



Radio JOY License Has Been Signed!

Today, December 8, 2014, we were informed that our 5 year radio broadcast license has been signed by the Minister of Information and Communications. We have been told to expect the final documents within a week or two. They will contain the details, such as our operating frequency. Thanks to all of you who have supported this effort with your prayers and finances. We are building this station, "*... so they may know Jesus...*" We couldn't do it without you!



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

December 2014

Dear Friends,

Next month will mark our 35th year in Africa. When my mother passed away six weeks ago, we were on opposite sides of the world. She was used by God, more than any other person, to help me become a missionary.

My mother found the Lord, just before I was born. I was raised in a Christian family. I found the Lord as a young child, kneeling at the foot of my mother's kitchen chair, as she led me to Christ.

When I was young, my parents and another family started a church. It grew from a basement, to a rented hall, and to an empty Chevy garage which the church purchased. Members renovated it into a place of worship. Theological students would come preach. Hundreds attended the Vacation Bible School. I learned about being a Christian and God's eternal purposes.

My mother's passion for missions meant we had visiting missionaries for meals at every opportunity. She wanted her children exposed to missionaries. The stories they told, the experiences they shared, and the lives they lived had a deep impact on me. I still remember many of the things they said. They weren't trying to impress, but they were impressive.

Mom was strict but always an encourager. As a teenager, when I became a "ham" radio operator, she never objected to huge antennas on the top of our house. My hobby meant having my bedroom and garage filled with equipment and "electronic stuff". When I contacted missionaries on my short wave radio, I found that sometimes she had already read their biographies.

When I felt that God wanted me to make a trip to Africa at the age of 19, our family didn't have the money, but she remained positive. My Dad couldn't get his mind around the idea. In the end, they took out a bank loan to send me. God used that first trip to call me to become a missionary, but He had used my mother and father to prepared me to receive His direction for my life.

I found Christ at Mom's feet. I was guided by her Christian values and love. She gave me a vision beyond myself -- for the world. She helped our mission work in every possible way and was a permanent encourager. This past September, when I saw her for the last time, she said, "if I'm not here, see you in heaven!" Yes, Mom, see you in heaven. And I will bring as many as I can with me - and they will all want to meet you.

Love and Merry Christmas to All,

Lowell

A Few Photos from 2014



Claudia speaking at the refugee camp.



A story about Glen Beck's watch at the Beck House Dedication.



Feeding Center grass roof needed replacing.



While over 4,000 poor people sought care - we were able to treat over 1,400.



Hungry children find food at Joy in the Harvest.



Jesus loves me, this I know.

Joy in the Harvest®

2014

A YEAR OF GOD'S BLESSING

A Great Year For JOY!

**“No language can express
the power
and beauty
and heroism
of a mother's love.”**

**Edwin Hubbell Chapin
(1814 – 1880)**

An American preacher and editor of
the *Christian Leader*.

Some highlights of 2014:

- It began with a family reunion with our children and their families in Kigoma.
- Our two year missionary volunteers, Hal & Sue Hoege, arrived and have worked diligently.
- Our recording studio was finished and we had the first annual choir competition.
- 55 visitors were involved in many aspects of our ministries.

- The Destitute Camp was renovated and electric lights installed.
- A Free Medical Clinic treated over 1,400 patients. Over 90 of them received follow-up hospital treatments and surgeries.
- The Beck Guest House was completed and is in constant use.
- Our HIV/AIDS prevention soccer tournament saw 36 teams compete — almost 1,000 young people. Everyone got information about AIDS.
- We received many gifts of CDs and LPs for Radio JOY. :)
- Hundreds of fishing kits with gospel tracts were distributed.
- Youth ministries, widow ministries, and outreach ministries have seen many come to Christ.
- Our feeding program served over 56,000 meals to mostly children.
- Radio JOY has seen much development and we hope the license is very near.
- Our supporters and churches make *Joy in the Harvest* possible!



CHECKLIST

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Christmas Envelope

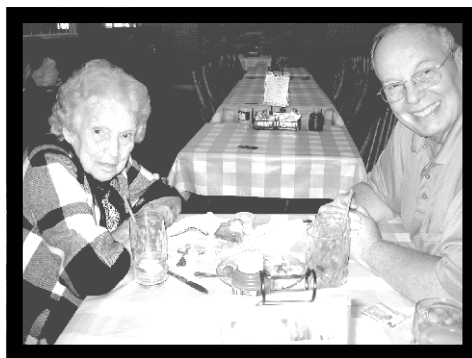
The enclosed envelope is provided for the convenience of those who would like to make a gift to support our ministry.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

With sadness and joy, we report the passing of Lowell's mother, Mrs. Ruth Wertz.

One of eight children, married during WWII, found the Lord in 1949, she raised six children to love the Lord and to serve others. She loved missions and was a key person in the founding of *Joy in the Harvest*. She made many



**In loving memory— Mrs. Ruth Wertz
Aug. 18, 1926— Oct. 20, 2014
photo taken on Sept. 18, 2014**

trips to Africa, did fund raising for students in Zaire, packed boxes and containers for Africa, was on the board of JOY's *Women's Retreat*, and spoke in many churches.

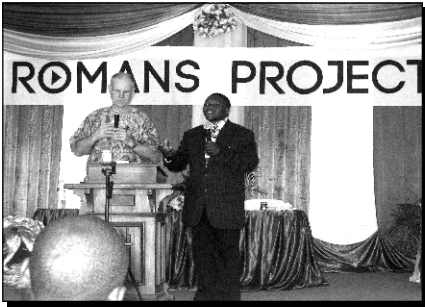
She was married to Orvis Wertz for 62 years until his death in 2005. She was eighty-eight when she went to be with the Lord. She will be greatly missed. ☩



Happenings!

JOY hosts the “Romans Project”

The requirements to get a 500 hour theological library on an MP3 player were to read the book of Romans twenty times and write it out longhand. Dr. Rick Calenberg and Jonathan Galven from Irving, TX came to lead the seminar. Over 70 attended —many were pastors.



Intense study of God’s word is what the “Romans Project” is all about.

Finishing the Community Center Construction



Making forms to pour “inverted L” concrete supports was a huge task.

The last remaining balcony walkway and staircase are being built. A six person volunteer team from the Kingwood UMC in TX came to get the project going. Once completed, we will have access to our three new offices and our inside technical catwalk. **THANK-YOU** to this team!

LP Records Shipped!

When we asked for donations of CDs and LPs, we were overwhelmed with how many LPs we received! Two pallets of 24 boxes filled with 2,334 pounds of LPs were shipped to Tanzania by ocean freight. They are due to arrive in Tanzania on December 3, 2014. Our radio program, “The Vinyl Hour” will be set with music from this era!



Two pallets of LPs ready for ocean shipment from the USA in October.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What About The Radio License?

Q. Where do we stand with the Radio JOY license? (Asked many times!)

My favorite recent email simply said, “patience Lowell, patience.” My first Bible teacher said, “never pray for patience, all you get is trouble in answer to your prayer.”

Many months have turned into years and we still wait. There is some potential good news. The Kigoma Regional Commissioner

(like a state governor) called and spoke with the Minister whose signature is the last step. **She has agreed to sign our license!** We await only her signature and then we can start erecting towers. So we wait. But we are also working. We are getting the music CDs ready to air, gathering Swahili programs, updating computers and equipment, solving electrical problems at the station, and have installed JOY’s

very first air conditioner. Our studio has no windows and is an oven.

We want to thank everyone who has donated CDs for the station!

We have enough music now to get on the air but more CD donations will make the station even better. You can send CDs of any kind of music to:

Mrs. Kara Wertz, 8345 Curzon Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45216 ✕

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