

*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P. O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438*

September 2016

Dear Friends,

Being in America on sabbatical for the Presidential campaigns has been interesting. I always follow politics. Because of the Johnson amendment, I don't share my preferences lest *Joy in the Harvest* lose its 501c3 tax exempt status.

There is one issue that really struck me -- the integrity of a foundation with tax exempt status. Integrity is something that is not an add-on, an after thought, or to be ignored. It has to be built into the DNA of an organization.

When we founded *Joy in the Harvest*, we contacted the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)*. We were determined to have the highest level of integrity. From day one we built our administrative structure on all of their requirements.

When we met the ECFA income and "time in existence" requirements, we immediately applied and became members of *ECFA*. We didn't have to change one thing. Audits and financial compilations done by a CPA, yearly reports, and spot inspections by ECFA are all a part of ensuring absolute integrity.

A few years ago the IRS came to audit us. I was so confident of our integrity, I told the IRS agent in the interview that I was happy about the audit, because when he finished, he would be a new contributor! The audit was intense and took many months, and in the end we passed with a clean bill of health.

I just saw on TV an investigator reporting about a foundation that is handling billions of dollars. He said it never had an audit, didn't have an independent board of trustees, and lacked even the basic safeguards of integrity. I could hardly believe it. If a small religious ministry like *Joy in the Harvest* could be put under the microscope, how could a large tax exempt foundation receiving billions, not have its integrity assured? We can be proud of *Joy in the Harvest*, but really, integrity should be the rule for all organizations.

When Jesus saw the widow giving her coin, the Lord saw beyond the tiny gift to her heart of great generosity and faithfulness. The Lord loved her heart. And He loves yours. It is in our heart to be faithful about integrity with every gift we receive.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



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

On a bumper sticker:

**If you can read this
I have lost my trailer.**

We are headed back to the Chicago area now, bringing this wonderful sabbatical to a close.

We have towed our small travel trailer for 18,000 miles and enjoyed so much of America. We

were able to see the New England states, travel the Great Mississippi River Road, and go out west to the Canadian Rockies and the redwood trees. In many ways, this has been a once in a lifetime trip for us.

You know you have had a great vacation when you can't wait to get back to work.

We have stayed in almost daily contact with Tanzania. Our wonderful staff has kept the ministry going and so much good has been accomplished, even with us on vacation.

I am so excited to get back and develop new radio programs to air on Radio JOY. We treasure your prayers and support as we return to the place of God's calling upon our lives. ☩

CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

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Birth of Granddaughter Julia Samantha Wertz

Sept. 8; 7 lbs 8 oz.; 19 inches
Perfect health for Mom & baby.

JOY UPDATES

GREAT things are happening right now:

- Although we didn't do church speaking during sabbatical, because of a commitment made several years ago, I was the missionary speaker at *Cherry Run Family Camp* in western PA. For eight days we spoke, mostly to young people, but also adults. Many wonderful

commitments were made at the altar.

- Radio JOY's executive producer, Dennis Gerold attended a training session sponsored by *Christianity Works* in Kigali, Rwanda on September 12 & 13.
- We have received a gift of 20 new Dell laptop computers for

the Computer School from the Kingwood UMC. This means we can finally retire some ancient 486 computers.

- We want to say a big "thank you" to all who made a special gift for the ocean pallet shipment of the 1,800 solar powered radios. We are working now getting the shipment off to Africa. ☩