

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

September 2010

Dear Friends,

I was recently asked for photos of the progress on the Community Center building. When big things are going up, like walls and a roof, it's easy to see progress. Now we are finishing electrical, plumbing, tiles, and installing cabinets. They are vital, but not great for impressive "progress photos".

Which brings me to Automatic Flush!

Visitors had run the plumbing for toilet drains. Two public restrooms would need toilets, urinals, and sinks. I had sent them in a container to Tanzania last furlough. It was time to dig them out and get them installed.

Missionaries are always facing cultural issues. Toilet customs are no exception. You quickly learn not to use your left hand to pass something to another as it is reserved for toilet functions. Then there is the issue of American style commodes that are not used in many parts of the world. Claudia saw the young daughter of an African visitor standing (squatting) on our toilet seat.

We need to have "Swahili style" toilets in the Community Center to accommodate local Muslim customs. These are ceramic flushables recessed into the floor -- the modern version of a hole over a pit latrine. But what about American style men's urinals?

As the urinals were unpacked, none of the workmen knew what they were. Anticipating that problem, I bought a battery-powered sensor that would automatically flush them. I believe we are in for some laughs when we get those working!

In some ways, the Christian life is like a building project. In the early stages you see big changes, much progress, and there is lots of rejoicing. That is followed by a long period of not so visible, but vital changes. God works to complete that which He has begun in us. These more subtle changes refine us. God knows what needs to be done. He knows His plan and our problems, right down to the auto-flush. The Master's finishing work creates quality.

Under Construction,

Lowell + Claudia

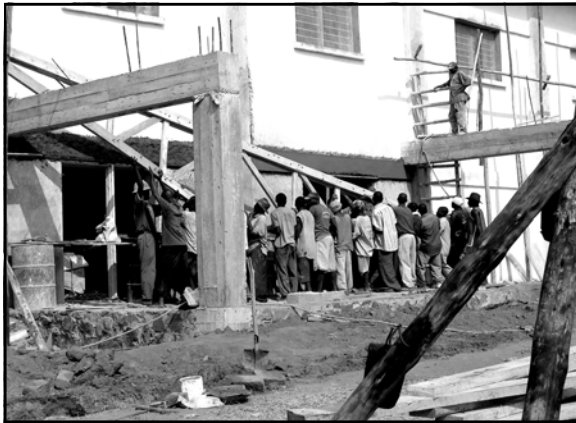
Community Center Construction



A "catwalk" was built 12 feet high along two of the inside walls to allow for photographers and lighting.



A septic system had to be constructed. The sewer line was over 160 feet long.



Raising the rafters to construct the main covered entrance to the building.



All four rafters in place. Also note mosquito wire is being installed over the windows.



The front of the building is being plastered with stucco. The dirt mounds are from the septic system work. The inside of the building is now completely plastered.

Joy in the Harvest

STEP BY STEP ...



Community Center: Progress!

**Go the extra
mile.**

**It's never
crowded.**

Author Unknown

Construction continues daily on the new community center and it is moving into its final stages.

By far, this is the largest construction project *Joy in the Harvest* has ever attempted. From the beginning, we have felt that the Lord has been enabling this building to come into existence.

The large size of the building means that almost every job is a big one.

Plumbing for the public toilets is finished and they are now being plastered & tiled. The kitchen is complete, just awaiting installation of the cabinets. The large multi-purpose room is plastered and awaiting tile. The library is finished. The outside of the building is being trimmed and finished with stucco. Construction of the septic system is underway.

Even while construction continues, a three day pastor's conference will be held in the building during September.

We have received many requests to use the building. It is clear how much it is needed and how it will be a wonderful tool for the Lord's work. ☩



CHECKLIST

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☺ **Our Website**

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☺ **UMC Youth Conference**

JOY sponsored a UMC Youth Conference in August with over 240 youth attending from many churches and areas.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

For eighteen years, we have worked side-by-side with Baba Steven. He is technically not our employee, but an electrically contractor. However, he works for us most of the time. We really love this man of God.

Born in a village in the middle of Tanzania, he was unable to finish his schooling for lack of school fees. At the age of 21 his brother taught him how to do electrical work. He has worked as an



Baba Steven, installing the circuit breaker box for the Community Center.

electrician for Sharriff Electrical Works, Kigoma Water Department, and the Kigoma Police. He retired in 1991 and started his own business. Baba Steven is 67 years old, has been married for 35 years and has 8 children, 5 daughters and 3 sons. He is a member of the Moravian Church. He says, "I was baptized on Dec. 25, 1961. Up to now, I am still happy and enjoying being a Christian." ☩



FROM AFRICA ...

News, Insights, and Happenings !

Lowell Attends UMC of Tanzania Annual Conference

By invitation of Bishop Ntambo, Lowell attended the UMC Annual Conference held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania June 27 & 28. It was held in the First UMC in the capital, a church *Joy in the Harvest* built. Due to a scheduling conflict, they changed the date of Annual Conference to enable Lowell to attend. It was a wonderful time together. Plans are being made for the United Methodist Church of Tanzania to become its own Annual Conference. It was announced that this momentous event will occur in Kigoma in 2012, the place where the UMC of Tanzania was first planted. Our new Community Center building will be the venue for this event.

Wertz Family African Reunion



Luke, Kara, her sister Laura, Grandma Wiesner, Claudia, Lowell, Eva, Kimberly, and Daniel.

What a joy to have some family time here in Kigoma! It was Christmas 2008 that the family last gathered together in Kigoma for Luke & Kara's engagement.

Mom comes every December to March, but when she heard the "kids" would be here in August, she said, "Count me in!" And she's back!

Board of Directors' Meeting

Our July Board of Directors' meeting made many important decisions:

- Rev. Marti Troyer was approved as a home missionary to represent JOY to churches and bring teams to Tanzania. (More details in our next newsletter!)
- We will work to expand our support base **so the ministry can continue to expand.**
- We added an **online method of donating** on our website. (Now usable!)
- We hope to add new missionaries and personnel, as the Lord leads.

Please ask the Lord how He may **use you** to make JOY even more effective in reaching more people with His love and salvation. We need your help!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions

When our kids were coming to Tanzania for 3 weeks, people asked them questions...

To Luke, from his boss:
"You are coming back, aren't you?"

(Luke said he was planning on it but thinking about opening an East Africa branch for the University of Cincinnati.)

To Kara, from friends:
"Where is Kigoma? What language do they speak there? What do people wear in Kigoma?"

To Laura, from friends:
"What are you going to do there? How long of a flight is it? Will you have internet to keep in touch?"

To Grandma Wiesner from several people:

"Since you usually go in December and stay through March, are you just going to stay from August through March?"

(The answer is no, but she plans on being back in December!)

And Claudia's question:

"Why do they all have to leave so soon?"