

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

June 2026

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wanted God to do something? I have images of people trying to force God. The first is of God as a 50-foot cube of granite. I see them putting their shoulder to it and trying to move it with all of their might. Their shoulder gets sore, they get exhausted, but if it is God's will not to be moved, it doesn't. The second image is of a mighty ten story high steam roller. This time someone puts their shoulder against it, not wanting it to move. But it just keeps on rolling and you had better get out of its way! The point is that God's will cannot be thwarted. After all, He is God.

My near-death experience in March happened quickly. Afterward I was angry they had not told me I was close to death. I would have liked to have said a prayer. One medical person told me they knew I was in right relationship with the Almighty and didn't need a last prayer. They didn't want me to worry. That was nice, I guess. God let me knock on death's door and then saved me from death. He didn't waste time. God moved.

When we found out the Tanzania government was going to confiscate all of *Joy in the Harvest* – buildings and land – some were worried I would take the loss of my life's work very hard. But God provided me peace in the face of doom. My only explanation is He taught me, through a lifetime of experiences, to trust Him. If *Joy in the Harvest* was to be destroyed, God had big purposes in that. If He spares JOY, may Jesus Christ be glorified.

We receive many enquires asking about the status of our potential destruction. Thanks to everyone who is concerned and praying! The situation is very much still in the works. It has been more than six months and waiting on the Lord is starting to seem long. It is not easy to move a government and a train. In Psalms 27 it says, "*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*" In times of uncertainty, trusting in His timing and relying on His sovereignty, puts our faith into action. Actually, I feel God is doing some really big things here. Things far beyond what we can now imagine. His ways are always so much higher than ours. JOY's situation is gaining so much attention in the government and population. God is at work. God is moving. Whatever the outcome, may Jesus Christ be glorified.

These last eight months have been a wild ride. The day we arrived back in Tanzania Claudia's back went out as three vertebrae moved out of place. Election violence and our departure from Tanzania via a backdoor border post. Then the train threat to the ministry. The Global Methodist of Tanzania Annual Conference was held at JOY. My emergency surgery with Kimberly and Luke coming to S Africa to help. God was there, through it all.

When God moves there is no stopping Him! When we need to wait, it is in accordance with His purposes. We plan another furlough in September to see many of you!

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

Joy in the Harvest®



Prayers Still Needed — Prayers Answered

**God's answers
are wiser than
our prayers.**

Pastor Croft M Pentz

1931-2008

Pastor to the deaf for 44 years

Lowell survived critical illness.

We made a trip to S. Africa for Claudia to see the neurosurgeon about her spine. She never made it to see him. On our third day there Lowell became critically ill, went to the ER, but was misdiagnosed. Five days later

was taken by ambulance back to the ER. An infected gallbladder had caused a severe septic infection that was life threatening. Emergency surgery was performed. The doctors weren't sure he would make it, but God spared Lowell's life. Recovery is going well but a bit slow. Many prayers were offered up on his behalf. Thank you!

No resolution of the threat to JOY by the coming new train.

For six months we have struggled to keep *Joy in the Harvest* from being destroyed by the new train. Many meetings, many documents produced, appeals for help to high officials, and even us threatening a lawsuit has not yet succeeded. We are optimistic that God will intervene, but have no written assurance we will be spared. ☩

☒ CHECKLIST

☒ USA Office Address

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

Phone: 708-925-6681

usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

☒ Lowell & Claudia Wertz

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

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

☒ Our Website

www.joyintheharvest.com

☒ Facebook

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



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

When Radio JOY started ten years ago, we were the only station in the Kigoma area.

Since then, several other radio stations have started up in Kigoma. Recently a contest was announced to find out which of the Kigoma stations the population finds to be the best. When the votes were counted, *Radio Joy* was the clear winner. The second place radio station



**Radio JOY staff having
won best Kigoma station!**

wasn't even close. We received a trophy for our win! Our dedicated staff works diligently to provide the very best possible programming in Swahili and English. They are committed to getting the Gospel to our listeners. Broadcasting 24/7 from two locations, we have a vast listening audience. A planned power upgrade at our Kasulu site, when completed, will extend the range of our signal even farther. ☩

Well Done!

JOY at Work

Our Grandson Makes a Trip to JOY

Our grandson, John, recently visited us in Kigoma. He told his mom he wanted to learn all about *Joy in the Harvest*. During his time with us, he visited many projects and helped out where he could. A donor had given him \$25 to use to help someone. He decided to give it to the feeding center. We loved having John here and involved in the work!



Unusual Friday People Request

The District Commissioner of Kigoma asked us to help a blind young man with a special typewriter. I had never heard of a Braille typewriter. In Dar es Salaam there is a school for the blind. He was denied entry because they lacked a machine for him. We provided one and when he showed them the machine he was admitted and is now studying.



Lowell Addresses Computer School Graduation

With dignitaries and government officials present, Lowell addressed the 90 graduates and their families. He said, "You join the former 9,500 graduates of this school. You have seen the red paint on our walls and buildings, marking us for destruction by the train. It is our hope and our prayer you will not be the last graduates of this school."



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

America — Here We Come!

Do you have a plan to come to the USA to do speaking?
— asked by many

America, here we come! Our plans are to come for eight months — September through March. We will be available for pulpit speaking, small groups, and to see individual friends of JOY. We love this!

We are also planning some time to be on sabbatical - trying to



We plan on traveling America in our travel trailer again. Here is a photo from last furlough.

check off a couple of items from our bucket list.

We especially hope to get to churches and individuals we missed last furlough. We also will try to include some new churches. We build our calendar with invitations we receive. We hope to hear from you!

Please contact Claudia as soon as possible at our email address: wertz@joyintheharvest.com ✕

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