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Dear Friends and Family,

We are building a recording studio so I am dealing with the fascinating area of acoustics. I am learning acoustics deals with two key issues: keeping noise out of the studio (soundproofing) and making adjustments inside so the sound is good (tuning).

To soundproof a studio, you need airtight construction that is massive. Our studio has eighteen inch thick walls, poured concrete floors and ceilings, and windows made of double layers of thick glass blocks. The entrance is an airlock with three solid doors.

The inside of the studio is tuned using absorbers and deflectors. Without a proper balance, the studio will either have a dead, creepy sound or echoes and frequency spikes that will make you wish you were anywhere else. Many hours of study went into the design of our studio. Professionals earn a good living doing this work. Missionaries do it to catch fish.

I discovered some spiritual lessons from studying acoustics. Spiritual soundproofing needs a massive Fortress to keep out the chaos of the world. Martin Luther, who started the Protestant reformation, wrote a song called *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*. Europe erupted into many religious wars because of Luther's Biblical theology. Yet, twenty-nine years later, Luther died of natural causes, in his own bed. His last written words were "We are beggars." Luther, the spiritual beggar, found shelter in the Fortress.

What about the tuning of our insides? What of the cacophony of ugly notes bouncing inside our souls? Disharmony has no place in the person we hope to become. Acoustical absorbers neutralize sound. Spiritual absorption neutralizes evil by overwhelming it with good. "Turning the other cheek" does not make us victims, it makes us spiritually vibrant.

Absorbers work best when used with deflectors. We cannot absorb every hurt. Most need to be deflected away, toward Jesus. He is able to destroy the power of wrong. We are then readied for harmonies to emerge from within. God's balanced acoustics for the soul produces a place within us for masterpieces that are perfect and memorable.

Love,

*Lowell + Claudia*

# Look What's Happening in the Community Center!



Lowell taught a college course, **Biblical and Theological Research**, for *Lake Tanganyika Bible College* in the Community Center. Our new library was put to good use.



*JOY Computer School* Graduation Ceremony.



Final Examination for the *JOY Computer School*.



*Hope of the Nations Bible College* held their graduation ceremony in the Community Center.



Making acoustical absorber panels for the new recording studio.



Eva, our granddaughter's first birthday party -- 45 workers and friends came.



Lowell speaking to the newly formed group of Christian youth in Kigoma. It is called, *Unity of Christian Youth*, and is for all the youth of all the Kigoma churches. It meets twice a month in the Community Center.



A "Send Off" wedding party for the marriage of Furaha, a girl from our church.

Our Muncie Indiana team did a fantastic job of sorting and organizing donated supplies. What a job! But what a blessing!





# Joy in the Harvest



MAJOR CONSTRUCTION FINISHED

## Community Center is Open!

**There are three stages in the work of God —**

- Impossible
- Difficult
- Done

*Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)  
Missionary to China*

**After two years of difficult construction work, the Community Center is open and being used!**

This Center is the largest construction under-taking by *Joy in the Harvest* in our twenty year history. It is a fantastic building that will be used in many different ways for God's work.

It took the work and support of hundreds of people to make it a reality. Children and adults donated funds that would have purchased their Christmas presents. Many used their annual vacation time to come and help build it. Our Africa staff worked long hours and then donated their overtime pay to make this Center a reality. Despite the world-wide recession, God touched hearts and the job got done.

**This building will be the new ministry hub for *Joy in the Harvest*.**

The Center consists of three offices, a large multi-purpose room able to seat 500, kitchen, public restrooms, library, and a future recording /radio studio. A storeroom provides a place for chairs, tables, and the stage when not needed. We praise God for this wonderful & important facility. ☩



### CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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☺ **Africa Contact Info.**

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

☹ **Lowell's Kidney Stone**

Three more procedures, now totaling six. Complications of surgery is now the main problem. Double Ouch!



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

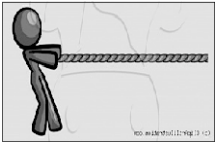
**Ten woman from Indiana, led by JOY's missionary candidate, Rev. Marti Troyer, came for two weeks and became a part of the *Joy in the Harvest* family.**

When Air Tanzania went bankrupt, the team was flown in by small aircraft. Three on the team had never flown in an airplane before! They got to see the chimps and other African



**Ten ladies from the High Street UMC in Muncie, Indiana visiting the refugee camp.**

animals at Gombe & Mikumi National Parks. This team knew how to work! They ministered in a refugee camp, helped hundreds at our feeding center, and cataloged books for the library. They also unloaded four ocean containers, and sorted, organized, and inventoried the mission's donated goods. **I am convinced, there isn't anything Methodist women can't do.** ☩



SACRIFICE, DEDICATION, COMMITMENT

# God's People Holding the Ropes.

## Lowell Appointed District Superintendent

The United Methodist Church of Tanzania (UMC/T) is becoming an Annual Conference. Lowell has been appointed D.S. of the Kigoma District by Bishop Ntambo. In 1990, the late Bishop Wakadilo asked Lowell to be a part of a small team of pastors to establish the UMC in Tanzania. Seeing the UMC/T becoming its own Annual Conference is a thrill. Lowell, as a UM pastor, has served *Joy in the Harvest* for 21 years under special appointment. *Joy in the Harvest* works across denominational lines and has worked closely with Methodist Churches. This new appointment will not change Lowell's status or work with *Joy in the Harvest*.

## Very Special Guests

With unprecedented upheaval in the middle east, some special guests found themselves in need of a place to stay. *Joy in the Harvest* was privileged to provide housing and other assistance to three families who stayed with us in Kigoma.

So many families are being required to change their plans and make unexpected adjustments. Our guests are all now back in the middle east. Some are in danger. Please pray for them and all the families impacted by these wide-scale events. Also pray for the unfolding of a new day for the millions of people living in that part of the world.

## Remember

*Joy in the Harvest* cannot do more than our finances will allow. Churches and mission organizations have been hurt by the world-wide recession. Our Board of Directors has formed a special "resource committee" to try to increase income by 25%.

Please prayerfully consider if God would have you begin supporting this ministry, or even increase your support.

We want all funds given to JOY be an act of worship on the part of the giver. Help financially if you can, but please take the time to thank the Lord for His love for the poor and the spiritually lost.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## How will the Community Center be Used?

**Q. How will the Community Center be used in your ministry?**

A. The building is so new, it is impossible to give a complete list. Church seminars are on the list. So are youth meetings, children's ministries, classes from "how to plant a tree" to college courses, and missionary Bible studies. Wedding receptions and "send offs" for those marrying in distant



**The JOY team in charge of the Community Center — calendar, rules, cleaning, security, & volume control.**

places. Our library is open to the public. We expect to see pastors doing sermon preparations with our theological books. We are installing a recording studio for the fantastic African music here. Our dream of having a Christian radio station is getting closer. The Community Center is a part of our witness for Christ. This wonderful facility is available to everyone, including the poor. It shows love to all people, in Christ's name. ✠

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