



Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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Dear Friends and Family,

When our container got knocked off the train tracks, so did my spirit. The container took a year of work, tons of money, and it was so important to our ministry. I just couldn't get my mind around the loss.

I started imagining what happened inside when the accident happened. If it fell on its right side, the heavy copper would smash the radio equipment. If it landed on its left side, the Apple computers would be crushed. The 800 pound machine would destroy everything in its path.

These thoughts made me crazy. I would try to put it out of my mind and try to cast all my cares on Jesus. "Its God's stuff", I would say. It worked for a few minutes. But soon it was driving me crazy again.

Then I remembered something that happened thirty years ago. We were coming back to Africa after our first furlough. We brought everything in boxes as excess baggage on the airline. We had thirty boxes as it was the only way to get supplies into Zaire.

Landing in Lubumbashi, Zaire, the cargo door on the jumbo DC-10 was at least 20 feet up in the air. The cargo conveyer belt was broken so they just threw the luggage out. I watched as some of our boxes split open upon impact. Others were just smashed.

Delicate electronic repair equipment! Our first computer! The sewing machine! All our supplies for three years! To make matters worse, only half the boxes arrived! Theft was so common, there seemed little hope.

I was told to come back the next day. The next day the conveyer belt was working and the rest of our boxes did arrive. Later, when we opened all the boxes -- it was a miracle. The smashed boxes were clothes and other non-breakable items. The other boxes contained everything fragile. We didn't lose a single thing!

When the muddy and dented container finally arrived, to our amazement, everything inside was in **perfect condition**. We didn't lose a thing. I can't explain it. It is beyond my understanding -- this container was in a train wreck! If God can take care of His stuff -- even more so -- He can take care of His children!

Have a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Snapshots from Tanzania



Suddenly we knew, everything was okay in the container.



Pouring the foundation for the studio link tower. It took 40 bags of cement.



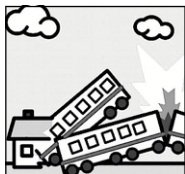
We built a 40 foot tower to be able to hoist our studio link tower. This was the first trial run at raising the studio link tower.



The main broadcast tower for the mountain top is under construction. It is a big project.



Joy in the Harvest®



BESIDE THE TRACKS FOR TWO WEEKS

Train Wreck! Container On Its Side!

.. once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about...

Haruki Murakami 1949—
Best selling Japanese author.

Filled with fragile equipment, we chose to bring the container by train, instead of truck, to give it as smooth a ride as possible.

You can imagine our reaction when we received a phone call from the

fellow we hired to ride with the container for the 650 miles train trip from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma.

“Off the tracks, on its side, the flatcar is totally wrecked, it is in the wilderness...”

The implications of losing the contents of the container were almost too much to comprehend. Five years worth of supplies, the radio station equipment, and so much more.

I remembered the headline of my last newsletter, “Now we pray!” And many did.

Weeks later, as we opened the doors of the container, we were braced for the worst. Much to our surprise, nothing was damaged! I will never be able to give a scientific explanation for this, only a spiritual one. ☩



CHECKLIST

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Christmas Envelope

Please ask God if you should help the ministry of *Joy in the Harvest* with a special gift.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

People always ask. “What will I do if I come visit you?”

The answer is, “It depends on what’s going on when you come.” These guests, who have been here many times before, jumped right into the work. Plumbing the new Beck Guest House, engineering and building radio towers, sewing quilts, sorting clothes for



Terry & Ruth Ann Miller from Indiana
Judy & Harold Weatherwax from Texas

distribution, and helping to unload the container. They also helped at the feeding center, gave a witness at the widows’ ministries, and got music ready for Radio JOY.

With TWO engineers and their wives hard at work, God’s mission work moved forward. Thanks to these friends for their service! ☩

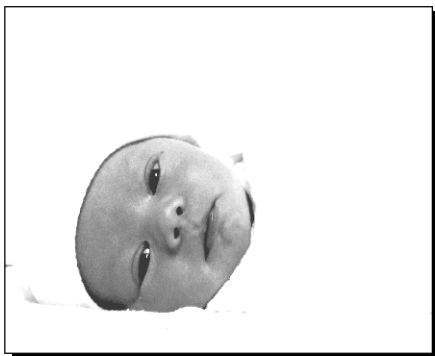


Ain't Life Great!

Proud Grandparents Again! Meet John Valor Harrison!

Born in Amman, Jordan, on October 27, he weighed 7 pounds and was 20 1/2 inches.

Mother and son doing fine! So is Dad and sister Eva.



“You can call me John.”

Beck Guest House Progress



The new Beck Guest House with a beautiful view of Lake Tanganyika.

The walls are up and the roof trusses are going on. The drain plumbing is done and connected to the septic system. Once the building is under roof, we will pour the floors and start with plaster and stucco.

How God Used A Sign

Over twenty years ago, a man visiting Kigoma saw our *Joy in the Harvest* sign at the side of the road. God burnt that memory into his mind, and told him to return. God wouldn't let him forget, reminding him year after year. Finally, although stricken with bone cancer, he and a friend, Andre, made the trip to see us. Taking his chemo treatment while traveling from South Africa, he knew God was directing him to come. Arriving here, he was thrilled to find God's work doing well — more than he had imagined. He plans to lead a two week seminar in January for Christian leaders. John Boerstra is a man of prayer. We need godly people to come here — to help.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are you on Facebook?

Q. “Hey, are you on Facebook or not?”

A. Well, only sort of...

The Radio Conference I attended in Nairobi sent me an email saying all the details about the conference were on their Facebook site. So I signed up for a Facebook account in order to get the conference details.

Immediately my email inbox was filled with dozens of requests and



“Facebook”, my new frontier?

messages from people. Many I know and many who I didn't know. Without the time to figure

this out, I had to make a folder and move everything “Facebook” into it.

If you are in that folder, please forgive me. I intend to find out more about Facebook in the future. Right now I don't have the time as we are just getting back to Africa and have so many projects happening.

The little that I know about Facebook, I think I might actually like it. ✕

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