

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

June 2025

Dear Friends,

Dozens of songs, stories and sermons have been written about storms. Allegories drawn from storms somehow fit difficult circumstances people face in their lives. But reading the Bible you find the early disciples, many of whom were men of the sea, went through actual storms. It was God's will for them to face strong wind and water that tore at their boats and caused them to fight for their lives with all their strength. Allegories are one thing, facing death wet, tired, and afraid is another.

Why did God want His disciples to have those experiences? Maybe there was no substitute for it. Experiences coming from God have purpose. And in those experiences the disciples saw Jesus sleeping peacefully while they feared, they saw Jesus walking on water, they saw Jesus reverse a fierce storm with a word, and they saw an angelic messenger bring news of salvation when all hope was gone. Boats, wind, waves -- when they were at the end of themselves, strong men of the sea were humbled. The failure of their strength built humility into their lives. They experienced the worst so they could experience God's best. At the worst of times, Jesus was there changing the worst to the best.

Storms have a way of focusing one's attention. With everything on the line, fear reigns. Because of the storm the disciples made two profound statements. "Lord, don't you care about us?" And "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Jesus cared. He was right there. He could meet the need. He loved them. They were the joy of His life. He was perfecting their faith. For them, even enduring the cross was not too much for Jesus.

Our lives can be the Titanic without us ever going to sea. At the worst of times, and all the time, we need the real Jesus. The Jesus who calms storms, perfects faith, and saves us --forever.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



This Great Furlough Set to End in Sept.

When it gets the darkest, you'll see who your true friends are.

They'll be the ones carrying the light.

Katherine Stano
Senior writer, Hallmark Cards

Eleven months on the road, traveling over 22,000 miles to visit dozens of friends and churches, now the end is coming into sight.

What a fantastic experience it has

been for us. We have been warmly received everywhere we have gone. We can't thank all of you enough for your love and all the kindness shown to us.

God has brought unexpected blessings.

God brought us through a year of financial challenge in 2024. As of right now, we are solidly in black ink and we are very optimistic for the future of the ministry. God blessed us through our supporters! We received one totally unexpected gift to upgrade our radio repeater site from 300 watts to 2,000 watts. We are now purchasing new equipment for *Radio JOY*. Many more will get the Gospel.

As we wind down furlough and prepare our return, we treasure your prayers. ☩

CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

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New Website!

www.joyintheharvest.com or [.org](http://www.joyintheharvest.org)

Facebook

<https://web.facebook.com/JoyintheHarvestKigoma/>



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Trinity Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church adopted the GMC of Tanzania and invited Mwenge Muyombi, Africa Director of JOY, to speak.

It was an honor for Mwenge to get his way paid to Texas and speak to the laity. The *Trinity Annual Conference* covers the area of eastern Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. At the conference



Joy in the Harvest had a display table. We were honored to have our dear friends, Dr. Purvis Harper and his wife Lynn, manning the display and representing *JOY*. Dr. Harper headed up the medical mission trips to Kigoma. Medical professionals from the Houston TX area came to *JOY* multiple times. The free medical clinics and medicines cured and saved thousands. ☩



A Tale of Two Flat Tires

We spoke in Markle Indiana on Sunday morning and had an appointment in upper Michigan in the evening. So we had to make a beeline on the Interstate.

All of a sudden a warning light came on that I was losing pressure in one of my trailer tires. Cutting our speed, it seemed forever before we came upon a rest area.

My trailer spare was in the bottom of the truck bed so I had to unload the entire truck. Getting the trailer jacked up, I found my lug wrench would not go into the recessed area for lug nuts. Couldn't get the tire off.

Spinning the tire it was clearly out of round. Probably a broken belt.



I never even got their names.

Calling roadside assistance would kill my schedule. I was stuck.

Two couples, in two travel trailers, pulled into the rest area. They asked if I needed help. They had a deep socket and we

got my spare mounted.

One of the guys noticed I had a flat tire on the other side of the trailer, too. I didn't have another spare. I was stuck, again.

He went to his trailer and found his spare was just the right size. A new Michelin tire and wheel. He proceeded to mount it on my trailer!

When I tried to pay for it, the wife said, "Are you trying to steal my blessing! I rebuke you in the name of Jesus!" I had never been rebuked in the name of Jesus before. Soon we loaded everything up, pulled out, and gave a beep goodbye. We made our appointment that evening. God's people — unbelievable kindness. ✕



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sending a Shipping Container?

Are you sending an ocean shipping container at the end of this furlough?

--several have enquired

Our tradition, over many years, has been to plan on shipping an ocean going shipping container at the end of furlough.. They have been 40 x 8 x, 9 1/2 feet. We would send out a "Needs List" of donated items we would like for the container. This time we decided we would not send a



This crate comes pre-fabricated and is made of special wood certified for international shipments.

large container and did not send out a "Needs List". Instead we are sending just a small crate (only 4 x 4 x4 feet). This would help conserve funds yet get important items to Tanzania. We did receive 405 handmade little girls' dresses, new sheets for the guest houses, and other wonderful items. We are also sending a new transmitter for *Radio JOY*. Pray with us that this shipment arrives safely and clears customs quickly. ✕

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

Mindy's Page

Mrs. Melinda Bendle is our USA office manager. She is our only USA worker for JOY and is vitally important to the ministry. She processes all giving to *Joy in the Harvest*. When she asked for space to provide information to our supporters, well, she got her own page.



In her words...

It's me, Mindy, from the US Office and I'm hijacking space on the Wertz's newsletter to help simplify the giving process. Whether you give in an old school way or opt to donate via technology, we are grateful for your partnership! Here's a few tips to make it even easier:

1. **Mail a check to: Joy in the Harvest, PO Box 496, Lansing IL 60438**
2. **ZELLE funds to: usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com**
3. **Donate through online banking at your financial institution:**
 - Access your bank account online
 - Click 'Bill Pay'
 - Add: Joy in the Harvest – PO Box 496, Lansing IL 60438.
 - Select the amount, date and if you'd like this to be a one-time donation or recurring gift.
 - Your bank sends us a check from you. This is typically a free option with no postage cost.
4. **Donate via credit card through our webpage at www.joyintheharvest.com.**
 - Click the "Ways to Donate" button at the bottom of the home page. Fill in your information.
 - PLEASE click the 'hide donation from public view" box. (This will prevent your name and gift amount from being published on the Just Giving website.)
 - Disregard the 'suggested tip' and manually change the pre-set amount to \$00.00. This ensures your complete donation comes to JOY.
 - Please note: Just Giving directly issues a receipt for your tax purposes.
5. **Giving via an IRA distribution is a wonderful option and we also gladly accept stock donations.** Contact us at usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com and we will provide you further details.
6. **We'd love for you to remember us in your estate planning.** It is our great hope the Kingdom work of JOY outlives us all.

If you aren't confident with technology, ask a grandkid to help. It's a teachable moment to the next generation demonstrating the value you place on missions.

Lastly, with the ever-rising cost of postage, if you're willing to receive 1 year-end giving receipt in leu of a receipt after each individual gift, please let us know. Email me at usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com or text your name & email address to: 708-925-6681.