

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

July 2010

Dear Friends,

For many years Claudia had a sign on her shortwave radio used to keep track of me while I was flying. It had a thunderbolt and said, "The Lord never panics."

Storms are a part of life. Pilots are taught to keep the big weather picture in mind as it helps to make it possible to deal safely with storms.

Understanding God's big picture helps us find our way. Missions is God's answer for a world full of hurt and for lost humanity. It is God's action program based on His most important value -- His love for people. Missions is His priority. It is our holy work. It is the purpose of the Church and it is to be the center of the agenda.

Doing missions is more than meeting a divine obligation. God calls us to missions to bless us and others. If we ignore missions, we will miss those blessings. Apathy will gut our faith and detach us from God's program to love all people. We will be in danger of losing our way. God wants the very best for us. Missions is the fun part of the Church! Mission work, done in God's love, reveals God to us in new ways, and brings freedom from the tyranny of self.

Missions is even more. It is God calling us to change the world. With His help, we can do exactly that. Every Christian is to be an agent of change. What happens "over there" depends on us -- right here, right now. God has put into our hands the ability to change lives and destinies. This is much more than a "do good" philosophy. We live for Christ. We are all called to the work of making missions succeed, whether we are a missionary or not.

If there are storms to be weathered, let us make sure the journey is God's important one. Since problems will come, let them come for the right reasons. Let us bring Jesus our commitment to His mission work, just as He asks. Let us do the hard work, the difficult things, so His salvation may reach the ends of the world.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Harmony-Zelienople UMC in Africa



Marissa sorted over 5,000 books.



Elise learns to carry on her head.



The new staircase gets its first test.



Vance installs the new kitchen in the Calvin guest house.



The team ran a children's program.

Joy in the Harvest



CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS...

Library Project Underway!

Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations.

Henry David Thoreau
1817-1862

Construction of Joy's library facility, in the new Community Center, is finished! Donated books are being unpacked and book shelves are being built.

Over five thousand donated books that were shipped with last furlough's container project, now have a beautiful new home.

Now the job of getting the library up and running begins.

It will take lots of training of staff and work to get the books cataloged and the library organized. We plan to use a new computer based library system called *Mandarin Library Automation*.

The vast majority of books are excellent Christian books.

Most pastors here cannot afford their own personal libraries. We expect they will make use of this great new resource.

Donations of designated funds, and more books, will be greatly appreciate for the library. We praise and thank God for each person who donated books to the container project. ☩



CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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☺ **Africa Contact Info.**

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☺ **Our Website**

www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ **UMC Youth**

Mwenge, our chief of staff, was elected president of the youth for all United Methodist Churches in Tanzania.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

College interns are a great blessing to God's work. We were blessed by having Tessa Ratner, a college senior, serve the Lord with us in Tanzania for one month.

In her own words,

"I became a follower of Christ in 2006, as my heart longed to know a purpose in this world. I am the first of my family to come to Christ... My time here at *Joy in the Harvest* has been life changing. I have



Tessa Ratner, from *Simpson University* in California

done everything from grunge office work to door-to-door evangelism. My comfort zone has been completely challenged... I honestly do not want to leave. An African "Mama", after I prayed for her, tears in both of our eyes, hugged me and for a moment it felt like the cultural barrier was broken — we were just sisters in Christ. I have been blessed to be a part of this ministry for a time, my heart and hope is to return for long term ministry here in Kigoma. ☩



MISSION NEWS...

It's Happening at *Joy in the Harvest!*

Welcome Eva — to the world the Lord has made!

Our first grandchild, a girl, was born to our daughter and son-in-law on March 18, 2010. We are so happy! Her name is Eva and she is the cutest baby in the whole world. Don't you agree?



Eva

Then Came Twelve



JOY's largest work team being welcomed by local church people and our employees!

We have been privileged to have a team of twelve from Harmony-Zelienople UMC in PA during June. Seminars, plumbing work, computer classes, youth work, Bible schools for kids, sewing, library, preaching, radio station work, a 'visitors' choir', are some of the work accomplished. Most of the team stayed for one month.

Teaching Preaching

Lowell taught the preaching class for the degree program students this year at *Lake Tanganyika Bible College*. Mary Schott and Tessa Ratner served on the panel to critique the sermons. The "Dr. Lloyd Perry Method" of expository preaching was used and some excellent sermons were prepared and preached.



Homiletics Class of 2010.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can We Skype With You?

Q. I thought how cool it would be if one of our missionaries, who has Skype capability, would be willing to talk to the kids about their mission field for a few minutes during their Sunday school class. Would this be a possibility for you?
(from Houston, TX)

A. What a different day and age it is! During our first three years in the Congo as missionaries, communication with the "outside

world" was almost impossible. There were no phones and a letter could take six months. You couldn't even mail a letter in the country because the postal workers would steal the stamp. Today instant communications is the norm. *Skype*, which enables very cheap voice and video calls, makes it possible for us to speak with churches and Sunday School classes. It doesn't always run perfectly, but that can be part of

the adventure, too. Sometimes we are on generator to get the call made. Time differences aren't a problem. (Sunday morning in America is Sunday evening in Africa.) We prefer to be given the questions ahead of time as a little preparation makes for a better interview. So the answer is YES, it can be done! And we are happy to Skype with the folks supporting the Lord's work in Africa. Hope to "see" you soon! ✠

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