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Dear Friends,

One of the highest priorities God has for us is to trust Him.

Trusting God is a heart thing, not a head thing. God wants our trust to be unconditional. It is not based on circumstances or experiences. It is not based on our understanding or His blessings. Rather, it is based on His character and position of being the Almighty. It is a heart belief that He is good and loving and deserving our trust, no matter what we experience.

The faith we hold tight to anchor our lives when life is the toughest, is the genuine gift of God. God does not purchase our trust with blessings nor an easy life. He wants us to trust Him no matter what.

I find this a bit scary. Tragedy and grief are shadowing everyone, lurking in the unknown. The unthinkable may come out of nowhere. It seems human to keep holding on to a tiny “bargaining chip” of conditional trust. Why shouldn’t my relationship with God also reflect my own expectations of Him? How can God expect life to steamroll me, even crush me, and my trust never waiver? Isn’t it a small thing for Him to keep life’s disasters at bay? Why shouldn’t I be disappointed in God when life disappoints? Isn’t asking “Why me?” an honest thing?

God’s expectations of us aren’t too high. Anything less than unconditional trust would leave us with a spiritual life that is dependant on circumstances. His love and character are our only sure refuge. He is the only Goodness that arches above and triumphs over evil. He is the God of all time and eternity – not just the here and now. A “bargaining chip” trust is our way of trying to be god. We will never be good at being God.

I met a man this week. He came in on his day off to get radios from the warehouse to give to Africa. There was something about him that struck me. He mentioned his wife had died of ALS. Although highly educated, he was a humble servant. Brushing off any personal inconvenience, he was a man who carried a heavenly peace in his spirit. Life had dished out painful realities, and in his very being he carried the reality of the Living God, worthy of trust.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



***** SPECIAL SABBATICAL EDITION *****

Work is a blessing... It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest.

Elisabeth Elliot
(1926-2015)

Widow of missionary martyr Jim Elliot

are using our travel trailer to see some of America's National Parks and cross an item or two off of our bucket list.

In keeping with the spirit of taking a little time off, this newsletter and the next one will be abbreviated, to make it easier and less time consuming to produce while we are on the road.

We stay in close touch with Tanzania via email and Skype. The work there is going forward at full speed, and needs your support and prayers as much as ever. Several very exciting developments already have me excited to return.

We are so grateful for this real time of rest and travel— our first real vacation in 36 years. ☽

We have been granted a sabbatical (vacation) by our Board of Directors!

For the summer months Claudia and I will be out of Africa for a vacation break in the USA. We

CHECKLIST

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No Church Speaking This Time

We so appreciate the many invitations. Next furlough!

JOY UPDATES

GREAT things are happening right now in the ministry:

- Just before we left Africa, Radio JOY hired Alex Kitumo, M.D., an old friend, who is a Tanzania doctor. He is now producing, with the help of 16 overseas medical experts and local doctors, daily medical radio programs being broadcast to the villagers.

- Radio JOY continues to broadcast 24/7. We have a great staff.
- Lowell was given an opportunity to speak to the staff at Sonset Solutions (formerly HCJB) in Elkhart IN. They realized our broadcast frequency (90.5) exactly matched that of 1,000 solar powered radios they had saved

for 8 years as surplus — not knowing what to do with them. Value of the donation is \$24,000. We will need funds to get them shipped.

- Last week Mwenge ministered to a group of HIV victims. When presented the Gospel, nine people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.