

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
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April 2010

Dear Friends, Family, and Churches,

“What’s in Your Wallet?” asks the credit card advertisement. You are! To paraphrase one preacher, “Your money is really you. To get money takes your talent, effort, and time. What you do with it indicates your needs and values.”

The response to the **Special Appeal** amazed and thrilled me. You gave money, and in doing so, really gave yourselves to God’s work in Africa. You care about the Lord’s work, about the poor, and about us. I love you for what you did. You lifted us when we were down. I will never forget it or stop thanking God for you.

Many of you have been faithfully giving for years or even decades. You are the reason *Joy in the Harvest* is here. Some of you gave for the first time. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Each gift is making a huge impact in the lives of real people. We get all the fun because we see that happen. You get the credit in Glory, because you didn’t, and you gave anyway.

Looking ahead, we think an increase in income of about 15% is necessary to stabilize the ministry and permit the work to progress. We asked for suggestions concerning this need. Some suggestions inspired us -- others gave us pause.

Some folks said they will try to raise their level of support. That sounds great! Others have suggested that we sell African cookbooks and I should write my memoirs. Probably not so great! Some are taking action. One engaged couple asked their family and friends to make donations in lieu of wedding gifts. The owners of the *Oakland Group* (which does custom embroidery on a large variety of products) have promised to donate a portion of their profits on orders from United Methodist churches. Check out their new website, www.UMCwear.com which was created to support *Joy in the Harvest*.

In January we had a staff meeting in Kigoma and have put additional cost cutting measures into effect. Our African staff offered to donate their overtime pay as a gift to the ministry. Fuel rationing is in effect for our vehicles and generators. In order to keep people better informed, we are revamping our website: www.joyintheharvest.com. Here in Africa, we need to do our part.

The Lord will provide for the needs of *Joy in the Harvest*. Isn’t it great that He uses **us** to accomplish His will! He uses our wallets and our selves to do eternally important things. Let the blessings flow...

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest



WITH GOD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

2009 Ends In The Black!

“We are proud to count *Joy in the Harvest* among those organizations that set the example of integrity within the evangelical community. May God continue to bless your ministry as you do His work.”

The Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountability
Annual Member Review – 2009

When giving dropped in the third quarter and early fourth quarter of 2009, the prospect of ending the year “in the black” looked very bleak.

As the deficit grew, for the first time ever, in October 2009 we made a special appeal for operating funds.

The response was immediate. Special gifts, large and small, started arriving at the Lansing, Illinois Post Office box.

In the depths of this recession, God’s people gave to help resolve the crisis. Sacrificial gifts were evident. Many who haven’t supported the work financially before, gave their first gift. Only God could touch hearts this way.

As of this writing, the total giving toward the special appeal is **\$72,429**. We are so appreciative for each and every gift that was given! God used your faithfulness to exactly meet the need. God is using all of us to provide for the needs of many Africans. May He bless each of you for your generosity and love. **THANK YOU!!!** ✠



CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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☺ **Africa Contact Info.**

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

☺ **Youth Sunday**

On Feb.14, the young people at Gungu UMC did an outstanding job running the service and then fed the congregation a meal.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

How do you keep a very old truck working every day in Africa? Our answer was to hire John.

When we bought our dump truck over 15 years ago, it was already a very used vehicle. For ten years Livingstone was our driver and maintained the truck. Five years ago he left us for a higher paying job. John’s background in



Baba John Mambo Masitiro

mechanics and driving landed him the new job. He had already worked for us as a laborer for 5 years. John is married with two children. He says about our truck, “cylinder head no good — heating so hot; radiator — at end, no service needed, only to be replaced; oil cooler is mixing oil and water — no good.” Pray for John! ✠



FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE OCEAN

News from *Joy in the Harvest!*

***Joy in the Harvest* Women's Retreats to End**

For 17 years, the *Joy in the Harvest Women's Retreat* has blessed both those attending and those working to make it happen. In recent years the attendance has fallen off and the facility that has been used is no longer available. The Board of the Women's Retreat made the decision to end regularly scheduled retreats. However, they have left open the possibility of holding special retreats, perhaps when the Wertzes are in the USA. The Women's Retreats have been a blessing to so many with some finding the Lord and others being encouraged in their spiritual lives. Many important supplies have been collected and shipped to Africa to help JOY's work there.

Computer School Graduates 129 More Students



This was the biggest graduating class ever!

With great celebration, the graduates received their certificates. The students put on skits about how their new certificate would get them jobs and read letters of appreciation. They gave gifts to the teachers and staff of *Joy in the Harvest*. Seven students achieved A+ grades and earned an extra certificate of excellence.

Soccer Tournament 2010

Each year we sponsor the *David Livingstone Memorial Soccer Tournament* (for HIV-AIDS prevention and victim assistance). Thirty-two teams were competing this year. For the first time ever, the *Joy in the Harvest* team won in an overtime penalty shootout!



***Joy in the Harvest* Team wins the David Livingstone Tournament!**



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What's happening with new hospital project?

Q. What is the current situation with the MCCA hospital project?

A. MCCA (*Medical Center of Central Africa*) project was officially terminated on Dec 31. After 18 months, it became clear the land we felt we needed for MCCA is not available at this time. The Tanzanian government has a proposed harbor project and feels the land is needed for that

project. To be fair to our volunteers and donors, we cancelled the project on the deadline we had given and have now returned remaining MCCA funds to the donors. Although this is our present situation, we believe this project was born of God's Spirit and that God isn't finished yet. His love for the poor remains undiminished. We are in a holding pattern waiting for God's

future instructions and action from on high! From the onset, we knew this project was bigger than any individual or organization. It would require God's hand at work in very special and powerful ways. We await our future role in God's solution to the medical crisis of the Lake Tanganyika basin area. For now, we ask for your prayers for the poor who are severely ill and suffering. ✠

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