

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

July 4, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am writing from Africa and it is Independence Day in the United States. When you read this, long after the picnics and fireworks are over, the question will remain, what does it mean to be free?

Our first twelve years as missionaries were in Zaire, under one of the worst military dictatorships the world has ever seen. General Mobutu made all other dictators look like amateurs.

If you raised a voice of dissent, you would very likely be killed. Dozens of college students who dared to question, were rounded up one night, loaded into helicopters and thrown to their deaths into the jungle.

When we arrived in Tanzania about 25 years ago, it was a one party state. I have watched this country make a series of good decisions. They floated their currency on the world market, eliminating the black market. It opened the door to development and investment. The standard of living is now slowly creeping upward. Tanzania permitted opposition parties to form and became a true multi-party democracy. Tanzania has remained peaceful while there has been war and trouble in all the surrounding countries. I am watching Tanzania becoming a free nation.

People were made to be free by God. Freedom comes from God as a gift. God also gives -- in love -- rules and recommendations for our own good. Like a parent, He wants the best for us. He made us free and wants us to be truly free.

What have we done with our freedom? We have sinned. The latest rulings from the Supreme Court are moving America away from God's will. God gave us freedom to walk away from Him, because our God is not a dictator. But when we do so, are we becoming more free or enslaved? As a nation embraces sin, it always takes away from its religious freedoms. We will see religious freedom decline.

True freedom permits real decisions. We cannot really be free without good decisions. Respect for the Almighty is foundational for freedom. It is His Truth that promises to set us free. Freedom, religious freedom to obey God, is precious, costly, and worth defending.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Constructing the tower in our yard.

Radio JOY Main Broadcast Tower Up It Goes! -- 120 Feet High



Each section above 60 feet had to be hoisted into place by hand.



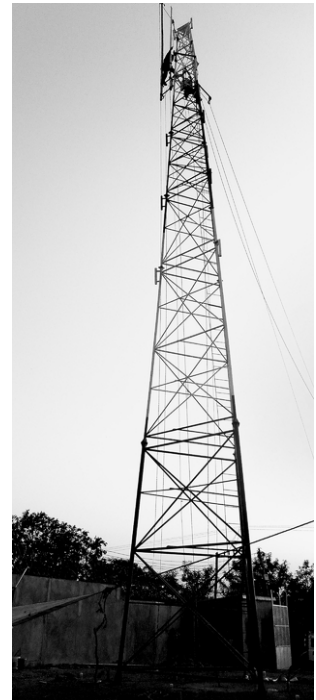
The Chinese road crew crane put up the sections from 20 feet to 60 feet.



Buckets of sand became our improvised alignment tool to get it straight.



John and Pascal resting at the 100 foot level.



John and Pascal working at the 80 foot level.



Our tower with its top orb (middle of picture), nestled among its neighbors, on the highest spot in Kigoma.



Joy in the Harvest®



TWELVE STORIES HIGH

Radio JOY Tower Is Up!

Only
as high as I reach can I grow.
Only
as far as I seek can I go.
Only
as deep as I look can I see.
Only
as much as I dream can I be.

Karen Ravn, author of children's books.

More permissions were needed before we could begin to erect our main broadcast tower.

Little did we know that when we received the construction permit for the radio station, we still needed three more permits. The three additional permits were from the aviation department, the municipal government, and the environmental agency. Yeek!

More months of waiting, more applications, and more fees eventually brought the additional permissions and we got started.

The Chinese are building some local roads and they brought their crane to help us put up the bottom heavy pieces. (God has a sense of humor!) The top of the tower was done manually— hoisting each piece up by hand and placing it on the top of the last. Our employees did a great job of following our safety rules and got the job done.

Once the tower was up, we were able to install the antennas and cables.

The mountain site now has electricity, walls with razor wire on top, two equipment containers, a guard shack, and an outhouse. ☿



CHECKLIST

☺ **USA Office and Wertz Contact Info.**

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

☺ **Music CD Donations Being Gratefully Accepted**

Help make *Radio JOY* great!
Send any kind of original music CDs (sorry, no LPs) to:
Mrs. Kara Wertz
8345 Curzon Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45216



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Lonnie Bone, JOY's special missionary to the poor, brought her son, Russ Bone and his family out to help. Wonderful! Here is what Russ wrote —

Arrived by plane, had lunch at the Wertzes and crashed at the Kitley guesthouse. Woke just before the missionary Bible study. The next morning, at the *Radio JOY* staff meeting, Gale met her "English



Lonnie Bone with her son's family, Russ, Gale, and triplets Nathan, Cianja, & Theo.

students" and the triplets were asked to organize thousands of CDs. I've been working on the tower installation—watching years of work come together. We have helped at the feeding center, played with the kids at the Destitute Camp, visited churches, learned to shop at an African market, and even went to the beach. It all adds up to a truly life-changing experience for the whole family. ☿

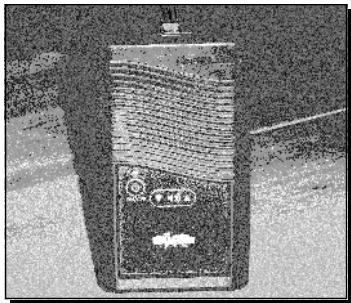


READ ALL ABOUT IT

The Latest from Africa!

1,500 Fixed Frequency Radios Gifted to *Radio JOY*

Galcom Ministries has gifted *Radio JOY* with 1,500 “Go Tell” Solar Powered Radios. These rugged handheld radios are fixed on our frequency 90.5. A solar panel on the back of the radio keeps the batteries charged. Battery life is expected to be 8 years and then can be replaced. Thanks *Galcom Ministries* for this incredible way of helping us get the Good News to Africa’s poor!



Wertzes to Take Sabbatical in 2016

After 36 years of missionary service, the Board of Directors of *Joy in the Harvest* has approved a five month sabbatical leave for the Wertzes. It is planned to begin in early May and go through early October of 2016.

While our plans are not firmed up, we hope to include visits to Israel, England, and the USA. No church speaking visits are planned for this time. But we certainly hope to reconnect with many friends and family members.

If there is a “must see” place in your state that you would recommend, we would love to hear about it. Please email us with your suggestions.

Lowell — A Man On His Knees!

No, this has nothing to do with prayer.

A minor vehicle accident (its too long of a story!) resulted in Lowell taking a hard fall on the paved road. He landed on his knees and palms. The force of the fall was enough to pull off his blue jeans! An X-ray, and later an MRI, revealed that nothing was broken. Practically a miracle! It took six weeks, and a lot of pain medicine, for swelling to reduce and for the knees to heal.

It gives a whole new meaning to the Christmas song, “fall on your knees, oh hear the angels’ voices!”



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Will You Handle Copyrights?

Q. In the States, copyrights are a big deal. How will *Radio JOY* handle the issue of copyrights?

A. In the USA, in 1940, a radio station only had to own a record to have broadcast rights. It was seen as a form of advertising that increased record sales. By 1950, getting licenses for music copyrights from representative organizations such as BMI and ASCAP became the legal norm.



If you donated CDs, here is where they are stored. And the Bone kids organized them!

Radio JOY, will operate under Tanzania jurisdiction and law. A couple of years ago a copyright office was opened and licenses are issued to broadcast all international and domestic music. We just paid \$500. for our first annual license. Our fee goes into an international system to pay royalties to copyright owners. Our future fees will be adjusted depending on our use of music and listenership. ☩

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