

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

March 2018

Dear Friends,

The Lord has been showing me that mission work doesn't belong to us, it is His. He uses the combined spiritual efforts of many people to accomplish His purposes. Looking back, I can see people He used in my life.

Two recent deaths remind me how God used these two people to bless me . My mother was expecting me when she went forward in a Billy Graham ministry rally. (Billy Graham wasn't there.) When she made her commitment to the Lord it meant I was born into a Christian home. Years later I accepted Christ at the feet of my mother. God used Billy Graham's ministry to bring my mother to Christ. That changed the direction of my life. I add my testimony, to millions of others, paying grateful respect to this man of faith.

At nineteen, after spending years using ham radio in Lansing, IL speaking with missionaries, I made my first trip to the Congo. That summer, I traveled and lived with my cousin John Enright. John and I were both the same age and freshmen in college. John was returning home to his missionary parents, Ken and Lorraine Enright, for summer break. We spent most of the summer at a remote outpost called Lake Kafakumba. As two teenage boys, we hunted and had wild adventures. John was the person that introduced me to Africa. His love of Africa was contagious. God used that summer to call me to be a missionary. Africa became my future.

John and his wife Kendra, and Claudia and I spent twelve years working together in the small town of Luena, Zaire. We lived one block apart. As new missionaries, they helped us learn the ropes. John and I were both pilots in the *Wings of the Morning* flight ministry. John was in charge of church construction and I was the radio technician. And both of us got involved in a great many different projects as well.

In 1991, when anarchy and looting occurred in Zaire, John, missionary pilot Kenny Vance, and I evacuated many missionaries and Peace Corp to Zambia. The Enrights and Vances settled in Zambia to continue their ministries. Claudia and I went to Tanzania to continue the ministry we started there just before the looting.

In December I received news that John had been killed in a road accident in Zambia when a truck struck the Enright's vehicle. John was killed instantly. Kendra was seriously injured. We pray for her full recovery. We were all shocked by this tragedy.

I thank God for all John Enright meant to me. John loved agriculture, was brilliant and charismatic. Death reminds us we have been given the privilege of investing ourselves -- right now -- in what matters for eternity. Thank you Billy. Thank you John. Thank you for all you did for me. Thank you for all you mean to me.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



UNEXPECTED LETTER RECEIVED

Muslim Leaders Express Appreciation!

Muslims are not our enemies, they are people that God wants to save and is saving, and by our love and prayers for them, God might possibly use us as a means to save some.

**Pastor Jack Wellman,
Mulvane Brethren Church,
Mulvane, Kansas**

Dear Joy in the Harvest,

We thank you guys for your good hearts, for making a big difference in our Kigoma region. For how you treat the two groups, Christian and Muslim, with no discrimination.

You care the same way toward all people. You are trying to bring all people together as one people.

Thanks again for the free treatments. Guys, you did this for all the people of Kigoma.

On behalf of our community, we thank you for your good hearts that are loving and caring. You did treat all of us equally. Thank You! May the Lord's blessings be with you guys and keep up the good work.

(Sent by Kigoma's Islamic leaders) ✕

As a result of the Free Medical Clinic held in November, and other blessings the Muslims of the Kigoma region received, the Muslim leaders sent a letter of appreciation to *Joy in the Harvest*. Then they made a radio program thanking us. It was played on *Radio JOY*.

CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

Phone: **219-365-7908**
usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

Lowell & Claudia Wertz

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

Website

www.joyintheharvest.com

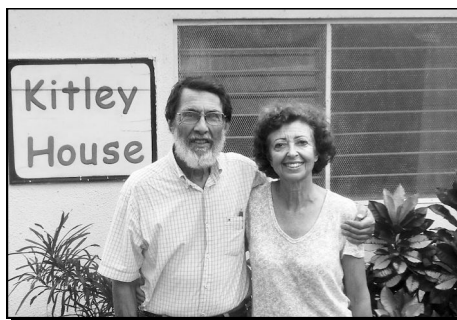
Deepest Sympathy

To the Dornbush family and Kingwood UMC on the sudden passing of Pastor Scott.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Joy in the Harvest is pleased to be able to host many guests. The guest house ministry makes this possible. The Cohens have come from Calgary, Canada to stay for several weeks at JOY. For years they have come to help in big ways.



**Mrs. Carolyn Cohen,
pictured with her husband,
Dr. Herbert Cohen.**

Carolyn is a real "go getter"! She is an RN and has studied

anthropology. She is trained as an 'English as a second language' instructor and has been teaching our radio staff and others English. She also works with vulnerable children and gives women sewing lessons. Herb gives our staff English conversation practice and helps at the feeding center. As a psychiatrist, he teaches at two local mental health facilities. ✕



What's Up?

Wertz Family Spends Christmas in Cincinnati



A rare event for us, our whole family was able to be together for Christmas and New Year. Claudia was already in Illinois taking care of her Mom. Lowell flew in for the holidays. Kimberly and Daniel and their kids were already in the USA. We all descended upon Luke & Kara's house in Cincinnati. It was the most wonderful time you can imagine.

2017 Ends In the Black!

We praise God that 2017 ended in the Black. A heartfelt thank you to all of our financial supporters.

The end of 2017 was a bit of a wild ride. For some reason, **regular giving fell off sharply** in November and December. We did receive special gifts that were matched and it was those matched gifts that pulled us out of the red. But we did not end up with any cushion going into 2018—which was the original purpose of the matching fund. As of the writing of this newsletter, **\$6,683. dollars still remain to be matched.** Special giving up to that amount, given by March 31, will be matched and effectively doubled. Please help if you can.

Joy in the Harvest Conducts 8 Days of Open Air Evangelism



In February we held an open air evangelistic campaign in Kigoma with 120 local churches participating. Two preachers and twelve choirs were featured each day. Kigoma Christian youth, that meet in our Community Center every week, organized the event. **178 first time decisions** were made to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior!



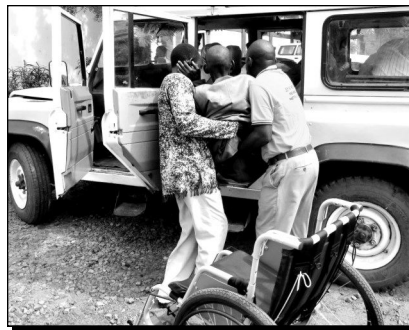
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Medical Clinic Follow-up Cases

Q. What happens to the patients that were too sick to be treated at your medical clinic?

- asked by a church

A. Seeing so many sick people dramatically helped at the clinic made it all worth it. But your heart go out to the patients that need surgery or other specialized treatment we couldn't provide.



Christians doing important work.

We had **over 200 such patients.** JOY has been following up with

these patients. They are being sent to distant hospitals that can help them. Also we are getting some into local diabetic and blood pressure programs. We received a major donation from the Kingwood UMC in Texas to be able to do this.

In addition to the medical follow-up cases, our pastoral team is providing spiritual follow-up to those in need. Thank you for your prayers! ✠

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