



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



December 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

An important part of my hobby of amateur radio is collecting post card confirmations of distant radio contacts (called DX). We collect them from as many countries as possible. For ham radio purposes, a country can be a tiny uninhabited reef in the ocean with an amateur station setup for only a few days. The competition is fierce and only those with finely honed skills and great patience have the highest country counts. A saying within the amateur radio community is **“DX comes to the deserving”**.

Sometimes when I take visitors fishing out on Lake Tanganyika, I tell them, just for fun, **“fish come to the deserving”**. It heightens the excitement for those who hook one, and rubs a little salt in the wounds for those who don't.

When Jesus came to us on that first Christmas, He did not come to the deserving. No one deserves this Savior. We didn't deserve to have Him leave His throne, and suffer injustice at the hands of evil mankind. We didn't deserve for Him to pay our death penalty for sin. Christmas is not about us getting what we deserve. It is about God loving us with everything He had, when we deserved nothing.

Christmas is the opening scene in the greatest love story in the universe. We, who didn't deserve Jesus, got a wonderful Savior, eternal life, and an inheritance beyond imagination.

What does Jesus ask of Christians in return? Two things. We should be like Him, and we should take His Gospel to the ends of the earth.

The final scenes of His love story are to be written by us. Let us do our part to make them glorious. We must make His love and truth ring out to an undeserving world -- in great need. Shall we, who have everything because of Him, fail Him? Let us make Him proud!

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2011 — A Great Year in Review

Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work.

Steve Jobs, 1955–2011

Stanford University commencement address 2005

Many have been helped, in Jesus' name. Here are some highlights:

- Many came to faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior as a result of evangelism, preaching, and personal counseling.
- We hosted 40 visitors to work on

the mission field in Africa. They were a blessing.

- The Community Center was completed! It is now being used for meetings, seminars, wedding receptions, etc. It is a great tool for ministry!
- Opened JOY's library to the public. Over 5,000 volumes.
- Provided total care for 42 profoundly handicapped destitutes and their 8 children.
- Served over 52,000 meals to the hungry. (mostly children)
- Helped dozens of poor families in crisis with medical emergencies, clothes, food, and other assistance.

(Continued on Page 2)



CHECKLIST



USA Office

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

Phone: 219-365-7908

web: www.joyintheharvest.com



Lowell & Claudia Wertz Africa Address

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

e-mail:
wertz@joyintheharvest.com



Christmas Envelope

Your gift is very important. JOY needs your generosity as never before. Make this a *Joy in the Harvest* Christmas!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Our Board of Directors met on September 23-24, 2011 to chart our way forward. We are blessed with incredible people ready to do God's work.

Pastors, a surgeon, a nurse, insurance executive, construction executives, athletic trainer, and a pharmacist. God has brought together this team to make critical



Jim Meyer, Brent McQueen, Cindi Myers, Charles McWherter, Marti Troyer, Doug Calvin, Steve Moga. (not pictured: Donna Trinko, Seaby Bess)

decisions for His work. We have a talented and gifted Board of Directors. This ministry in Africa can't happen without people in the USA dedicating themselves to help. We thank God for these leaders. *Joy in the Harvest* needs more workers! Would you volunteer to be used by God? Please contact us if you are willing to help. ✝



Let's Thank the Lord!

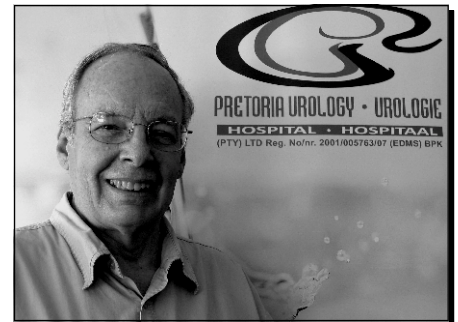
Year 2011 In Review

(Continued from Page 1)

- Sponsored a soccer tournament with 32 competing teams, as a means of HIV/AIDS education.
- Planted 27,000 trees to help the poor. Firewood is cooking fuel.
- Had our first short-term missionaries very successfully serve the Lord with JOY.
- Provided material assistance to refugees. Also preached and taught in the refugee camps.
- Held twice monthly events for the youth of Kigoma. Almost all the area churches participated. The purpose was to create "Unity of the Youth in Christ".
- Sheltered three families who had to leave the Middle East due to violence occurring there.
- Lowell was appointed District Superintendent of the Kigoma District of the United Methodist Church of Tanzania.
- Graduated 245 students from JOY's Computer School.
- Employed 30 Africans which included salary and medical care for their families.
- Received USA "Registered Service Mark" for our ministry.
- Passed an IRS audit of our ministry with flying colors and maintained membership in good standing with ECFA.

Lowell's Health Update

Lowell had seven hospitalizations in South Africa this last year for kidney stones and complications. His latest procedure was on October 18, 2011. Doctors continue treating him for a ureter stricture. They have isolated the cause of his stone development to a calcium absorption problem. Thanks so much for your prayers!



Lowell at the Pretoria Urology Hospital in South Africa.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will You Be Sending Another Container?

Q. You mentioned you are starting furlough next fall. Do you plan to ship another container to Africa?

(asked by several people)

A. Lord willing, YES! We plan to begin construction of the **Beck Guest House** as soon as our next term begins. We will need to ship supplies for that project. At the beginning of furlough we plan to send out, to our mailing list, our "needs list" of items we would



The Youth Group from Fishers UMC loading donations into a U-Haul truck in Carmel, IN for transport to the ocean shipping container in Lynwood, IL

like to include in this shipment. Last furlough we set up collection points for donations, run by volunteers, in various locations across the USA. We need volunteers to do this again. We know we will need, for our new radio station, used CDs, cassettes, and vinyl records of music. We need factory issued items — copies won't work. They can be Christian, easy listening, classical, — almost any kind of music. ☩

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