Appeal for Operating Funds

In October *Joy in the Harvest* made its first ever appeal asking for operating funds. A significant projected shortfall in the General Fund for 2009 prompted us to get an appeal out to our support base. We asked our friends to make a special one-time gift, to help us remedy the shortfall. Gift remittance envelopes were sent with the appeal. Included with this newsletter is a slip that gives an update on the special appeal. Also, we are studying ways to try to increase General Fund income about 15% in the coming year. *Joy in the Harvest* has ended every year in the black for seventeen years.

### Grace UMC Team from Franklin, Indiana Visits Refugee Camp



**Bill Frosch, Alice Mann, Barb Irving, and Pastor Andy Kinsey visiting the Nyagrusu Camp.**

Congolese refugees appreciated the visit from the Indiana team. A worship service was followed by fellowship time. Gifts were exchanged. The two day trip in a Land Cruiser, on bad roads, and an overnight stay at a Catholic compound added to the adventure.

### Feeding Program Sees Record High Averages

Three afternoons per week, *Joy in the Harvest* feeds the hungry. These people are extremely poor. For some, this is the only food they can find to eat. Attendance in October hit 458 being fed. Of that number, 78 were adults, 380 were children.



**Dentist Dr. Mark Flach gave each child a toothbrush.**



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# How Many Workers Do You Have?

**Q. How many employees does *Joy in the Harvest* have?**  
(asked by a guest)

A. Our staff does an incredible job getting the Lord's work done. We have one full time missionary family (Claudia & Lowell), one part time office manager in the USA, one part time special assignment missionary from the USA, one Congolese missionary working in Tanzania, twenty-eight Tanzanian employees working for us full-time under contract in



**Some of the *Joy in the Harvest* staff working in Kigoma, Tanzania.**

Kigoma. We also have other "special circumstances" employees. In addition to these, we hire additional workers for special projects. For example, for the new community center that is being built, we hired sixty laborers and skilled construction workers for several months. Most of our contract employees are married, and they have 105 children to support. *Joy in the Harvest* is considered one of the largest employers in the Kigoma area. ✕

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



## **Report on Special Appeal for *Joy in the Harvest* General Fund**

As of Thanksgiving Day, a total of 213 gifts have been received: 197 from individuals, 8 from UMW groups, 4 from churches, 2 from Sunday School classes, 1 from a Bible Study, and 1 anonymous.

**The total special giving is currently \$50,474.** The gifts fell into the following ranges: \$1 - \$100 = 153; \$101 - \$500 = 45; \$501 - \$1,000 = 8; \$1,001 - \$3,000 = 6; \$3,001- \$5,000 = 3

We thank God for each person and group who gave! These gifts have significantly reduced the shortfall in 2009 giving. Thank you for your kind and generous help. It is making a huge difference and enabling the work of *Joy in the Harvest* to continue.

THANK YOU!!!!