



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



December 2016

Dear Friends,

Growing up with lots of kids in my family, Christmas was always a huge deal. The one present I wanted was a small toy print shop. Tiny rubber letters fit into U-channels that snapped onto a cylinder with a small hand crank -- you could print your own invitations and small cards. It was all I could think about.

Our family went camping in Florida for Christmas that year. The decorated house was left behind. A family 'name drawing' was held and I drew my older brother's name with a twenty-five cent spending limit. Of course my parents would give each child their "special gift" in addition. I found a joke book for my brother at just the right price. The night before we decorated our campsite with crate paper. We were ready!

Overnight the dew got the crate paper wet and its permanent dye stained hands and clothes alike. But it was Christmas! Gifts were exchanged and the "special presents" came out. I was so excited. When I opened mine, it wasn't a toy print shop, but a stupid alphabet rubber stamp set. They got it wrong! I tried to hide my disappointment. Later I saw my joke book being burnt in the campfire. My sister explained the jokes in the book were "dirty jokes". Could there be a worse Christmas?

Arriving home, my mother stopped me at the door and said, "I knew the stamp set wasn't what you wanted, and you never complained. Go look under the tree." Unknown to me, a single present had been left there with my name on it. It was the toy print shop!

Jesus said, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" I am asking my heavenly Father for just one gift -- that the work of *Joy in the Harvest* may continue. If this gift is granted, it will be because His Spirit touches many hearts to make many generous sacrifices.

A twelve year old gave me all of his camp spending money and said, "Here missionary, this is for Africa." In Illinois a boy told his parents, "I don't need Christmas presents, please give the money for the children in Africa." If young hearts can know the importance of God's mission work, perhaps our hearts can too.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Ways to Give to the *Joy in the Harvest* General Fund

Gifts receive an official acknowledgement to use for your tax deduction

1. Send a **check**, made payable to *Joy in the Harvest* to:
Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438
2. Give **online** on www.joyintheharvest.com – click donate and use “Just Give”.
3. We now have a special bank account through BMO Harris Financial Advisors Inc., to receive **donations of stock**: Contact Mrs. Melinda Bendle, *Joy in the Harvest* Office Manager, 219-365-7908
4. When purchasing from Amazon, use **Amazon Smile** and choose *Joy in the Harvest* as your supported charity. At no cost to you, we will receive 0.5% or more of your item cost. No tax deduction available with this method:
<https://smile.amazon.com/>
5. Remember *Joy in the Harvest* in your **will** or as a beneficiary on a **life insurance policy**. This has been a tremendous help and a wonderful way to support God’s mission work through *Joy in the Harvest*. Your “home going” can create opportunities for others to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have a member on our Board of Directors who is a **financial advisor**. He can provide you advice and guidance. Contact Mrs. Melinda Bendle, *Joy in the Harvest* Office Manager, 219-365-7908 to have her set up a contact with the financial advisor.



Joy in the Harvest®



RAMP UP GIVING

JOY Launches Fundraising Drive!

“This is God’s gift of Christmas:

the **Cradle**—His Son;
the **Cross**—His life;
the **Crown**—
His coming kingdom.”

Billy Graham, 1918 -
Evangelist who has preached the Gospel in person to more people than anyone else in history.

2016 has been another banner year for *Joy in the Harvest*.

Thousands have been helped. The disabled have received care, the hungry have received food, education provided a way out of poverty, and most importantly the

Gospel has been proclaimed to more than ever before, with many coming to Christ.

Supporters of this ministry have made a big difference in the lives of so many Africans.

To say “thank-you” is inadequate. We are deeply grateful.

Our Board of Directors is appealing for more financial support. We need to raise about \$75,000 more per year to continue this work.

We first ask those who have been supporting *Joy in the Harvest*, if possible, to give even more to our **General Fund**. We also ask those who have never financially supported this work to please begin and be generous! May God bless you as you respond to this need ☩



CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

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Website

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Christmas Envelope

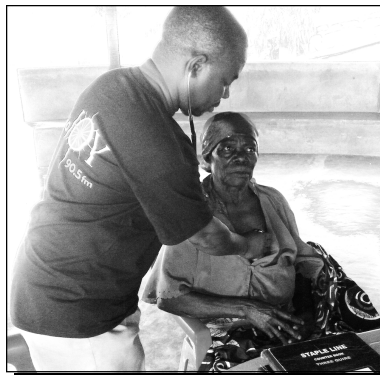
This year the envelope is **more important than ever**. Please give unto the Lord — for His beloved Africans.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Dr. Alex Kitumo produces daily medical radio programs for villagers on Radio JOY. He also works with other *Joy in the Harvest* projects such as Friday People, Feeding Center, and the Destitute Camp.

When Dr. Alex was a medical assistant, he worked for 7 years at the Kigoma Baptist Hospital. He volunteered his help when JOY



Dr. Alex examines a 89 year old woman at our Friday People Program.

ran free Medical Clinics in Kigoma. After becoming a full Medical Doctor, he worked for a year at the government regional hospital in Kigoma. He now works as our Coordinator for Public Health Programming for Radio JOY. Originally from Kigoma, he is married with 3 children. He said, “I like my work because JOY saves many people.” His favorite Bible verse is John 3:16 ☩



JOY Board Launches Appeal!

For the first time in 25 years, our Board of Directors is launching a financial appeal.

The *Joy in the Harvest* **General Fund** is the financial backbone of the ministry and supports every aspect of the work. We are experiencing a gap between income and outgo in the fund. For several years we have been reducing expenses, freezing salaries, and operating in a lean manner. But now the lack of adequate funding is affecting our ability to do our work and continue our programs. It is causing stress and strains that we need to address.

We have two goals. To raise funds to meet our immediate shortfall, but even more

important, to raise about \$75,000 in additional funds each year.

How will the additional funds be used? First, our 35 faithful workers have not received a meaningful raise since 2008. Most of our workers are married and trying to raise young families. Inflation in Tanzania has greatly reduced their buying power. They have been very loyal during this time of financial hardship. They have not been receiving a living wage and have not received any overtime pay. They will be our first priority.

Other important items include doing deferred maintenance, finishing a few construction issues, and doing a better job

of ministering to physical and spiritual needs around us. We realize more money is needed to run *Joy in the Harvest*.

We trust God to meet the needs of His work. And He has! But we feel it right and proper to inform His children of financial plans and goals need to be made to keep the mission work going.

You can support our General Fund, thus supporting all of the work of Joy in the Harvest. Or you can designate your gift to any aspect of the work, such as the feeding center, computer school, or Radio JOY.

Please consider what God would have you do to support this mission work in Africa. ✕



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How's the Pallet Shipment Going?

Q. Has the Pallet Shipment arrived yet? (question from PA)

While still in the USA, we were informed a new Tanzania law required approval of the shipment before it shipped. This required extensive paperwork, including ISO laboratory testing of all goods. It also required a physical inspection of the goods before the shipment leaves the USA. We found the paperwork requirements almost impossible to meet and we were unable to ship.



My brother-in-law, Mr. Jim Shelby, did the final shrink wrap and binding of the two pallet shipment, just before it was picked up!

I finally decided to pull samples and take them with us to Tanzania. When I arrived in Dar es Salaam, I went to see the top official over these matters. He granted us permission to ship. The shipment is now on the way and we expect it early next year. In this pallet shipment are donations of 1,800 solar powered radios, 19 new computers for the Computer School, and acoustic panels for a "voice-over" recording room. We are looking forward to its arrival. Keep praying! ✕

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