

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

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Working with *Radio JOY* has taught me there is a song for every occasion and every emotion. I am creating radio programs about the remarkable stories behind the old hymns of the faith. From their faith experiences, those hymn writers left a permanent ministry that has blessed many generations.

Famous preachers like D. L. Moody changed history, but I have never heard one of his sermons. Yet the musicians that accompanied him still touch lives through their hymns. The old hymns still minister.

The hymn writers of centuries past produced tens of thousands of hymns. Charles Wesley alone wrote more than 6,000 hymns. But only the best ones became classics. The same will be true of today's contemporary Christian music. I suspect much of it will not last. But the best songs, those whose truth strikes a cord within the soul, will remain.

JOY's financial crisis of 2016 needed a song. I searched my memory for a song that would fit the occasion and came up with a song from my college days.

**When I think I'm going under, part the waters, Lord.
When I feel the waves around me, calm the sea.
When I cry for help, oh, hear me, Lord,
and hold out Your hand.
Touch my life, still the raging storm in me.**

When facing difficulties and crises, there is no substitute for the gracious hand of God reaching out to us -- with His help. You who gave so generously to *Joy in the Harvest* were used by God. This ministry continues in full force in 2017 -- because of you.

I would rather not relive the financial crisis of 2016. We need to raise more funds this year so our focus is not money -- but our Father's business. Our Father's business is seeking and saving those that are lost. His love brings even that one lost sheep safely home. His mission in Africa continues. Wonderful things are happening. Thank you for being willing servants of God!

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest®



IN THE BLACK FOR 2016

Thank You!

“When we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope--and been suddenly snatched from danger, and placed in safety; and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply the word and power of God.”

John Newton
1725 –1807

Slave ship captain, after conversion
Anglican minister, wrote song
“Amazing Grace”

The year 2016 was a very difficult year for finances.

We carried debt for most of the year. I began to wonder if *Joy in the Harvest* could recover in 2016 or if we would have to begin terminating ministries to the poor.

The leadership of *Joy in the Harvest* launched these three efforts to meet the crisis.

Our Board of Directors sent out an urgent letter, another appeal asked people to give project support as a Christmas gifts, and our December newsletter addressed the crisis.

Many responded. Our regular contributors dug deep, first time givers gave project funds, and December giving was strong. The crisis was solved. With all our hearts — thank you! ✕

CHECKLIST

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Ended 2016 in the Black!

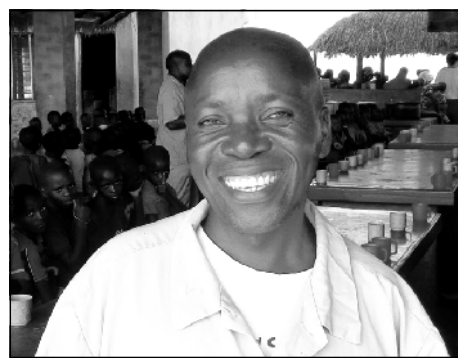
The debt was erased and we started 2017 \$28,000 in the black. God's work continues!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Working at our Destitute Camp and Feeding Center requires a very special kind of person. Venance is gentle, kind, and wise. We are happy to have him as one of our workers.

Venance is married to Beatrice, they have seven children — three boys and four girls. Venance started working at *Joy in the Harvest* in 2007. He is



Mr. Venance Jeremia

responsible for organizing food, medicines, and school supplies for children. He is active in his church and serves as a deacon, elder, and the church secretary. He is 48 years old. His favorite verse is John 14: 6

Jesus answered (Thomas), "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



News from Africa!

Twenty year long lawsuit “heating up”

For over twenty years *Joy in the Harvest* has fought a lawsuit filed against us over a plot of land. Trying to get justice is often very difficult. A survey showed the electrical power company and courts are the two most disliked institutions in Tanzania.

The man who sued *JOY* is the former mayor of Kigoma and is well connected politically.

All manner of things have come our way. But for more than twenty years we have tried to do right. The case is now on file at the Court of Appeal, the supreme court of Tanzania. Pray with us for justice.

UMC selects new Bishop for Tanzania

Bishop Ntambo Nkulu, the past Bishop over the North Katanga (Congo) and Tanzania is retiring. An election took place on March 18, 2017 to select the new Bishop. The Central Conference meeting was held in the city of Kamina (Congo) with delegates from other annual conferences in attendance. Three American Bishops also attended the Central Conference.

Rev. Mande was selected to be the new Bishop of the North Katanga (Congo) Annual Conference as well as the Bishop over Tanzania. We pray for this new leader, that God’s blessings may be upon the United Methodist Church of Tanzania.

Radio JOY Helps Locate Missing Children

We have had several cases of frantic parents coming to the radio station seeking our help in locating their lost child. We run free spot announcements alerting the community about the lost child. It has been amazingly effective. In each case the child has been located shortly after the announcements go on air.

Masumbuko Charles’ daughter was found on March 10, 2017. **“The announcement aired on *Radio JOY* helped a lot since everywhere I was going to ask if they have seen my daughter they were saying ‘The daughter whose announcement we heard on *Radio JOY* !!’ God bless *Radio JOY* for excellent work they are doing and the service that they are providing.”**



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Is *Radio JOY* doing?

Q. How is the new radio station doing?
question asked by many

A. We have been in full broadcast for one year now. It is going so much better than I could have imagined! We completed our first scientific audience survey of 416 respondents. Here are some results:

82.7% had listened to Radio JOY
68.3% listen more than 4 hours / week

75.0% usually listen at home
71.1% usually listen with 4 or more other people
66.6% say friends/ family like Radio JOY
41.9% use a large home radio to listen

67.1% say they are Christian
30.0% say they are Muslim
38.9% are 25 years or younger
36.9% favorite program- secular music
34.3% favorite program- religious music
21.8% listen most often 5PM - 9PM
16.9% listen most often 10AM - Noon

84.3% rate signal as excellent or good

Q. Q. What’s the news on the pallet shipment?
question from Bath PA

A. The pallets arrived in Tanzania and are still in customs. Many unexpected delays have occurred but we are hopeful that all the paperwork will be completed soon. Once out of customs, the shipment will be split with some of it coming to Kigoma by air and some by truck. Pray with us for customs clearance and its safe arrival in Kigoma.

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