



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

December 2025

Dear Friends,

We are back in Africa after our long USA furlough. We extended furlough an extra three months to see more churches and friends. It was a very good thing. But it did seem a long time to be gone from Tanzania. Claudia said the camper was getting smaller.

Our workers met us at the Kigoma airport with songs and prayers. We loved it.

Then all kinds of things, both expected and unexpected started coming up. In bed the first night the whole house started shaking. Claudia asked me what was happening. I told her it was an earthquake. It wasn't. While we were gone a cement company in the Congo started sending rocks to a cement company in Tanzania. All night long enormous, heavily loaded trucks pass on our road and shake our house. Sort of a permanent earthquake.

The military started doing artillery practice near our house. The house rocked and windows shook with each shell fired. For several days and nights. Loud.

Large lizards with ugly bright orange heads showed up in our yard. We never saw anything like them before. We were told they are catching rides on the rocks from the Congo.

Sitting in our living room, we all started itching. The government has banned burning the weeds near our house. The pollen, or whatever it is, is highly irritating. Everyone who comes to visit us starts scratching like crazy. We had to close all our windows.

Then the Presidential elections happened. For the first time in its history, Tanzania has had uprisings, protests, and violence. International agencies have said the elections "were not free or fair". As I write this, we are hunkered down in our house not sure what is going to happen. We cannot be on the roads or go about our normal work. There is a nation-wide internet outage. News is impossible to get. Government and private workers are to remain in their houses. Airports are closed. Protests. Curfews are in place. There is loss of life.

Is it good to be home? Yes! Is Africa a challenge? Yes! We know we are exactly where God wants us to be. It is a privilege to be missionaries. The good news of Jesus is needed here. Thank you for your sacrificial giving and prayers making it possible for us to serve the Lord in Africa. God will bless all of us.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



Christmas in Africa!

“The Gift of Christmas is not in the presents but in the presence of Hope.”

It took three long flights to get us from Chicago to Kigoma. Christmas in Kigoma is the thing Claudia was looking forward to the most for months before we finished furlough.

Last year we were in the USA at Christmas. We were able to visit my brother Dean and sister-in-law Chris on Christmas Eve. They took us on a drive to see the most

fantastic display of Christmas lights in Sarasota, FL. It would be hard to imagine any light display anywhere in the world better. Fantastic!

The city power in Kigoma has been having trouble and has been on and off dozens of times. We will be happy this year with any lights.

When Jesus came, the light of the world arrived. John 1:9 says, *“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”*

80% of all people who don’t have electricity live in sub-Saharan Africa. Jesus, Light of the world, came as everyone’s spiritual Light. Rejoice! The true Light of the world came for all people. Christmas! ☩



CHECKLIST

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WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Alan Good, is a missionary working at Sonset Solutions in Elkhart, IN. He has been a key person in the ministry of Radio JOY.

Alan is a world class expert on radio transmitters. He is used by the Lord to keep our transmitters repaired and on the air. Recently, with two transmitters down, he



Two cell phones were used at our end to stay ahead of the batteries.

used *WhatsApp* to diagnose and repair our transmitters. Over two days and many hours, he got them operational by long distance. An answer to prayer!

After 15 years in industry, Alan became a missionary 28 years ago. Married to his wife Sarah for 22 years, they both work at *Sonset Solutions* in Elkhart and have a worldwide radio technical ministry. Thank you Alan and Sarah. God bless you! ☩



News Shorts!

Eight Day Open Air Evangelistic Campaign

In September, *Joy in the Harvest* held an evangelistic campaign and saw 118 people accept Christ.

Dr. Jane Goodall dies at 91 of Cardiac Arrest

Known for her six decades of work studying chimpanzees in Tanzania, and authoring 32 books, her research occurred at Gombe Stream National Park, just 13 miles from Kigoma.



Small Crate Has Shipped

Shipped by ocean freight from America, it is now on the ocean. It contains a new transmitter for Radio JOY, little girls' dresses, new sheets for guest houses, and other important supplies.

A Tithe of Her Estate

A supporter of JOY, when she passed away, left a 10% tithe of her estate to JOY. She asked us to help the Destitute Camp. Upgrades and improvements are underway.

Tanzania Holds Elections

Presidential elections here did not go well with jailed opponents, protests, and deaths. Please pray with us for the country of Tanzania and our friends and family here.

2025 Ministry Overview

- Monthly support for refugee pastors
- Radio JOY, transmitting from two locations
- Computer School - 8,000+ graduates
- Help churches with construction
- Weekly Youth Meetings
- Weekly Widows Meetings for 1,000
- Destitute Camp - Handicapped Care
- Feeding Center for hungry Kids and Elderly, three days a week
- Prison Ministry in five prisons
- Lifesaving Help for People in Crisis
- Guest Houses Ministry
- HIV/AIDS Prevention—Soccer
- Helped build classrooms
- Evangelism – open air events
- Teaching Pastors
- Bible Studies
- Community Center seats 500
- Furlough Travel in USA & Speaking
- Training Seminars
- Housing for the Poor
- 70 Staff Jobs (supporting families)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What Is Your Christmas Like In Africa?

What is your Christmas like in Africa?

— asked many times

This year our dear friend, Darleen Kintz, gave us a Christmas card we had sent her in 1988 from Zaire. The card was printed at our *New Life Print Shop*. Our children were three and four years old. Among other things the card said, “*Many Christmas symbols from my childhood — snow, sleigh bells, shopping malls, etc. aren’t to be*



Original African art we used on our Christmas cards in 1988 from Zaire.

found here. Christmas in this culture is not a special time. We work at making Christmas special for our children. We decorate our house, play Christmas music over a loud speaker to the community and open gifts that reach us from friends and family in the States.”

Christmas is now for grandchildren. Christmas music is played over *Radio JOY* to millions. And our tree and gifts still celebrate the birth of Christ. He fills our hearts with love and joy. Merry Christmas to all! ☩

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



We wish to thank each one who is making the work of
Joy in the Harvest possible through their financial support.

Please make checks payable to: *Joy in the Harvest*



Enhancing Trust

Joy in the Harvest is a member of the *Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability*.

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