

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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Dear Friends,

As I write, it is the day after Easter. In Tanzania, Easter Monday is a holiday. The house is quiet and has rare peacefulness -- a good time to write my newsletter.

Yesterday for six hours *Radio JOY* filled the airwaves with indescribable music of joy, expressing the artists' soaring spirits because of an empty tomb and knowing Jesus -- the living Savior.

But what about the early disciples? Suffering the whiplash of despair from Friday's cross of death, to Easter's joy, life, and victory -- how did they feel those first days after Easter?

The Gospels give us a glimpse:

- Matthew says they went to the mountain where some worshipped but some doubted.
- Mark recounts that Jesus appeared, rebuked them for their lack of faith and refusal to believe the witnesses who had seen Him after He had risen.
- Luke tells how Jesus rebuffed the 'Emmaus Road' men for being foolish and slow of heart. Jesus "opened their eyes" to recognize Him. Those men ran to the Eleven and others, when suddenly Jesus appeared. They were startled, frightened, and thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus showed them His wounds, but now they still couldn't believe because of joy and amazement. It was then He opened their minds so they could understand.
- John adds details and the story of Peter, crushed from denying Jesus, who just went fishing. Jesus came after Peter to ask if he still loved Him. Jesus hadn't given up on 'Peter the Failure', but said to him, "Feed My sheep".

All in all, I think the disciples did pretty well -- doubt, fear, lack of faith, unbelief, startled, blind, foolish, shame, ghosts and stupidity. All I can think is how much worse I would have done. It might have been hysteria, diarrhea, uncontrolled shaking, weeping, stammering, fainting, and a total breakdown.

Yes, the day after Easter is wonderful -- two thousand years later. Jesus says, "Peace be with you." His peace fills this day and my soul. He is alive! Yes, alive!

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



5 YEAR BROADCAST LICENSE GRANTED

Finally — It's Final!

“If I could store any character quality in a cookie jar, I’d store patience. Chocolate-chip patience cookies. And I’d eat them all at one sitting.”

Jarod Kintz,
This Book is Not FOR SALE

It took more than four years, meeting dozens of government requirements, many people giving unselfishly, overcoming technical and construction difficulties, and a boatload of patience, but we are now fully licensed and on the air!

We are receiving wonderful responses from our listeners. From over the whole area, listeners are sending messages of appreciation and encouragement. Good suggestions are being offered, and some send text messages as they go to bed to say, “Good Night Radio JOY”.

We believed that a local radio station would be a fantastic tool for the Gospel and to do good to all people. I am more certain of it now, than ever before.

We are now on the air with about 90% of our first full schedule. New and exciting programs are being planned — more on that later.

Rejoice with us as we pioneer in unexplored territory, for the

CHECKLIST

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Ended 2015 in the Black!

I cannot express my heartfelt appreciation for your support of this ministry. We made it!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Claudia’s mom, Grandma Wiesner, is on her twentieth trip to Africa.

Mom has a love for Kigoma. She loves sitting and looking out over Lake Tanganyika. From her chair in the front room she sees all the “comings and goings”, hears all the discussions, and sees us struggle with decisions. She prays for all of it every day.



Grandma Wiesner
Joy in the Harvest’s Prayer Warrior

Life is never easy, but when you are eighty-eight years old it can be even more difficult. She developed breathing trouble and in Johannesburg she was hospitalized with blood clots in both lungs. Due to wonderful care and advanced medicine, she is recovering fine with no damage to her lungs. We treasure our time with her and feel the power of her prayers. ✠



News from Africa!

2012 Study Finds HIV/AIDS Epidemic Rages On In Tanzania

A 2012 study (most recent available), shows for men aged 15 to 24, the **Kigoma Region** has the highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the country at 3.6% — three times the national average of 1.2%. It is still better than the overall infection rate for all Tanzania of 5.1%. Tanzania has been described as having a mature, generalized HIV/AIDS epidemic.

1.6 million Tanzanians are living with the virus. 1.3 million children have been orphaned. Some of these orphans receive food at our feeding center.

Joy in the Harvest Fights HIV/AIDS

15 years ago we were confronted with friends, workers, and pastors dying of AIDS. Public shame was associate with discussion of AIDS.

For 10 years we have run a soccer tournament educating young men about AIDS. Everyone wanting to compete must first attend a lecture about AIDS. About 7,600 young men have attended the lectures.

Bi-weekly youth meetings in our Community Center teach hundreds of youth Biblical morality.

Radio JOY is planning to soon start medical programs, including AIDS information programs. Pray for us!

A Story from Radio JOY

We have been licensed only a few weeks, but we are getting the stories! Here is just one...

We moved our 'Night Prayer Program' from midnight to 8:30 PM, by popular demand. Our pastoral team gives out their cell phone numbers to listeners. At midnight Pastor Rudo got a call at home from a desperate man at the local hospital. His wife was in labor and in serious trouble. He didn't know who else to call — what else to do. The Pastor got out of bed, and went and prayed for them. The baby was delivered in good health and the family is very, very grateful.

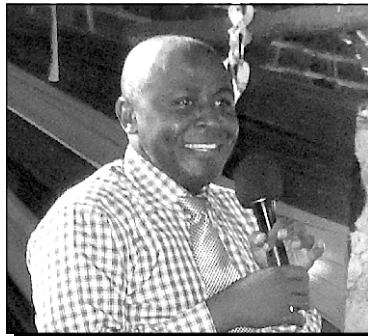


QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Was Mwenge's Wedding?

Q. How was Mwenge's wedding?

A. Well, as it sometimes happens, things didn't go as planned. Mwenge went to Iowa, a month before the December 12th date, to help plan the wedding and get reacquainted with his Congolese fiancée who had been living in the USA for a few years. During the time there, it became apparent that



Mwenge preaching at a village church.

she wasn't the life partner God wanted for him. These situations

are always very difficult, but with the girl's pastor in attendance, Mwenge called off the engagement.

At the beginning of Janaury, he returned to his work with *Joy in the Harvest* in Kigoma. Mwenge assures me that he is not a confirmed bachelor. He wants to be married and have a family. He is trusting God for just the right person. And we believe God will provide that person for him. ☩

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