

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

March 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

I was recently struck by a phrase used a couple of times in the book of Acts -- "the Word of God grew".

I have always thought of the Word of God as being the Bible: fixed, complete, unchangeable truth, and eternal. But for the early believers, the Word of God was something that was very alive and could grow. The book of Acts says the Word of God spread, grew in power, and increased. So much for my static view...

While the Bible is the word of God, John proclaimed that Jesus is the Word. Because He is alive, He brings life changing power into the lives of people. For the early Christians, it was this wonderful Word that was to be taken to people living in far away places. This Word was increasing in power and growing, as people came to Jesus.

As a missionary, my job is to follow "orders from heavenly headquarters". The path I have been brought down has had many surprises - wars, revival, sorrow, joy, regret, and expectancy. I have flown airplanes, fixed radios, built buildings, preached the Word, and tried to bless the poor. I am usually overwhelmed and seldom bored. I am always stretched, often wrongly anxious, but always blessed. But no matter the circumstance of the moment, the faith needed to lean forward into the opposing wind comes from the living Lord.

Like the ground we stand on, when it starts to rumble and shake, you just know something very big might be starting. God's Word has the power to shake the universe and redeem lives. My life has many jigsaw puzzle pieces but the ever growing Word of the Lord is always the big picture. My small puzzle pieces of that big picture are pure joy.

My heart is filled with gratitude to you who have played a critical role in the work here. You open your hearts and your wallets. You touch thousands of lives. You heard the Word of God and you acted. I can never repay you. I can only offer prayers of thankfulness for you. For all eternity, it will be known, the Word of God grew in Africa because of you.

Love,

*Lowell + Claudia*

## *Joy in the Harvest* -- Studio One



The new *Joy in the Harvest* Recording Studio Control Room.



The "Live Room" where performances of choirs, interviews, etc., will take place.



# Joy in the Harvest<sup>®</sup>



SOUND-PROOFED AND ACOUSTICALLY TUNED

## Recording Studio Ready!

**... radio (is) the most effective communication tool in Tanzania at present... An estimated 95% of the population listen to the radio at least once a week...**

*Africa Media Development Initiative, 2006. By Jones and Mabando*

*Funding by BBC, Gates Foundation, and others.*

**These last three months have been given to finishing the construction of a recording studio in the *Joy in the Harvest* Community Center.**

Music is a central feature of African culture. Every church has choirs and music plays a key role in

worship. We felt that by creating a recording studio we could bless the African churches by providing both a means of recording their music and a motivation to perform music to the best of their abilities.

**When I made an announcement at our Kigoma District meeting about the studio, the church leaders practically came out of their chairs with excitement!**

The recording studio is the first step toward having a broadcast ministry in Tanzania. It is required to have a recording studio before the government will consider our FM radio license application. We have now filed our radio station license application with the government. This is a big undertaking. We ask for prayer as we move forward in faith with this new ministry. ☩



### CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Contact Info.**

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

Tel: 1-219-365-7908  
usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

☺ **Africa Contact Info.**

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

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

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

☹ **Lowell's Kidney Trouble**

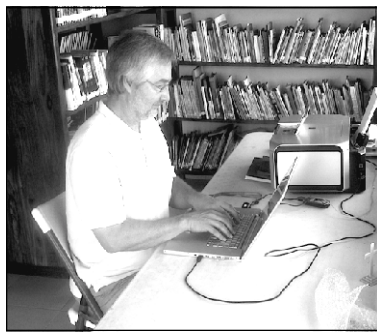
He is scheduled to have another medical evaluation March 2 in Pretoria, South Africa.



### WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

**John Everett, from Oklahoma, came for six weeks to help us with the work. He is both a lawyer and an engineer and we put him to work using his skills in both areas. In his own words, he describes his experience:**

“What a joyful privilege to be here. I know of no other mission effort



**John Everett helped prepare our FM radio license application for the Tanzania government.**

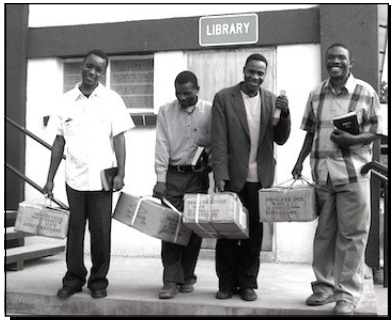
that does so much, in so many ways, to spread the good news, nurture the people spiritually, and, at the same time, improve the lives of thousands and thousands of Tanzanians through sustainable development projects. *Joy in the Harvest* is more than a phrase, it permeates every level of every project. I can't wait to come back.” ☩



DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN

# “Up to the Minute” News!

## \$2,000 worth of Bibles



We were able to gift \$2,000 worth of Bibles to twelve churches in our area. The churches will sell the Swahili Bibles to their members for only 20% of their wholesale price. This is a price that poor people can afford. The churches will then be able to use the money they collect for their work. A few Bibles were set aside as gifts for new believers.

## HIV / AIDS Prevention

Every year we sponsor a soccer tournament. Each player must get a lecture on HIV / AIDS before being allowed to play. This year secondary schools were invited to send teams. In the past it was semi-pro teams that played. We filled the Community Center twice with students receiving the lecture. Lives are being saved.



**Capacity crowds.  
Life saving information.**

## What is it?



At 2AM, on my birthday, an animal came into our yard and attacked our dogs. You can't believe how brave this thing was. You have never heard such a racket! No one here knows what it is. Anyone out there have an idea? The watchmen got a present for bravery in guarding our yard. Claudia said, “Happy Birthday, Honey!”



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# Can you visit us during furlough?

### Q. Can you come to our church during your furlough?

A. We would love to come! We can come only if invited and we need to get your church on our calendar.

Claudia has started booking churches for furlough visits. We will begin speaking on the east coast in New Jersey on August 26, 2012. We will be in NY, NJ,

and PA for 10 weeks through November 4, 2012.

From November 9, 2012 to the end of our furlough (July 2013) we'll be available to visit our churches in the mid west & other states.

Because Sundays are limited, please consider the possibility of creating mid-week opportunities

for us to get together. UMW meetings, mission committee, youth functions, or home meetings.

We'll even love to meet for coffee at the local coffee shop! Help us get in as many visits as we can to make this a great furlough. Many of you have already contacted us. Others need to get in touch so we can get you on the calendar! Please email Claudia as soon as possible. ✕

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

**SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY** -- Our March newsletter was printed when we received word of an offer of a special gift of \$20,000. to *Joy in the Harvest* to be used as a matching gift. This donor will match – dollar per dollar – every gift up to \$20,000. These funds will be designated for the General Fund. This applies to special gifts, above regular giving. If you would like to help, please send your special gift to:

*Joy in the Harvest*, P.O. Box 496, Lansing ,IL 60438 and mark it **“Matching Gift”**.