

Joy in the Harvest®

*Trust in the
Lord
and do good.
Psalms 37:3*

OVERCOMING RED INK

Can We End 2019 Strong?

**"Generosity
Is
Love."**

Dr. Lailah Gifty Akita
Ghanaian Christian Author and Activist

2019 has been an incredible year. The amount of ministry accomplished has been wonderful. As 2019 draws to a close, we are praying our 'end of the year' giving will be strong!

Strong 'end of the year' giving is key

to ending our whole year with success. All year long faithful supporters have given to JOY. We are so grateful to each and every one of you! Historically, it is our December giving that gets us into the black. We have served thousands of Africans in so many ways. Although our income pattern is uneven, we have moved forward all year in faith. A strong December will validate our decision making. We need your help!

This year there is no other fund raiser for *Joy in the Harvest*. The remittance envelope sent with this newsletter is all you will receive. No envelope with the email version? Everyone can use the donate button on our website!

Please give generously. Many need your kindness — we need your help. ☩



CHECKLIST



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Gift Envelope Enclosed

As the Lord leads you.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

We have had the honor of working with Mwenge for over 24 years. Mwenge is the Africa Director and Administrator of *Joy in the Harvest* in Tanzania during my absence.

Mwenge is incredibly dedicated to the Lord Jesus. The son of the founder of the United Methodist Church in Tanzania, Rev. Muyombi, Mwenge loves the



Mwenge with Janet and daughters Jennifer and Mary. Everything is running smooth with Mwenge in charge.

Lord and his church. He has a special love for the poor. Among all his other responsibilities, he has pioneered a widows program that ministers to hundreds of poor widows. I have the utmost respect for him.

Mwenge and his wife Janet have two daughters, Jennifer and Mary. ☩



A Word From Our Office Manager

Our part-time office manager, Mindy Bendle, works from her home and asked me to include two items in this newsletter. **First**, she has arranged everything necessary for JOY to receive gifts of stocks. It was no small task but it is all set and easy for a donor. There are donor benefits letting us liquidate stock. **Second**, if you use Smile Amazon, and make *Joy in the Harvest* your charity, JOY gets a small amount from Amazon.



It's Happening!

Joy in the Harvest is 'on the job' for Jesus!

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

Record Number of Kids at the Feeding Center

We usually see an increase in numbers in December. But this year there are more kids than ever before. We make sure each one is fed — body and soul. Each gets a large meal and we provide Bible stories (with flannel graph), songs, and prayers. THANK YOU for making it possible!



For some children, this is the only food they get to eat.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are You Planning On Retiring?

Q. Are you going back to Africa again? What are your retirement plans?

—asked by almost everyone!

A. Our hope, for our ministry in Africa, is to continue as long as the Lord provides us with adequate health. We plan to return in June of 2020, after visiting our churches in America. I have felt that you retire from a job. But *Joy in the Harvest* is so much more than a job to us. What



Furlough camping in cold weather.

could be more rewarding, more challenging, or bring me more happiness?

One way or another, we know someday the Lord will retire us. We pray for younger missionaries to be called to carry this ministry forward. Next month will be the 40th anniversary of our arrival in Africa!

Our first work team in our next term of service is scheduled to arrive in July. We are excited about all the Lord is doing. ✝

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



*Lowell & Claudia Wertz
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December 2019

Dear Friends,

At the start of our furlough I didn't have time to learn the GPS system in our new truck. Our first few trips we navigated the old fashion way. After getting lost several times Claudia laid down the law. "Get out to the truck and learn that GPS" she told me at 10PM one night. It took me about 15 minutes.

Most of the time it is a tremendous help. But it is not 100% trustworthy. It tried to put us on an interstate going the wrong way, brought us to a dead-end street instead of a church, and one memorable night it brought us to a field of deer instead of our campground.

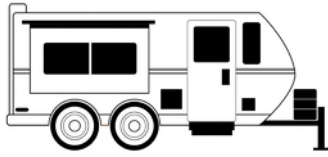
Some people say all religions are good and are like spokes on a wheel, they all lead you to God. The thought is that all religion roads get you to the same place. I can assure you not all roads lead to the same place!

Christianity teaches there is only one way to God and that brings us to Christmas and why it is so very important. The cost of our salvation and forgiveness was so high that God has made it clear He will never accept any other way for our salvation. He will never allow anything to diminish what Jesus did and why it was necessary. He is the one plan, one way, one Savior, and one road to eternal life. No other road will get you there. You can trust God 100% on this.

So in a manger, in a small town, far back in human history -- Jesus the Savior came on that first Christmas day. It was God's plan for our salvation. Let the whole world celebrate our Savior's birth!

Merry Christmas and all our love,

Lowell + Claudia



Speaking Schedule



Jan	6 & 7	Galcom Radio, Tampa, FL
	18-21	Kingwood, TX
	23-26	Tulsa, OK
Feb	1 & 2	Batesville, IN
	9	McGrawsville, IN
	16	Glenns Valley UMC Indi, IN
	23	Downers Grove, IL
	25	Sterling, IL
Mar	1	Good Shepherd UMC, Indi, IN
	8	Floyds Knobs, IN
	12	Noblesville, IN
	14 & 15	Christ UMC Indi, IN
	22	Greenfield, IN
	24	Marion, IN
	29	St. Luke's Kokomo, IN
Apr	4	Anderson, IN
	16	Antioch, IL
	19	Ramsey, IN
	26	Richland Center, WI
May	2 & 3	New Palestine, IN
	17	Old Bethel, Indi, IN
	24	West Terre Haute, IN

**If we are in your area and you are not on the calendar,
please let us know – we'd love to see you.**