



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



December 2015

Dear Friends,

All of us have Christmas memories. I remember as a kid getting a pair of red skis.

The skis looked great, but had one big problem. They had only one three-quarter inch strap going over the top of the shoe. There was nothing else to hold the shoe to the ski. Your foot could turn forty-five degrees in either direction and it seemed to have no effect on the skis. This meant the skis were going wherever they wanted to go and you had no control of them.

Eager to try them out, we took the skis to an overpass of I-94 near our home – the perfect hill. The ditch at the base of the hill was obscured with snow – what you don't know won't hurt you – right? My brother went first. After watching one wild ride down the hill and his discovering the ditch in the most surprising way, I never again had any desire to ski.

Christmas is a time filled with joy, surprises, and sometimes scary disappointments. For *Joy in the Harvest*, like many ministries and businesses, our financial health depends on having a “good Christmas season”. Since our income has ups and downs throughout the year, and we try to maintain our programs in a steady way, we must count on Christmas being a “good giving time”.

At times this approach seems as scary as that hill with uncontrollable skies. But our faith and hope is with God's Spirit touching hearts to provide for His work.

What does Jesus want this Christmas? What will put a smile on Jesus face? After His birth, death, and resurrection, he pointed to the world and said, “Go.” His selflessness, in coming to a manger and going to a cross, is our inspiration to care for others and to bring them the Gospel.

We have the joy of seeing your gifts change lives. We cannot thank you enough for that joy. We watch the temporal, when given to God, become eternal treasure. Thank you for being Christians. Thank you for loving Jesus.

Love,

Lowell & Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



A SIGNIFICANT YEAR

2015 — Changed Lives!

Every Sunday school child can quote the deepest theology: "God so loved the world that He gave His only son."

And, when it all boils down, that is what the Christian gospel is —

not a demonstration of power, but a demonstration of love.

Philip Yancey
I Was Just Wondering.

Your faithfulness changed many lives in 2015. Thank you!

- Many came to faith in Jesus.
- Over 40 visitors served in Africa because of JOY.
- Ministered to refugees.

- Cared for the profoundly handicapped.
- More than 54,000 meals served to the hungry.
- Many ill people treated.
- Almost 1,000 young men given education about HIV / AIDS.
- Bi-weekly Christian Youth meetings in Community Center.
- About 500 widows were ministered to weekly.
- Graduated over 180 students from Computer School.
- Thousands heard the Gospel in songs & music on the radio.
- Provided a witness to Christ, in words and deeds, in many other ways, to many more people.



CHECKLIST



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Website

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Christmas Envelope

An envelope — folded paper & glue — when used, is life, relief of suffering, hope, and the saving Gospel. **Please.**



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Dennis Gerold is a key man at Radio JOY. Here is his story.

I studied information technology and basic electronics. About 3 years ago I was visiting my sister in Kigoma and I saw the *Joy in the Harvest* sign. I asked for work and was accepted as a Computer School trainer. Currently I am working as the Executive Producer for *Radio*



Dennis Gerold
Executive Producer for *Radio JOY*

JOY. I want to be successful in my career and spiritual life. I married Sharon four months ago. I love helping others, especially youth, to change their behavior, because of help I received from others. I love this motto, "Be yourself, everybody else is taken." My favorite verse is, "Thanks be to God which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corth 15:57 ☩



Finishing Two Years!

The Hoege's are finishing their two year commitment as special missionaries for *Joy in the Harvest*. Here are their reflections.

We are returning home after two amazing years. It feels like just yesterday when we unpacked footlockers and we weren't sure what we would be doing. Lowell wisely advised us to serve those God put in our path.

Claudia suggested we start at the feeding center. Even when we feel down or discouraged, 300+ smiling faces makes us realize again how God has blessed us.

Sue works tirelessly on the music library for *Radio JOY*. Hal works on *JOY's* record-



**Hal and Sue Hoege:
Sharing the Word—with Bibles,
Witnessing, and Actions**

keeping. We serve food and distribute vitamins at the Feeding Center. We are involved with Friday people and present the Bible to those seeking medical attention — so they can carry the Word of God with them as they

get treatments. We have been to refugee camps and were able to present God's word in Churches and many other events.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in Africa. We thank Lowell & Claudia for the invitation and the *Joy in the Harvest* Board of Directors for approving our trip. We thank the churches and many people who have supported us with prayers and gifts. We have been truly blessed every day.

We are not finished! It is impossible to just walk away. We serve an amazing God and plan to return to Kigoma in February to continue working in His ministries with *Joy in the Harvest*. Praise Him! ✕



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is It Possible? Could It Be True?

Q. "Is it true? We heard Mwenge is getting married."

Mwenge Muyombi, the chief of staff at *Joy in the Harvest*, has been Tanzania's most eligible bachelor for so long, many thought it might never happen. Well, it is happening!

Claudia says it has taken God a long time to get the right woman ready to be his help-mate.

The word of his engagement took



**Mr. Mwenge Muyombi:
The Chairman of the Bachelors' Club
~ is in love!**

us by surprise. Everyone is delighted. Here are the important

details. The date is December 12, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, IA. The lucky girl is Nathalie, a Congolese girl who has been living in the USA for three years. The families have known each other for many years. The newly weds are planning on returning to Kigoma in January and they will be serving the Lord with *Joy in the Harvest*.

Pictures of the wedding and how to send them a card will be in our next newsletter. ✕

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