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September 2011

Dear Friends,

I recently received an email from a family working in a very dangerous place. They are there because they feel a call from God upon their lives. In the email, they described gunfire and hardships, but ended their message saying, “knowing that we're where we're supposed to be”.

When I read that line, I was transported back in time over thirty years. We began our missionary career in a country that had experienced many years of war. Over three hundred missionaries had been killed since Congo received independence. Many people thought we were crazy. Some family members just didn't understand. But we had a call upon our lives. Mail took months and I remember ending many of our early letters with those joyous words, “we know we are exactly where we are supposed to be”.

The call is a blessing. I can't see how we could have survived our years in Africa without it. I remember the old time missionaries discussing among themselves the new missionary arrivals. They would very quickly make judgments as to whether they had what it takes to “make it”. In retrospect, I think they were simply sensing if the newcomers “were called”. The old timers were usually right, too. Many didn't make it and went home because of difficulties and discouragements.

The call we received from the Lord, so many years ago, has been key to our service as missionaries. That call has enabled us to serve despite difficulties, which come in many forms.

I hope you, as a Christian, can say “I am exactly where I am supposed to be”. We share the responsibility to make Jesus known everywhere. Some are enabled to go, some are the enablers. Many of you have worked, given, and prayed for a strong witness for Christ through *Joy in the Harvest*. God is answering. We all have been entrusted with the Gospel and we all have great reasons to rejoice!

There is still so much to do. The work is far from finished. God is still calling people to go to difficult, impossible places. Let us uphold those serving the Master under gunfire, great difficulties, and severe hardships. It is what God wants us to do!

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



EVERY FIFTH YEAR IS FURLOUGH YEAR

Furlough Begins Next Summer

“The church is the great lost and found department.”

Robert Short (1932-2009)
author of
The Gospel According to Peanuts

Why announce furlough a year in advance? Some church calendars require that much notice.

This has been the most productive and blessed term of missionary service we have ever had. And we still have another year to go! We will look forward to bringing a report,

a word of thanks, and encouragement about the Lord’s work in Africa. If your church has a special date you would like us to come, please let us know. Lord willing, we will begin booking dates and arranging our furlough calendar starting January 1, 2012. We plan on speaking from August 2012 to June 2013. Like last furlough, we hope to use our travel trailer to make it possible to visit as many churches and see as many friends as possible.

We are grateful to the individuals who support JOY and look forward to seeing you!

We thank God for all of you who have done so much for the Africans and for us. Feel free to drop us a line at any time and we will do our very best to see you. ☩



CHECKLIST

- ☺ **USA Contact Info.**
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- ☺ **Our Website**
www.joyintheharvest.com
- ☹ **Lowell’s Kidney Stone**
The saga continues... another procedure scheduled for Oct 20. If not successful — major surgery. Pray appreciated.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

The team came from Ohio, Indiana, Congo, & Zimbabwe!

With the cancellation of direct flights from the capital of Dar es Salaam to our town of Kigoma (650 miles away), traveling became an African adventure for this group whose motto was “listen, learn, & love”. Our trip to the refugee camp had two breakdowns and two flat



Rev. Sylvain, Jim Stewart, Tom McElfresh, Diana Aveline, Rev. Jim Irwin, Rev. John Whitaker, Lovemore, Tim Grace, Jane Wise

tires. Time was spent on the road side enjoying the African bush. Getting their “left behind” suitcases and supplies required a JOY employee to travel by bus to bring their luggage. He was then arrested by the police for being suspicious! The blessings and memories are good and God’s love was experienced by all and shown to many Africans. ☩



LIFE IS GOOD

This and That!

Did You Notice the ® ?

When one of our supporting churches informed us that another international Christian ministry had “adopted” our ministry’s name, we thought it prudent to register our name with the Federal government as the official service mark of our ministry. After many months of legal work, the official service mark was awarded and we can now display the little ®. Legally this means the name “Joy in the Harvest” belongs to us and other ministries cannot use it. The other ministry graciously dropped using our name and also changed their website. We thank them for this. Our supporters can now be assured there will be no confusion going forward.

Our First District Meeting

Not knowing how to be a District Superintendent, I decided to call a meeting! All the pastors and “church conductors” in the Kigoma District came and we shared our testimonies and got to know each other better. Each one received a new Bible and a few gifts to help out their families. Pray for us that we may do a great job for Jesus Christ!



The UMC spiritual leadership of the Kigoma Tanzania District.

Get Down From There!



When a three day children’s program was going on in JOY’s new Community Center, we found footprints on the toilet seats. Also, boys came screaming out of the men’s room terrified by the auto-flush on the urinals. We have to teach more than the Gospel...



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who Got Married at the Community Center?

Q. Who was the person who got married at the Community Center? (Asked by former visitor)

A. Only the wedding reception, not the wedding itself, was held at the Community Center. A Muslim wedding ceremony takes several days and the reception is the last step. Ulla Shariff was one of the four sisters who were students in JOY’s very first computer class. The Shariff



Ulla and Mohammed with Claudia and Lowell at the wedding reception.

sisters eventually became our computer teachers. Ulla worked for Joy in the Harvest for seven years at the Computer School. The Shariff family is a very prominent Muslim family in the Kigoma area and have become dear friends. Over 250 Muslims attended their reception. The food was catered by a local hotel. It was meaningful to us to be able to provide a nice setting for Ulla and Mohammed’s reception. ☩

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