



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

*Merry
Christmas*

December 2017

Dear Friends,

2017 has been an intense, busy, and wonderful year. We knew it would be busy just by looking at our calendar of visitors. Each visitor, and each group, brought blessings within their souls to Africa – just because of who they really are. They came here to represent Jesus and His love for the people here. And they succeeded.

I saw what Paul described as the “body of Christ”. Different people having special gifts, each with their own life experiences and skills. As we watched the interactions between Americans and Africans, and love grow between them, I saw God respecting the core personhood of each child of His.

Perhaps we don’t celebrate our differences enough. We don’t appreciate our distinctive as positives. Watching dozens of visitors ‘fit in’ and ‘fit together’ reminded me I have my strengths and weaknesses. I cannot meet all the needs, take advantage of all the opportunities, and be effective in every situation. Yet God has given me gifts and knows who I am. He can use even me. He can use you, too. That speaks to the greatness of God and our importance to Him.

We are about to put another good year into the history books. There is no going back -- we only go forward. Our history travels with us into the future. Great things are waiting ahead. God has done so much already. He knows and loves us to the center of our soul -- we can count on Him.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest Free Medical Clinic for the Poor



Three Doctors consulting on a critically ill child.



The doctor who loves kids, Dr. Purvis Harper.



Cris came to be a pastor, but a Masters Degree in Microbiology turned him into a lab tech.



Security helped keep crowds of desperately sick people in order.



Doctors and Nurses met each morning for a briefing, "We are out that medicine now. We need to adjust."

Claudia had 21 people for lunch and dinner for 10 days. She started cooking a month ahead of time. Pictured here with food containers used to fill two freezers.



The homemade Pharmacy filled thousands of prescriptions

We saw many mothers wanting to substitute their place in the clinic line asking for their sick child to be seen instead. So many seriously ill children and adults – some terminal -- heartbreaking!



Our Landrover was used to transport patients for X-rays and sometimes to a surgeon for emergency operations.





Joy in the Harvest®



JOY'S FOURTH FREE CLINIC

Free Medical Clinic for the Poor!

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom, and **healing** every disease and sickness.

Matthew 9:35

An incredible medical team of 14 arrived from flood ravaged Houston TX and 3 from Kenya to bring medical help and a Christian witness to the poor of the Kigoma region.

It took more than a year of planning. This team from Kingwood UMC, did

not let their flood stop them, although some of their homes were damaged, they came with soaring spirits to serve their Lord. Horrible diseases and wounds, like many of the doctors had never seen before, were treated with compassion and modern medicines. Thousands of dollars of donated and purchased drugs were used and given without cost to people who could never afford them.

Over 1,800 patients were treated. Over 500 of those needed multiple appointments with our doctors.

The team worked long hours sometimes not eating dinner until after 8PM. It was a max effort.

It was our biggest and most effective medical outreach ever. Thank you for your prayers. ☩



CHECKLIST

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Christmas Envelope

Please see the enclosed note about the 'Above and Beyond' matching fund. You can double a special gift to JOY!



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Meet my heroes!

Just to know such people is a blessing. This team poured the love of Christ onto the sick and broken, healed them with skill and modern medicine, saved so many lives and relieved so much pain. They treated every person like they were the full focus of God's love and attention. I have



From the USA, Tanzania, and Kenya, God assembled this terrific medical team. Special thanks to Kingwood UMC!

never seen any group of people work harder and longer, with skill, and complete devotion.

I have never been happier to be a missionary — never more proud of the JOY staff.

Heaven was cheering us on! And still is! Our thanks to you, our faithful supporters, who made this possible! ☩



What's Up?

What Does *Joy in the Harvest* Do?

- Monthly support for refugee pastors
- Radio JOY
- Computer School
- Help churches with construction
- Weekly Youth Meetings
- Weekly Widows Meetings
- Destitute Camp
- Feeding Center
- Friday People in Crisis Program
- Guest House Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Prevention Sports
- Help build classrooms
- Evangelism
- Teaching Pastors
- Bible Studies
- Community Center
- Ministry to Refugees
- Hosting Training Seminars
- Housing for Widows
- 35 Staff Jobs (supporting families)

Lowell Travels to Ghana for 'Africa By Radio' Conference

Every two years there is a Continental Convention for all Christian broadcasters in Africa committed to reaching every person with the Gospel.

Lowell flew to Ghana to attend the convention and while there was asked by **Berni Dymet**, whose program is heard daily by millions on 1,000+ radio stations in 160+ countries, if *Radio JOY* could partner with him to bring his programs to the whole Swahili speaking world. We accepted and are now working on translations to make it happen. *Radio JOY* is currently broadcasting his programs in English.

Radio JOY Helping New Christian Radio Stations Get Started

Although we have not been in full broadcast for two years yet, the knowledge we acquired is needed by other new Christian radio station startups. There are so many details of construction and program content and we are happy to help them and to train their staff.



Tito and Jerry came to visit from Morogoro, Tanzania. They are starting a Christian radio station.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is the Feeding Center Open?

Q. Were you able to get the feeding center open again? Are the kids eating?

— asked by many

A. Yes, Praising God that we are back feeding the kids.

The closing of the feeding center came as a real shock to us. We could not imagine such a thing coming from the government here. At the same time they ordered all the children not to beg in public any more. This left the



We average over 350 per meal.

kids with no alternative to get food. We held numerous meetings with the government.

Our pastors and administrators did excellent work in the negotiations. It was finally requested of us to write a letter giving our position. We sent a strong letter. Our negotiating team felt we should risk reopening the feeding center even without an official lifting of the ban. For the sake of the children, we did so. There has been no action taken against us. One of the people causing us problems was fired. The poor kids and adults are eating again, three times a week. ✕

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



JOY *in the* HARVEST

Above & Beyond

Friends of Joy in the Harvest have created a special **“Above & Beyond”** Matching Fund for the Joy in the Harvest General Fund. This Matching Fund is available immediately and is in effect until the end of March 2018. The General Fund supports every aspect of JOY’s ministries and is critical for everything we do.

Money given **“Above & Beyond”** what a contributor would normally give during this period will be matched, dollar for dollar, **until the \$50,000 goal is met!** Once the goal is met, all subsequent **“Above & Beyond”** gifts will still go into the General Fund but won’t be matched.

All gifts from individuals, families, churches and church groups qualify to be matched. All giving is tax deductible. For year 2017 tax credit, gifts should be postmarked by Dec. 29 since Dec. 31 falls on a Sunday this year.

This is a unique opportunity to help in a big way. Please consider participating in **“Above & Beyond”** for Africans who need help and need the Lord.

May God bless you.

Above & Beyond

Enclosed is my total gift of \$ _____ .

\$ _____ is the amount I normally give.

\$ _____ is the amount of my special giving for the **“Above & Beyond”** Matching Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____